



**METAL DETECTOR/TREASURE SEEKER**



**PROMET**  
**OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

## C-SCOPE METAL DETECTORS PROMET

### INTRODUCTION

We welcome you to the growing family of C-Scope owners. The PROMET is the result of many years of research, experiment and close co-operation with experienced Treasure Hunters.. It is designed and manufactured to the highest standard to give you maximum enjoyment and success. In order to obtain the best results and years of trouble-free operation it is **IMPORTANT** that you carefully read and follow these instructions.

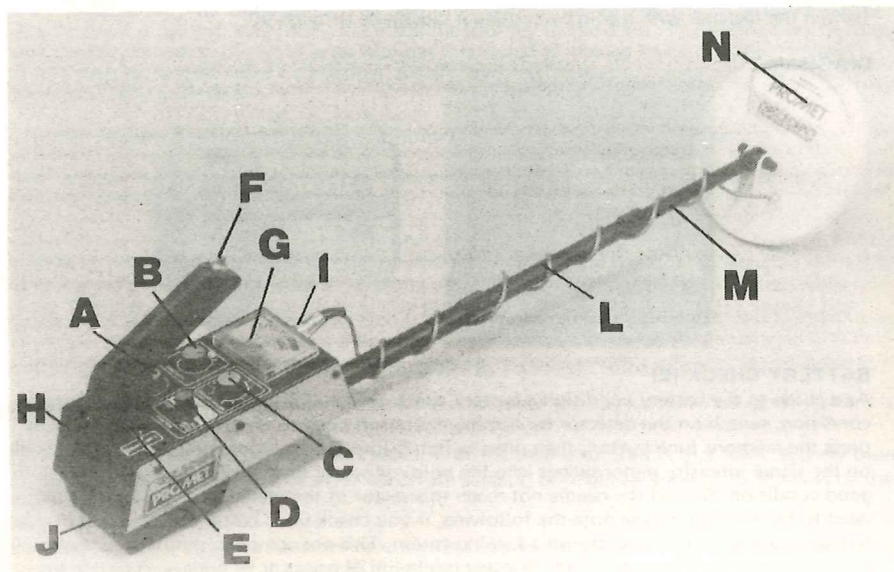
Always remember that becoming a good Treasure Hunter is like becoming a good photographer or fisherman; although it is advantageous to buy the best equipment, having bought it great patience and many hours of practice are needed to become proficient.

Remember that the PROMET is a sensitive electronic instrument designed to be used out of doors. However, it is a good idea to experiment with the instrument indoors to become proficient with the controls and responses before taking it into the field. When experimenting indoors, ensure that there is no metal in the vicinity of the search-head, and account should be taken of interference caused by fluorescent tubes etc.

### DIAGRAM 1

#### CONTROLS AND FEATURES

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| A — On/off Tune Control                | H — Headphone Socket    |
| B — Sensitivity Control                | I — Head Cable Socket   |
| C — Ground Exclude Control             | J — Battery Compartment |
| D — Function Control                   | K — Upper Stem          |
| E — Auto-normal, Battery Check Control | L — Middle Stem         |
| F — Push-button Memory Tuning          | M — Lower Stem          |
| G — Signal Intensity Meter             | N — Search Head         |



## HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR PROMET FOR USE

Your PROMET comes to you dismantled for ease of packing. To assemble your PROMET, follow these few easy steps:

- 1) Locate the stems in the special compartment in the packaging.
- 2) Loosen the knurled nut on the upper stem (K).
- 3) Insert middle stem (L) into upper stem and tighten the knurled nut.
- 4) Attach lower stem (M) to the search head (N) with the nut and bolt provided, tightening the latter finger tight (do not use any tools as you may damage the nut and bolt).
- 5) Insert lower stem (M) into middle stem (L) and tighten knurled nut.
- 6) Now coil the head cable around the whole stem assembly, insert the plug into the head cable socket (I) ensuring that it is correctly aligned, and twist locking collar.  
Please ensure that the search head cable is not coiled around the stem assembly too tightly especially at the search head end, thus allowing sufficient play, avoiding damage should the head be moved in relation to the stem.

## BATTERIES

Now that you have assembled your PROMET, all that is required before you use it is the power supply.

Your PROMET can be powered by two types of power source:

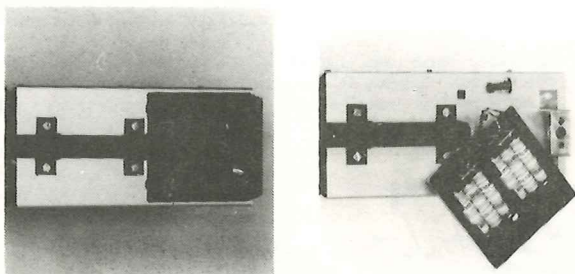
- 12 Penlight Batteries of HP7 type or
- 12 Rechargeable Nickel Cadmium Penlight Batteries.

