

## Manual demining tools

### The AVS demining trowel

The AVS demining trowel is a small excavation tool designed to remove spoil loosened with the Pick-prod or the Needle-probe, or to dig entire excavations in soft soils. It's length makes it hard to use vertically, and keeps the deminer's hand 30cm from a likely detonation.

Made using a malleable stainless steel head and shaft, the tool has a handle made of non-shattering polyethylene. The user's



hand is protected by a small aramid hand-guard.

The trowel has performed well in all tests against real mines, staying in one piece and bending as designed.

The tool weighs around 0.7Kg (1.5 lbs).

A clip of neodymium magnets that attaches to either side of the trowel blade (for left or right-handed use) is an optional extra. The magnets are light but very powerful and attract fragments as the tool is used.

The back of the tool is first passed over the ground to attract surface fragments,

then loosened  
spoil is tipped  
over the  
magnets and  
off the blade.  
Removing the  
ferrous  
material  
quickly can  
increase the  
speed of  
metal-detector  
clearance  
dramatically.

The magnet  
clip is easily  
removed  
when it would  
get in the way.  
It also fits  
most other  
tools that  
have a flat-  
blade.

These  
magnets *may*  
initiate [Type  
72b](#) anti-  
personnel  
blast mines by  
activating their  
anti-tilt  
trembler  
switch.

As well as  
having been  
sold to military  
users in South  
America and  
Europe, this  
tool is known

to have been  
used in  
Vietnam,  
Angola,  
Mozambique,  
Sri Lanka,  
Tajikistan,  
Afghanistan,  
Lebanon and  
Sudan.