

field test

C-Scope CS660

Some readers may have been in the hobby long enough to remember the C-Scope models produced in the early 1970s; they had a black colour scheme, oblong control box, and "shepherds crook" style handles. Indeed, there are probably still a number of detectorists out there who still own and use such machines.

My own introduction to the hobby came with one of these early C-Scopes, a TR200. I remember it as being quite a heavy machine probably as a result of the two large PP9 batteries that powered it, as much as anything else. Despite this I did have an affection for the machine, for it enabled me to make some good finds.

These days, detectors have improved a lot in terms of weight, design, balance, and battery consumption. Such is certainly true of the latest detector to join the C-Scope range, the CS660.

The handle is of the foam rubber pistol grip type, and situated above this is the compact control box. Access to the controls, for hand holding the detector, is easy. At the end of the upper stem there is a metal arm cup, which helps with balance and reduces arm fatigue.

The CS660 is fitted with an 8 inch search coil which is "hard wired" and non-detachable.

The detector runs from just two PP3 type batteries, and if you use alkalines these should provide approximately forty hours of use (although the normal lead-acid or rechargeable batteries can be used without loss of performance).

Instructions come in the form of an easy to follow leaflet, which describes the use of the detector's simple controls and also includes a Code of Conduct for any beginners who might buy the CS660 as a first machine.

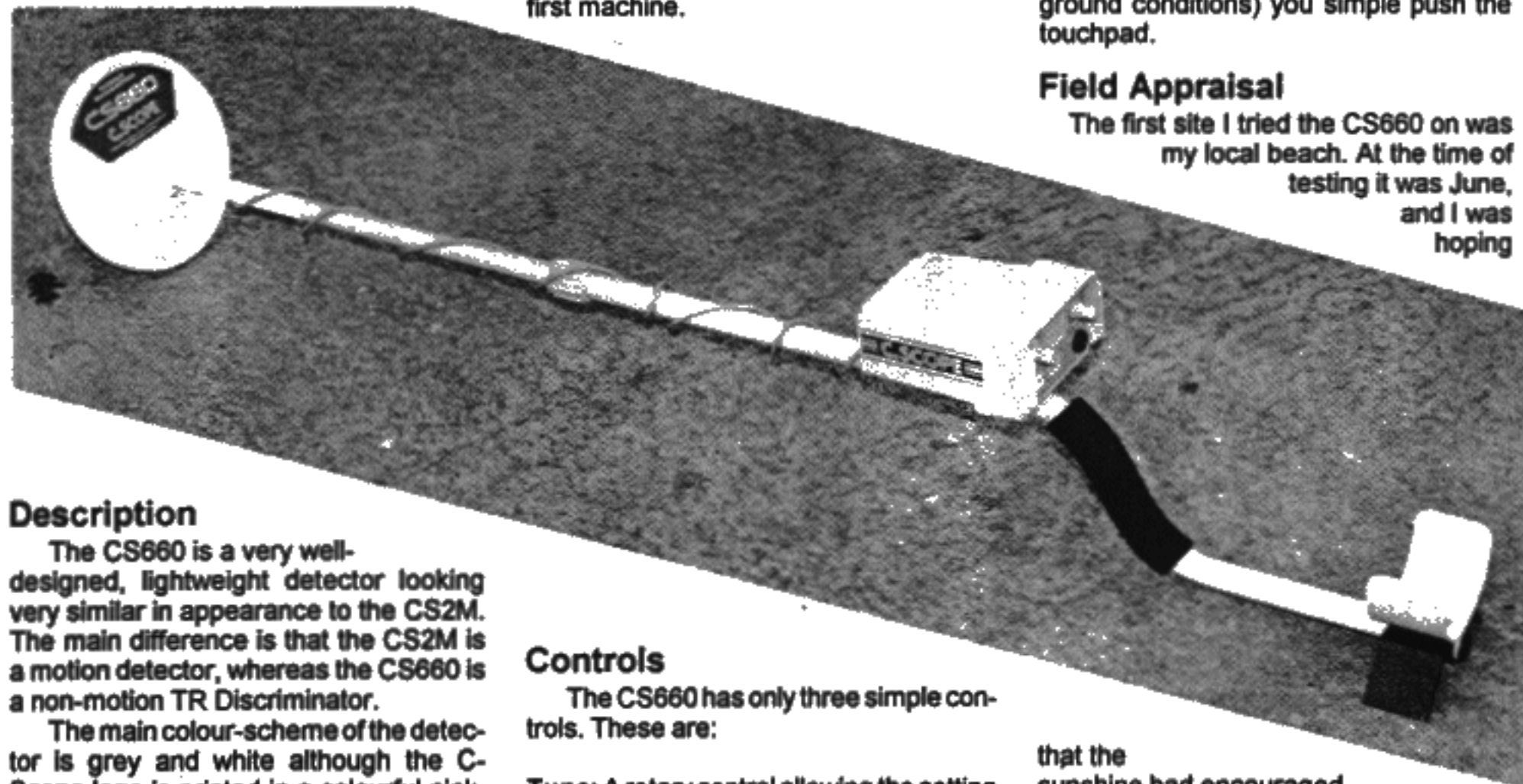
Retune: A membrane-type touch pad, that works memory retune circuitry. This is pushed in while the detector is being set to threshold.

