

**THE EFFECT OF MAGNETICALLY SHIELDING A DOWSER**  
by Shelley Higgins

**Abstract**

An exploratory study was undertaken between 2004 and 2006 to investigate the effects of magnetically shielding a dowser. The study revealed two "dowsing zones" that support the hypothesis that there may be specific points of entry for a dowser "signal or channel" to the body, since the dowser response was mostly impaired when these areas were shielded. These two zones were the dorsal neck-upper back region and the crown region. Partial replication of Harvalik's left and right kidneys as "dowsing zones" was obtained; however Harvalik's forehead region as a "dowsing zone" was not replicated. Instead, this zone, when shielded, increased rather than diminished the dowser response measurements, contrary to Harvalik's results. The present study involved performing both field (on-site) dowsing and information (remote) dowsing.

---

**L'effet de bloquer un sourcier avec un écran magnétique**  
Shelley Higgins

**Résumé**

Une étude exploratoire fut entreprise entre 2004 et 2006 pour examiner les effets de bloquer un sourcier avec un écran magnétique. L'étude a révélé deux « zones de radiesthésie » soutenant l'hypothèse qu'il y aurait des points spécifiques d'entrée dans le corps du sourcier par « signal ou canal », puisque la réponse du sourcier fut principalement affaiblie lorsque ces zones furent bloquées. Ces deux zones sont la région dorsale du cou-partie supérieure du dos ainsi que la région de la couronne. Une reproduction partielle des reins gauche et droit de Harvalik en tant que « zone de radiesthésie » fut obtenue; cependant, la région frontale de Harvalik en tant que « zone de radiesthésie » ne fut pas reproduite. Lorsque bloquée, cette zone augmente au lieu de diminuer la mesure de la réponse du sourcier, contrairement aux résultats de Harvalik. La présente étude implique la radiesthésie à la fois sur le terrain (sur le site) et informationnelle (à distance).

---

**El Efecto De Escudar Magnéticamente A Un Sensor Biológico**  
Shelley Higgins

**Resumen**

Se hizo un estudio exploratorio entre 2004 y 2006 para investigar los efectos de escudar magnéticamente a un sensor biológico. El estudio reveló dos "zonas biológicas" que respaldan la hipótesis de que puede haber una "señal o canal específico" de entrada al cuerpo del sensor, ya que la respuesta del sensor estuvo mayormente disminuida cuando estas áreas fueron cubiertas. Las dos zonas fueron la región dorsal superior trasera del cuello y la región de la corona. Se obtuvo una réplica parcial de las "zonas bio-receptoras" de Harvalik del riñón izquierdo y del derecho, sin embargo la región de la frente como una zona receptora, según Harvalik, no se

replicó. En vez de ello, cuando esa zona fue cubierta, en vez de disminuir las medidas de respuesta del sensor aumentaron, contrariamente a los resultados de Harvalik. El presente estudio envuelve el ejecutar estudios radiestéticos ambos en el campo (en situ) e información de sensores remotos.

---

### **Efeitos da Aplicação de Blindagem Magnética em um Radioestesista**

Shelley Higgins

#### **Resumo**

Entre 2004 e 2006, foi realizado um estudo exploratório com o objetivo de investigar os efeitos da aplicação de blindagem magnética em um radioestesista. O estudo revelou duas 'regiões radioestésicas', fortalecendo a hipótese de que podem existir pontos específicos para recepção do sinal ou canais de 'radioestesia' no corpo humano, uma vez que a resposta ao sinal radioestésico ficou significativamente prejudicada quando estas áreas foram blindadas. As duas regiões identificadas foram: a parte posterior do pescoço e superior das costas, e a parte superior da cabeça (coroa). Obteve-se confirmação parcial da afirmação de Harvalik de que o rim esquerdo e o direito são 'áreas radioestésicas'; contudo não se confirmou a afirmação de Harvalik de que a região da testa é uma 'área radioestésica'. Em vez disso, quando blindada, essa região apresentou uma elevação e não uma queda na mensuração das reações do radioestesista, contrariando os resultados obtidos por Harvalik. O presente estudo envolveu tanto a realização de radioestesia de campo (radioestesia local) quanto informações radioestésicas (radioestesia remota).

