

A Sundial Hunter's Kit

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When I set out to search for, or to document, sundials, I grab my camera and my handy sundial-hunter's tool kit. The contents of the kit are still evolving, but I thought they might be of interest to other NASS members. I would welcome comments and suggestions from those with more experience. At present my kit includes (clockwise from upper left in the accompanying photograph):

- o Canvas belt pouch.
- o Cornstarch (carried in a film canister) to dust on engraved dials for improved contrast. (And a sawed-off toothbrush, to brush off the cornstarch when I'm done.)
- o Hand lens.
- o Dialing Scales, photocopied onto heavy card, in a variety of enlargements and reductions. These can often be used to estimate the latitude for which a dial plate was designed. (See article in Compendium 2:2 for June 1995.)
- o NASS "Sundial Registration Form" (multiple copies).
- o Tracing paper, to make rubbings of dials.
- o NASS "Guidelines for Dial-Hunters"
- o Drafting protractor, with the "feet" filed off so that it's straight along the bottom.
- o Tape measure.
- o Inclinator.
- o Soft-lead pencil, for notes and rubbings.
- o Pocket level.
- o Flashlight.
- o 6" plastic ruler, marked (with black contact paper) to show scale (inches and centimeters) in documentary photographs.
- o Large and small plumb bobs (lead sinkers) to check alignment of large or small gnomons.
- o Magnetic compass.

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