Please Note: It is advisable to use batteries manufactured by a well known manufacturer, as 80% of all faults occurring with metal detectors can be traced to faulty or badly connected batteries.

To fit the batteries, remove battery compartment cover (J) by proceeding as follows:

- a) Insert coin into compartment cover fastener and turn anti-clockwise through 90°
- b) Lift off battery compartment cover (J).
- c) Remove penlight battery holders.
- d) Insert the batteries of your choice, ensuring that the + or - sign\* on the battery corresponds to the one on the holder.
- e) Connect the battery packs to the leads provided.
- f) Re-position the battery holders in the compartment and refit the cover, ensuring that you tighten the fastener with a coin by turning it clockwise through 90°.

## DIAGRAM 2



## BATTERY CHECK (E)

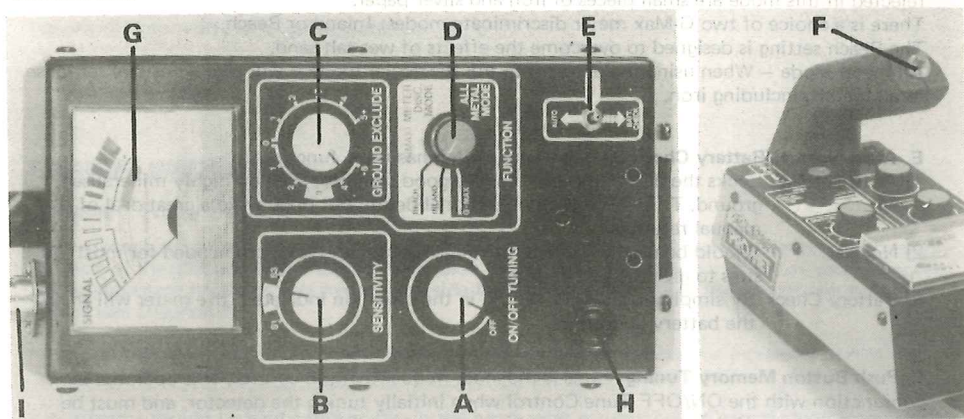
As a guide to the battery condition a battery check switch (E) is provided. To check battery condition, switch on the detector by turning the on/off control knob into the 'on' position, press the memory tune button, then press switch E into the direction indicated. If the needle on the signal intensity meter swings into the bold red sector of the meter the batteries are in good condition. Should the needle not reach this sector of the meter (and remain) the batteries need to be renewed. Please note the following, if you check your batteries at the end of your outing you may notice you receive a low indication. This phenomenon is natural when using standard batteries. However, if the detector is left for 24 hours or to your next outing you will notice when checking them again that they have recovered sufficiently to give you a further period of service.



When using the rechargeable type of battery it must be noted that when the batteries are checked, the needle will only move up 2/3 of the bold red sector. Unlike standard batteries which discharge gradually, rechargeable batteries provide a full charge up to the time when they require to be recharged, at which point they will decay suddenly.

## CONTROLS – WHAT THEY ARE, AND WHAT THEY DO

### DIAGRAM 3



**A On/Off Tune Control** – this control enables you to turn the detector on and off and set the tuning level. It must be used in conjunction with the push button memory tune button (F).

To tune the detector to the optimum level turn this control knob, whilst at the same time pressing the memory tune button, until a faint audio sound can be heard; any setting above or below this level of tuning will reduce the sensitivity of the detector.

**B Sensitivity Control** – this control knob enables the detector user to set the desired sensitivity setting for a given site.

It is advisable to use the S2 setting on most sites as it will give the best results. The S1 setting should be used in areas where heavy mineralisation is encountered as it will help overcome these particular problems.

The S3 setting should only be used on sites where no ground mineralisation is present, and no interference from electrical, radio or other electronic transmissions are encountered.

**C. Ground Exclude Control** – this control enables the user to tune out the effects of ground mineralisation. Positive or negative ground effect makes the detector sound off as if metal is present when the head is raised or lowered to the ground.

To eliminate the effect of ground mineralisation proceed as follows:

- Switch function switch to the **All Metal Mode**.
- Set sensitivity as above.
- Set ground exclude control to -3.
- Depress auto-tune button and lower the head to the ground.
- Release auto-tune button and raise and lower the search head a few times.

#### Note:

- If the needle on the intensity meter moves to the **left** when the search head is lowered to the ground, turn the control knob to the **left** (anti-clockwise).
- If the needle moves to the **right** when the search head is lowered to the ground, turn the control knob to the **right** (clockwise).

The ground effect is overcome when the needle remains in the centre of the intensity meter, irrespective of whether the head is lowered or raised. In practice the setting most often used is -3.