---

### **Die Wirkung magnetischer Abschirmung auf den Wuenschelrutengaenger**

Shelley Higgins

#### **Zusammenfassung**

Zwischen 2004 und 2006 wurde eine Untersuchung der Wirkung magnetischer Abschirmung auf einen Wuenschelrutengaenger unternommen. Die Untersuchung brachte zwei Zonen am Koerper zum Vorschein die die Kraefte des Wuenschelrutengaengers beintraechtigten. Das unterstuetzt die Hypothese, dass es gewisse Eingangspunkte fuer Signale oder Leitungen gibt die die Faehigkeiten des Wuenschelrutengaengers konstituieren. Diese zwie Zonen befinden sich in der Gegend zwischen Nacken und oberem Ruecken und in der Schaedeldecke. Eine teilweise Bestatigung von Havalicks linker und rechter Niere als "Wuenschelzonen" wurde auch erreicht, doch Havalicks Stirnregion als "Wuenschelzone" wurde nicht bestaetigt. Im Gegensatz zu Havalicks Ergebnissen, wenn diese Zone abgeschirmt wurde, verstaerkten sich sogar die Reaktionsmessungen des Wuenschelrutengaengers. Die vorliegende Untersuchung schloss Feld-, sowohl als ferngelenkte Taetigkeiten ein.

---

## Introduction

Dowsing, with a 5,000 year old history, is an information-gathering technique that most dowzers believe uses a form of intuition. To date no one fully understands how dowsing works although several theories have been suggested, and due in part to the lack of an identified mechanism, many scientists doubt the efficacy of the technique. The present study investigated two related popular dowsing theories: the dowsing “signal” theory and the “electromagnetic” theory, both of which had been proposed by physicist Zaboř V. Harvalik. The investigation used a known magnetic shielding material to shield dowzers at different locations on their body. Using a numeric scale, the dowzers then subjectively rated their ease of dowsing while shielded.

### *Harvalik's Dowsing Theories: Sensors and Electromagnetics*

Harvalik, born in Yugoslavia and educated in Czechoslovakia, became an associate professor of physics at the University of Missouri, and later he became a physics professor at the University of Arkansas. From the late 1960s to the early 1980s Harvalik performed numerous well-documented dowsing experiments that were published primarily in the *Journal of the American Society for Dowzers* (see references for a partial listing). Harvalik's theories about how dowsing works (Bird, 1979, 266) include the following:

- 1) *Information is somehow conveyed to the dowser through magnetic field changes.* In 1963, Rocard in France reported that dowzers could detect magnetic fields (Bird 1973, 105) (Hansen 1982, 349). Harvalik (among others) followed suit by conducting several experiments to investigate how dowzers react to DC and alternating magnetic fields over a range of frequencies (Harvalik 1973, 87). In particular, he found that when subjected to artificially-generated alternating electromagnetic fields, dowzers reacted most strongly when the coil generating the field was horizontal and the dowzers were exposed primarily to the magnetic vector of radiation. The most sensitive dowzers were able to detect magnetic field strength changes smaller than  $10^{-10}$  gauss.
- 2) *Sensors in the dowser act as signal processors.* The existence of sensors of some kind within the body of the dowser has been studied by both dowsing and psi researchers. J.A. Kopp, a Swiss geologist and dowser, conducted experiments to try to isolate areas in the body responsible for dowsing and reported (Kopp 1972, 1009) (Harvalik 1972, 48) (Bird 1979, 105) that the solar plexus appeared to be the most likely region for a sensor. He placed the subject (dowser) on a stretcher in a horizontal position and slowly moved the stretcher over “irritation” areas, namely those areas to be dowsed for water and minerals. The subject experienced a positive dowsing response only when his or her solar plexus was over the irritation area. Kopp had also experimented by shielding a dowser's head, following his experiencing reduced dowsing ability in the Swiss army when his head was covered with a metal army helmet. Harvalik wanted to also investigate these “sensors,” and began by exploring the two areas (solar plexus and head) by moving cylindrical copper screening up and down the dowser's body. When he covered the solar plexus of the participant dowser being subjected to the magnetic vectors of high frequency beams (5 cm and 7m