In practice the detector is very simple to operate with these three controls. The "Tune" control also acts as an on/off switch. To prepare the detector for use, you simply push the "Retune" touch pad and rotate the "Tune" control to threshold (a very faint signal that you can just hear). Once you have done this, release the pressure on the touch pad and the detector is ready to use. If you change the level of discrimination, the "Retune" touch pad should be pushed to bring the detector back to threshold.

Should the CS660 drift from threshold during use (the faint signal either fall silent or rise due to temperature or changing ground conditions) you simply push the touchpad.

Field Appraisal

The first site I tried the CS660 on was my local beach. At the time of testing it was June, and I was hoping



Description

The CS660 is a very well-designed, lightweight detector looking very similar in appearance to the CS2M. The main difference is that the CS2M is a motion detector, whereas the CS660 is a non-motion TR Discriminator.

The main colour-scheme of the detector is grey and white although the C-Scope logo is printed in a colourful pink. The stem is of the modern "S" shape and is telescopic, being adjustable by means of a grey plastic locking collar. Although the search coil is non-detachable, it is possible to unwind the coil cable and break the detector down into two parts for transportation.

Controls

The CS660 has only three simple controls. These are:

Tune: A rotary control allowing the setting of threshold.

Disc: A rotary control for the adjustment of discrimination levels. This starts at all-metal and goes up in ten numbered segments to a level where pull tabs are rejected.

that the sunshine had encouraged more activity on the beach than normal.

While setting the detector up I noticed a glint of gold by my feet, and picking the object up found it to be a small and very thin gold earring stamped "9ct". Not a bad start to the day considering that I hadn't even turned the detector on yet!

One thing I noticed in the first few signals was that the sound quality given out by the detector was very clear and sharp.

For this initial test, I decided not to use any discrimination and left the control at its minimum, all-metal setting. In this way I thought I would quickly get a feel for the detector, an idea of its depth capabilities, and a recognition of any signal differences from junk or deep targets to wanted ones.

On trying various areas of the beach I found that the CS660 would work on some patches of salt wet sand, but would drift in signal on others (apart from Pulse Induction, few detectors perform normally in these conditions, anyway).

I found it easy to pinpoint targets which turn up right under the centre of the search head. The fact that the detector is non-motion also helps in pinpointing.

The CS660 has no volume control but I found the factory set volume to be just right. If you personally would like to reduce the volume then this is simply done by using a set of headphones fitted with volume controls.