**Please note that this procedure must be followed even when the detector is to be used in one of the G-Max Meter Discrimination Modes. In this instance proceed as above and only switch to G-Max; Meter Discrimination Mode when Ground Effect has been successfully eliminated.**

**D Function Select Switch** — this switch allows the user to choose a mode setting most suited to a particular site. The PROMET has two modes of operation:

- a) Meter Discriminate Mode
- b) All-metal Mode

**Meter Discriminate Mode** — The detector will, in this mode, offer ground exclusion in the audio channel, whilst simultaneously discriminating in the visual channel. The objects which will be rejected in this mode are small pieces of iron and silver paper.

There is a choice of two G-Max meter discriminate modes: Inland or Beach.

The Beach setting is designed to overcome the effects of wet salt sand.

**All-metal Mode** — When using the detector in this particular mode it will give a positive response to all metals, including iron.

**E Auto-Normal/Battery Check Switch** — this switch has three functions:

- 1) Auto Setting: Locks the detector tuning to give good stability, even on highly mineralised ground. This will reduce operational depth, but does avoid a great deal of manual retuning.
- 2) Normal: Should be used to obtain maximum depth, and is recommended for most sites to give the best results.
- 3) Battery Check: By simply pushing the switch in the direction indicated, the meter will show the battery condition.

**F Push Button Memory Tuning** — this is the most frequently used control. It is operated in conjunction with the ON/OFF Tune Control when initially tuning the detector, and must be operated whenever it is necessary to bring the detector back to the optimum tuning point, or whenever a control (setting) is altered.

**G Signal Intensity Meter** —

- i) The meter acts as a battery check when the battery check button is pressed.
- ii) The meter will give a visual indication of the optimum tuning level when the needle is in a central position.
- iii) When discriminating the meter will show a negative response to unwanted items (needle swings left).
- iv) When pinpointing a target signal, the fullest deflection of the meter to the right will indicate that the object is situated under the centre of the search head.
- v) Visual discrimination is available in conjunction with an audio response, when in the Meter Discriminate Mode.

**H Headphone Socket** — it is recommended that headphones be used to increase battery life and increase finds, as they cut out background noises so that even the faintest signal can be heard.

**I Head Cable Socket** — the search head cable connector allows for the easy dismantling of the detector for carrying or storage.

**K,L,M Adjustable Stem** — a fully adjustable stem allows for easy dismantling of the detector for storage or carrying.

**N Search Head** — outwardly C-Scope search heads appear to be simple but in fact they are very complex and should therefore be treated with care. They are designed to transmit and receive a magnetic field and detect the changes which occur when metal is present. C-Scope search heads are fully waterproof and can therefore be immersed in rivers, rockpools etc, up to the lowest knurled nut. After use, particularly in salt water, it is advisable to wash off the search head and lower stem in fresh water. It must be remembered that the search head may be affected by temperature changes. It is therefore advisable to allow the detector to reach the temperature of the surroundings in which it will be used. For example, if you are driving to a particular site with your detector in the car allow it to cool down or warm up to the outside temperature before commencing to search.

## OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR PROMET

First, ensure that the detector is well away from any metal object seen or unseen before attempting the following procedure, using the recommended programmed settings:

- 1) Turn all controls fully anti-clockwise.
- 2) Set sensitivity control to S2.
- 3) Set ground exclude to -3.
- 4) Set function switch to 'Inland Meter Discriminate'.
- 5) Set Auto-normal switch to 'Norm'.
- 6) Press and hold push button memory tune button and at the same time turn on the detector, turning the tuning control until the faintest sound is just heard, and meter needle centres.
- 7) Lower the search head to sweep height and only then release the memory tune button.

You are now ready to commence searching.

The PROMET is designed to be used on the recommended settings as detailed above; however, the user may wish to experiment with the other settings provided.

### 1) G-Max All-metal Mode:

This setting can be used when detection of all-metals is required. In this mode the detector will give a positive signal whenever metal is present, immaterial of its nature, both on the intensity meter and via the loudspeaker or headphones.

**2) G-Max Meter Discriminate — Beach Mode:** This setting has been specially conceived for the ardent beachcombers, where heavy wet salt sand mineralisation can render other detectors inoperative. It is advisable to use S2 sensitivity, thus ensuring that the detector will operate correctly. Small Iron is rejected on both the audio channel and the meter discriminate channel of this setting.

**3) G-Max Meter Discriminate — Inland Mode:** This setting is best used on any inland site when discrimination is required. It will allow the user to locate coins, jewellery and other valuable artefacts, whilst rejecting small pieces of iron and silver paper.

**4) Sensitivity:** The S2 setting is the recommended setting because it provides good depth and stability.

The S3 position slightly increases operational depth but may result in instability of the signal received, which can be recognised by fluctuating and erratic signals. In certain areas electrical and radio interference may severely affect the signals obtained. In this case the use of the S1 setting is recommended.