wavelengths), “no signal whatsoever was observed” by the dowser; when he covered the dowser’s head, the dowser observed a reduced signal (Harvalik 1973, 95). Harvalik considered that at least two sensors were involved, because of these results, and because it appeared that the dowser reacted to magnetic *field gradient changes* where two or three readings would serve as a more reliable sensing mechanism than just one. Using other shielding materials, including aluminum and magnetic shielding, Harvalik continued to investigate the effects of the shields and how closely he could locate the body’s dowsing zones.

The shielding trials presented in this study further examined the role of a magnetic field and the involvement of “sensors” in dowsing. The trials attempted to replicate aspects of Harvalik’s shielding experiments. Harvalik’s experimental results pointed to the existence of two candidate “magnetic sensor regions” in the dowser’s body, the adrenal glands (lower mid back) region and the mid-forebrain. When these zones were shielded during *field dowsing* using first 0.4 inch aluminum sheet and later 0.025 inch C0-Netic AA magnetic shield, the dowser’s ability was reported to diminish (Harvalik 1978, 526).

### ***Hypothesis***

The following hypothesis was tested in this study: A dowser’s performance will degrade by magnetically shielding (at 0 to 4 inches from the skin) one of the following ten regions (candidate “sensor” zones) of his or her body:

- 1 forehead above eyes
- 2 left kidney
- 3 right kidney
- 4 front - lower navel area
- 5 back of head
- 6 front of neck
- 7 back of neck
- 8 top of head
- 9 soles of the feet
- 10 heart region.

Studies of regions 1, 2, and 3 were an attempt to replicate previous studies by Harvalik (Harvalik, 1970, 1972, 1973, and 1978).

### ***Methodology***

Three trials were used to collect data. Shielding tests were conducted during trials 1, 2, and 3. Trials 1 and 2 tested information dowsing only (human vital signs), and the dowsers used pendulums. Trial 3 tested information and field dowsing; the dowsers used pendulums and L-rods respectively.

### **Information (Remote) Dowsing**

Here the research design differed from that used by Harvalik. Harvalik’s trials involved field

dowsing using an L or Y rod, whereas in the present study, trials also involved information dowsing with a pendulum.

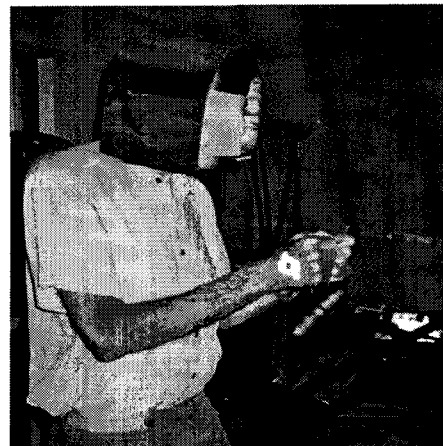
For the information dowsing trials, the following vital signs were measured on six subjects: systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), and heart rate (HR). The vital signs were simply used as sample numeric data (information) to be dowsed, and the 139 sets of three vital sign measurements taken totaled 417 test cases. Two dowzers conducted the dowsing tasks. Each set of three measurements (SBP, DBP, and HR) was taken at times unknown to the dowzers and selected by the participant test subjects. Shielding tests were conducted while dowsing for the information.