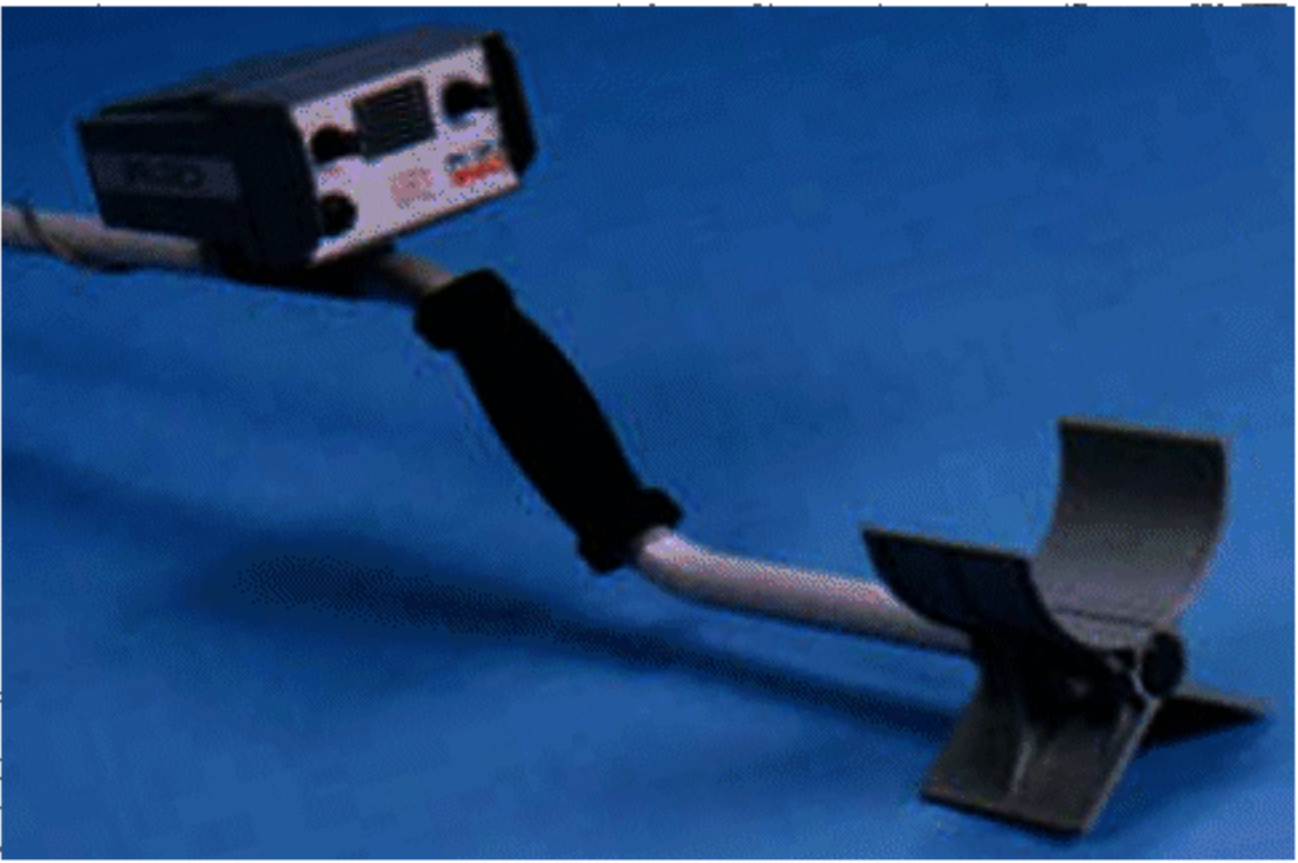
After three hours of searching the



to sweep the search head from side to side and on the fourth sweep received a good, strong signal. I went over the target area again to try to determine its size and noticed that the signal was in a confined area and of the type I had come to associate with coins. Thinking that the target would be a coin or ring pull I dug down 4 inches to see the second glint of gold for the day. My find was half of a set of cuff-links, and not of the cheap junk type for on the reverse was a hall mark.

Finding a gold item on this stretch of sands came as something of a surprise to me, for normally the area is not very productive and turns up little apart from the odd coin.

I believe the cuff-link must be an heirloom recently lost for the hall mark shows it to have been made in Birmingham in



beach I had dug up a fair amount of coins, in amongst the usual amount of ring pulls, silver paper, bottle tops and aluminium cans (remember that I was using no discrimination). The depths gained were very good for this modestly priced detector, the cans coming up from over a foot and the coins/ring pulls coming up from between 4 to 5 inches.

