

How I Do Dowsing, by Bob Dahse, www.GeoPathfinder.com

Every dowser has his/her favorite tools and methods of inquiry. I have tried many kinds of dowsing tools and continue to try new ones, but a couple of them have proven to be best for the work I do. My favorites include my hands alone and various forms of the Y-rod or V-rod, which in their original form “stem” from a simple tree branch. When I am trying to be more discrete, attempting to avoid a contentious confrontation with someone whose scientific or religious dogma feels threatened, I do “body dowsing” using just my hands. When I am alone or among friends and trying to be more precise in locating things, or when I am attempting to demonstrate what a particular pattern of energy looks like, I use the rod.



I first learned the body dowsing process from a book. The illustration showed both arms stretched straight forward at the shoulder, looking like something from a late-night TV zombie movie. Since my wife (wisely) would not let me do this in public, I soon developed a new posture, using a single arm slightly bent forward at the elbow, like a handshake. When crossing a targeted energy pathway, for instance, my hand pulls inward toward my belly about 3 inches, spring back to straight-ahead position when I have passed the target. The movement back to neutral position is more noticeable, feeling like the release of a spring. I mainly use this for “tuned dowsing”, where I focus on something I am trying to find. It does not seem to work well for divination, where I am asking for yes/no responses to questions.

My most useful, all-around tool is the Y-rod, made to mimic the configuration of a forked twig, but constructed of metal. While I have even used a bent-over grass stem when I am in an area without trees, and I will sometimes revert to tree mangling when I forget my metal rod, a simple piece of 12-gauge, solid copper wire is my first choice. It can be bare or plastic-coated but I have come to prefer the coated version for its larger diameter. And I like the near-perfect compromise between stiffness and flexibility that 12-gauge offers. I simply cut a piece about 30 to 36 inches long, fold it in half, then twist the folded portion a couple of times at the tip to reinforce it. Opening it into a V or Y shape gives me a workable rod. And closing it, then folding it into a U shape makes it fit nicely into a pocket, ready when/where I need it.



To use it I place the ends in upturned palms, facing the twisted tip forward, and locking my fingers and thumbs tightly over them. I then bend my wrists inward to create some tension on the rod. To dowse, I walk over the targeted area and the rod pulls sharply downward to indicate a position. To do divination, I focus on a question, then swing my arms horizontally while holding the rod in dowsing position. When the rod passes the center of my body I get a downward pull to indicate “yes”, while “no” offers no response. I then reverse the question so that I can be sure that a no response really means “no”, by turning it into a “yes”. And I often ask other related questions to narrow down the possibilities for error, misunderstanding, or lack of clarity.

You might ask, “Who or what is answering the questions?” There is no way I could answer that with certainty, since the question would be answered by whoever/whatever we are talking about, a “source”, as I call it, which may or may not wish to reveal its nature. You can look at the situation from a religious viewpoint and be concerned for my soul. You can see it from a scientific standpoint and laugh it off completely as pseudoscientific nonsense. You can view it as a spiritual experience, with awe and thankfulness. Or you can look at it as I do. For me it is simply data, possibly from a number of sources, subject to whatever cross-examination, physical corroboration, or other form of verification I can devise. Yes, I am thankful, but I am not completely naive. I have often found that the “source’s” motivations differ from mine when I am looking, for example, for a particular energy formation. There have been times when I was redirected to a different, more important, or novel energy pattern. The intent seems to be one of furthering my development as a dowser, but it can lead to misinterpretations that require vigilance and constant attention to precision in the wording I use for questioning. But I have never thought of the “source” as some part of my subconscious mind, since its agenda differs at times. Or if it is part of me, it is a part that is in congress with a more collective consciousness.

Another question I often get is, “How do you determine the pattern of something in three dimensions?” Actually, finding the full 3-D model of an energy formation is pretty easy if you modify the normal Y-rod technique. To find the details of a vertical pattern, I use the standard dowsing position, asking for details about, for instance, the outer width, the number of planes/lines, the direction of energy flow, the type of energy and its intensity (on Baron Gustav Freiherr von Pohl’s 16-point scale, modified to go from -16 to +16), the type of formation (cylinder, spiral, plane, etc.), changes from day to night or moon phase, etc. Questions are only limited by your imagination and your ability to form a mental image of what your hands are “seeing”. But if what you detect can be located at differing heights from the ground, you may need to alter your dowsing technique to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the process.

To get the details of a horizontally oriented formation requires a simple twist in the process, literally! By rotating my upper body and arms into a 90-degree bend, I sweep the rod vertically instead of horizontally, looking for horizontal planes (in Curry or Hartmann grids, for instance), the energy flow of vortices (which look like the 3-D equivalent of a 2-D spiral), or even the vertical energy flux of some upward or downward flowing formations. After some practice, showing a client the multiply-nested cylinders formed at the crossing of two “Primary Curry Lines” becomes pretty straightforward. And even though the results can be hard to illustrate without some fancy drawing software and perhaps a talent that I do not possess, I can much more easily visualize what I am dealing with and display it to others.

There are certainly other tools that may work better for other dowsers, and may work better for certain situations/energies/processes. And I encourage you to try any and all of them to see what works best for your situation and temperament. For instance, I do not have the patience to use a pendulum, and the outdoor conditions I dowse in would not be conducive to its use. I also have a problem with L-rods in terms of too much sensitivity and too little precision, at least for me. When I do map dowsing I use a tiny version of the Y-rod, made by untwisting an 8-inch length of bicycle brake cable to get a single wire strand. I form it in the usual way, and simply dowse over a map or drawing (printed large enough to give me some precision in locating details) the same way I do over an actual location. My point here is this: **Use what works and keep it simple.** If you are really good at dowsing it does not matter what you use. Fancy crystal-coated fiberglass rods, or silver-plated, dial-bedecked radionics boxes will not necessarily work better than your body alone or a simple tree twig coupled with an inquiring mind.