### Field (On-Site) Dowsing

Here the research design was similar to one setup used by Harvalik where he buried a circuit under the soil or rather used damp soil as part of his circuit that included electrodes buried in the ground, and the dowser had to determine when the circuit was hot (energized). In other setups, Harvalik radiated dowzers with low power beams of various frequencies, and the dowzers had to detect (dowse) when the beam was on. In the present study, the *field dowsing* consisted of locating two branches of a simple DC electric circuit hidden beneath a 15 foot long carpet; the dowser walked back and forth each time to verify whether or not the direction of movement of the dowser relative to the circuit and relative to the position of the positive and negative pole of the circuit had any effect on the response. The circuit consisted of a 9V battery in a battery holder, 5 dual crocodile connector leads, a switch, and one LED—but unlike in Harvalik’s case, here the circuit was continuously on and the dowser simply had to locate where the “wire” was. Figure 1 and Figure 2 show dowser #2 performing field dowsing over the carpet and hidden circuit using L-rods and walking with a dorsal neck shield and crown shield respectively.



**Figure 1. Shielding During Field Dowsing:  
Dorsal Neck Shield on Dowser #2**



**Figure 2. Shielding During Field Dowsing:  
Crown Shield on Dowser #2**

## Shielding

Magnetic shielding foil, Mumetal, one of the most effective commercially available magnetic shielding materials, shielded the dowser. This study used 0.004 inch thick Mumetal. Mumetal is an alloy of 5% copper, 2% chromium, 77% nickel, and 16% iron. The CO-Netic AA alloy used by Harvalik (in his later studies) has a higher nickel and iron content than Mumetal, at 80% nickel and 20% iron.

It was cut into three 4 x 8.5 inch strips. These were attached to a leather belt using wooden pegs: two strips were suspended from the rear of the belt to cover the kidney area. One strip was suspended with pegs to the front center of the belt, to shield the front region at and below the navel. A fourth Mumetal strip 4 x 25 inches was folded into a circle, held in place with pegs against the dowser's skin, and used to shield the frontal and dorsal head, including the occipital ridge region. A fifth strip 8 x 25 inches shielded the crown and the back of the neck. A sixth strip 0.5 x 3.5 inches located the dorsal neck and crown regions more precisely. Figure 3 illustrates the shields used.



**Figure 3. Mumetal Shields**

The dowsers first dowsed with no shield and then used the shields located at the ten zones progressively. For the information dowsing (in trials 1, 2, and 3), the dowsers ran five tests for each of the ten-candidate "sensor" areas shielded. For field dowsing (in trial 3), the dowsers ran two tests for each of the ten areas shielded.

## Results

The results are summarized in Table 1. The table indicates the self-assigned ratings for dowser #1 and #2 obtained while each of the ten zones was magnetically shielded, while they were performing remote and field dowsing experiments. The following qualitative ratings based on the dowsers' subjective experience were used in these trials to gauge the ease-of-dowsing:

0 = Shield completely stops any dowsing task (dowser is unable to dowse).

- 1 = Shield slows down dowsing tasks compared to dowsing before any shields are used.
- 2 = Shield has no effect on dowsing (dowser experiences no change in ability to dowse).
- 3 = Shield enhances the ability or make it easier to dowse.

The results for each dowser were consistent for each shielded zone; that is for example, for the five tests subjectively rated when the right kidney was covered, the results were the same. Table 1 summarizes the shielding test results. The results indicate that two out of the three regions proposed by Harvalik as candidate dowsing “sensor” zones were partially replicated in that dowser #2 experienced dowsing difficulty when regions 2 (L kidney area) and 3 (R kidney area) were shielded; dowser #1 however experienced no effect at all when these regions were covered.

When Harvalik’s third zone (1 forehead) was shielded, dowser #2 experienced some dowsing enhancement while dowser #1 experienced no effect. Harvalik’s results showed the head as a dowsing zone.