In the afternoon I moved to another section of the beach situated about a mile and a half down the road. Having turned the detector on and set threshold I started

1899. The gold is also reddish in colour and of the type I have been told is "rose gold".

My first outing with the CS660 produced a total of 19 coins (including three £1 coins) and the gold cuff link, and as sites up here in Scotland are far from productive, I was very pleased with the detector's initial performance.

For my second test I felt that I would like to try the detector on an inland site, but being June most of the local fields were in crop. However, I was fortunate in being

able to track down an odd set-aside field, that I managed to gain permission to search. The problems with such fields, of course, is rampant weed growth and results with most detectors can be limited.

I also have a personal problem with inland searching during the summer, and that is hay fever symptoms caused by the pollen from oil seed rape. Luckily my hay fever wasn't too bad on this field. There were some bald patches amongst the vegetation, and I also managed to work the search head in and around the overgrown grass and old stubble.

The CS660 performed quite well under the circumstances and located quite a few targets, these all proving to be scrap lead, copper and brass. In these inland conditions the detector also gave a number of faint signals, these proving to come from small objects as deep as the 5 to 6 inch mark.

At the end of my search of the field I had accumulated a fair amount of scrap, some Georgian copper coins, and some musket balls.

One thing I did notice, was that the detector was picking up some interference from some overhead electricity cables but apart from that I thought its performance to be very good.

In the instruction booklet, under the section on discrimination, it recommends turning the "Disc" to 5 on the scale in order to cut out iron nails. I thought I would try this setting on another local sandy beach which is well-known for its nail contamination.

Once again, I was surprised by the detector's performance for when I searched this beach I could actually see the nails laying everywhere on the surface ... but not even a whisper came from them.

Leaving "Disc" set to 5, I moved away from the nail infested area to another part of the beach. At the foot of a sand dune a number of sharp signals came through on a single sweep. Moving off the top layer of sand I came upon a small hoard of six coins (including two £1 coins). A short distance away I recovered a further five coins, these being individual finds.

So I proved the recommendations in the instruction book right: set to "5" the detector will reject nails while losing very little of its sensitivity to coins and other wanted targets. I also found that on this setting the crown caps from beer bottles tend to give a hollow, "fuzzy" signal. However, on this setting the detector will still register some ring pulls and the larger pieces of silver paper, as well as aluminium screw caps.

During the period I was testing the

CS660 there was a really hot weekend, and my local beach was quite crowded. Naturally, I paid it a visit on the following day. Within the space of three hours I had recovered forty coins (including five £1 pieces), a toy car, plenty of stainless steel cutlery, a large junk jewellery earring, a lighter, and a really expensive-looking pair of sunglasses. No doubt if this had been an English beach I would have found three times as much!

Conclusions

In the CS660 C-Scopes certainly seem to have come up with an attractive, professionally-made, budget priced detector. It is simple to operate and has a great deal of potential both for beginners and professionals alike. As it has no trouble in picking up coins within the first 5 or 6 inches of soil, then it should prove an interesting machine to use where early material has previously come to light. It should have no problems in finding Roman or hammered.

My only grumble with this detector concerns the battery leads. I think these are too thin and great care must be taken



David Drummond on the beach.

when changing batteries not to break or damage them. I remember seeing somebody do just that when changing the batteries in his CS2M.

Apart from that I would say that this detector is well made, and I liked its performance. Whether you own a top range detector or not, the CS660 is a machine that could prove very useful for specific situations such as nail infested sites. For beginners it represents a good all-round machine.

Specifications

Model: C-Scope CS660

Type: Non-motion, TR discriminator

Manufacturers: C-Scope International Ltd, Kingsnorth Technology Park, Wotton Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 2LN. Tel: (0233) 629181.

Recommended Retail Price: £149.00 (inc VAT).

Search Coil: 8 inch

Weight: 1.3 kg

Batteries: 2 x PP3

Battery Life: Up to 40 hours with alkalines.

Operating Frequency: 17 kHz

Factory Accessories: Coil cover, carry bag, rechargeable battery kit.

Guarantee: One year parts and labour.