Also dowser #2 experienced a slow down in dowsing when region 4 (front navel) was shielded; dowser #1 again experienced no effect.

The most profound result was that regions 7 (rear neck) and 8 (crown) produced the greatest effect for *both* dowser #1 and #2. When these regions were shielded, dowsing ability completely ceased.

Dowsing Type	Information (Remote)		Field (On-Site)		
	Dowser #1	Dowser #2	Dowser #1	Dowser #2	Harvalik*
Dowsing Zone					
1 Forehead	2	3	2	2	1
2 L Kidney	2	1	2	1	1
3 R Kidney	2	1	2	1	1
4 Navel front	2	1	2	1	Tiller**
5 Head, Dorsal	2	3	2	2	No data
6 Neck, Frontal	2	2	2	2	No data
7 Neck, Dorsal	0	0	0	0	No data
8 Crown	0	0	0	0	No data
9 Plantar Feet	2	Not tested	2	Not tested	No data
10 Heart region	2	Not tested	2	Not tested	No data

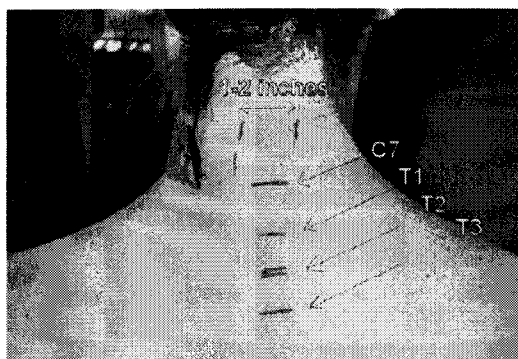
**Table 1. Dowsing Shielding Results Summarized. Legend: 0 = stops dowsing, 1 = slows dowsing, 2 = has no effect on dowsing, and 3 = enhances dowsing.**

\* As recorded by Harvalik. Harvalik’s trials used only three categories for the quality of the dowsing signal received by the dowser in his shielding studies: yes, no, or weak (Harvalik 1978, 528).

\*\* Tiller determined this region and the hands as key subtle energy zones in healers (Tiller 1997).

After the trials ended, an auxiliary experiment was conducted to more accurately characterize the dorsal neck-dowsing zone. The sixth smaller Mumetal strip was held horizontally against the skin, starting at the top of the dorsal neck below the hairline. The strip was slowly moved down the neck until the dowser response was affected. When the dowser said “now,” the assistant marked the dowser’s skin with a pen at the lower edge of the Mumetal, using the edge of the Mumetal as a guide. It was repeated from the mid back region moving slowly upward. On cue the assistant marked the skin with a pen at the upper border of the Mumetal. This process was repeated moving from the left and from the right, holding the thin Mumetal strip vertically. The test was repeated for each direction five times.

The follow-up measurement to more finely locate the dowsing zone in zone 7 and 8, the dorsal neck and crown regions, determined that the dowsing zone covered an approximate two square inch area. For the neck this was from the seventh cervical vertebra (C7) to the third thoracic vertebra (T3) (see Figure 4). The tests were only conducted for dowser #1 during trial 2 while conducting *remote information dowsing*. When *any part* of this area was covered by the small Mumetal strip directly on the dowser’s skin, dowser #1 was unable to dowse.



**Figure 4. C7-T3 Zone: Closer Examination**

## Discussion

The hypothesis deals with the effects of shielding a dowser at ten specific locations on the body. The hypothesis was retained but not all regions considered were proved candidate *dowsing sensor zones*. The results support two of Harvalik’s theories: that the nature of the interface between the dowser and the target involves a form of radiation that includes a magnetic component (unless Mumetal shields other forms of radiation), and that several regions on the dowser serve as sensors that are used in the dowsing process.

The results indicating that the two regions, zone 7 (dorsal neck – C7 to T3) and 8 (crown), play a major role in the dowsing process, open up new avenues for further exploration. The weakly positive results for zones 2 (left kidney) and 3 (right kidney) support Harvalik’s claims of the involvement of the kidney, in particular the adrenals.



Involvement of 4 (front - lower navel area) is not clear; dowser #2 experienced a slow down in dowser response when this region was shielded. Further research to investigate the role of 4 (front - lower navel area) could involve different shielding materials of differing size and thickness and test more dowsers with varying levels of experience.

Further research can be conducted to determine whether the dowsing zones change for different dowsers and dowsing modalities. Initial results based on this study indicate that the dowsing mechanism is the same regardless of the dowsing modality used (field or information dowsing), the tool used, the experience of the dowser, and the type of information sought.

### **Conclusion**

This study set out to investigate the effect of shielding a dowser and partially corroborated the thirty-year-old studies carried out by Harvalik and Kopp that suggested the solar plexus and head are dowsing "sensor" zones. Two new candidate zones were uncovered: the dorsal neck and crown regions. These must be investigated further as contributing to a dowser sensor-system or points-of-entry to the body of the dowsing "signal(s)." The study partially replicated Harvalik's proposal of a left and right kidney dowsing zone; however Harvalik's forehead region as a dowsing zone was not replicated as it appeared to enhance, not diminish, the dowser response when shielded. Lastly this study also investigated Harvalik's two dowsing theories described earlier in the report.

Did the study definitively reveal the nature of the dowsing intuitive process? No, but in exploring the effects of magnetic shielding on the dowser response, as did Kopp, Harvalik, Tromp, and other researchers, the results here support the hypothesis that at least two zones on the surface of the body play a major role in dowsing and that magnetism is involved in this intuitive process.

Further studies of dowsing and correlating the dowsing response with physiologic changes can provide additional insight on energy-balancing, meditation, and other treasured techniques that are among the ancient teachings of AMORC.

## References

- Bird, C. 1973. "Dowsing in the United States of America – History, Past Achievements and Current Research," *The American Dowser* 13 (3). (Based on a talk given at the First International Congress of Parapsychology and Psychotronics, Prague, Czechoslovakia, June 1973).
- Bird, C. 1979. *The Divining Hand*. New York: E.P. Dutton.
- Hansen, G.P. 1982. "Dowsing: A Review of Experimental Research," originally published in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 51 (792).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1970. "A Biophysical Magnetometer-Gradiometer," *Virginia Journal of Science* Vol 21 (2).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1970. "Signal Sensitivity Determination of Dowsers." *The American Dowser* 10 (4).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1972. "Signal Sensitivities of Eleven Dowsers." *The American Dowser* 11 (1).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1973. "Sensitivity Tests on a Dowser Exposed to Artificial DC Magnetic Fields," *The American Dowser* 13 (3).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1973. "Dowsing Reactions to Artificial Alternating Magnetic Fields in the Frequency Range of 1 Hertz to 75 Hertz," *The American Dowser* 13 (3).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1973. "High Frequency Beams Aid Locating the Dowsing Sensors." *The American Dowser* Vol 13 n3, Aug. 1973, p. 95.
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1973. "Where Are the Dowsing Sensors?" *The American Dowser* 13 (2).
- Harvalik, Z.V. 1978. "Anatomical Localization of Human Detection of Weak Electromagnetic Radiation Experiments with Dowsers." *Journal of Physiology, Chemistry, and Physics* 10.
- Kopp, J.A.. 1972. *Wetter Boden-Mensch* 16.
- Tiller, A.W. 1997. "Subtle Energy Actions and Physical Domain Correlations: Consciousness, Intentionality, and Subtle Energies" [Abridged] Stanford University, Palo Alto, California 94305-2205. Retrieved, May 2004, from [http://www.twm.co.nz/energy\\_tiller.htm](http://www.twm.co.nz/energy_tiller.htm).