**5) Ground Control:** Although the -3 setting will cope with most inland ground conditions, certain sites may require adjustment of this control to precisely overcome ground effect. In this case refer to Note C.

### 6) Automatic Mode :

Automatic tuning has been incorporated into the Promet to enable the user to preset the machine for a site and never touch the controls again.

To operate this function, switch the auto/normal switch (E) to auto ensuring that the machine is at the desired optimum tuning level set, using the normal tuning procedure.

On sites where ground effect, due to heavy concentration of mineralised (metallic) rock and soil occur the automatic tuning resists the destabilising effect of the rock and yet allows metallic objects to be picked up. This is particularly useful when the ground control is overloaded on sites where natural mineral deposits occur.

It must be remembered that the operator must continue to sweep at a steady pace otherwise the automatic tuning will over compensate and tune out any target signal.

Generally speaking the more quickly the user sweeps the greater depth penetration. The optimum sweeping speed can be assessed by placing a coin on the floor and scanning over it to see at what depth the coin is detected at the most comfortable speed of sweep.



The automatic tuning control does not operate in conjunction with the meter discrimination facility only on the audio circuit.

Accurate pinpointing may best be achieved by flicking back to manual tuning so that the target does not "disappear" and sweeps can be made more slowly.

## **C-SCOPE PROMET – USE OF YOUR DETECTOR IN THE FIELD**

### **DISCRIMINATING**

When used in the (G-Max) All-Metal Mode the Promet will detect all metals and will not discriminate. However, in the (G-Max) Meter Discriminate Mode the Promet has been programmed to operate at a fixed discriminate setting.

This discrimination setting is for most iron and small pieces of silver paper. In practice all metals will give an audible signal on the loudspeaker, but rejected objects will be indicated on the meter by a swing to the left of the meter needle, i.e., from tune to reject, whereas accepted targets will be indicated on the meter by a swing to the right of the meter needle, i.e., from tune to target.

It is recommended that all objects that are not rejected should be dug, i.e., if the meter needle does not dip — dig the object.

Iron, unlike a coin, occurs in a multitude of shapes and sizes. As a result it is possible that large pieces of iron may give a positive reading. Iron in the shape of nails or pieces of wire also may be present on the surface of a site. In this case anomalies in discrimination may occur. Anomalies or confusing signals can only occur in the first few inches away from the search head, and are characterised by a double signal from the same object, usually iron, which often ranges from a strong positive to a strong negative signal. To overcome these problems simply raise the search head and re-scan until a clear signal of rejection or acceptance is obtained.

### **ANOMALY ZONES**

All multi-coil detectors suffer from anomalies when objects are close to the search head. This phenomenon is characterised by a double signal from the same object, which often ranges from a strong positive to a strong negative signal. If you encounter such problems simply raise the search head a few inches, retune, and search again. You should now receive a clear signal.

### **Detection Range**

Detection ranges will vary depending on the size of the object, the length of time an object has been buried, and the type of ground the object is buried in.

The best ground conditions are well compacted soils and coins can be found at the greatest depths if the object has been buried for some time and the coin has interacted with the salts in the ground, thereby appearing larger to the detector. The worst conditions for detecting are on loosely compacted or freshly dug ground or when the object has only recently been buried. In these conditions detection range will be reduced. 90% of all artefacts are found within 6" of the surface.

**N.B.** Adverse soil conditions can reduce depth of detection by more than half.

### **Determining the Target Size and Depth**

An operator who is familiar with his instrument will be able to do an excellent job of determining object size, shape, and depth before he digs. This technique is learned from careful analysis of the audio signals coming from the detector. Each time a signal is heard, listen for any peculiar characteristics it may have, determine over how large an area you get a detector signal, and try to "outline" the object before you dig. Listen for the sharpness or dullness of the signals and determine the magnitude of strength of the signal. A coin for example will have a sharp signal, a nail a fuzzy signal.

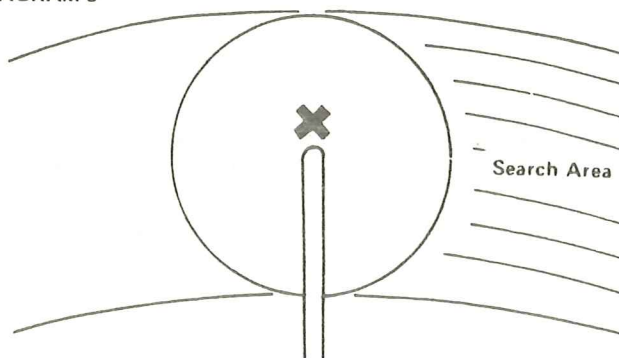
After digging up the object, compare the object size, shape, depth and position in the ground with signal information you received before digging. After careful analysis of many digs, you will learn to "read" the hidden target before digging.

### **Detecting**

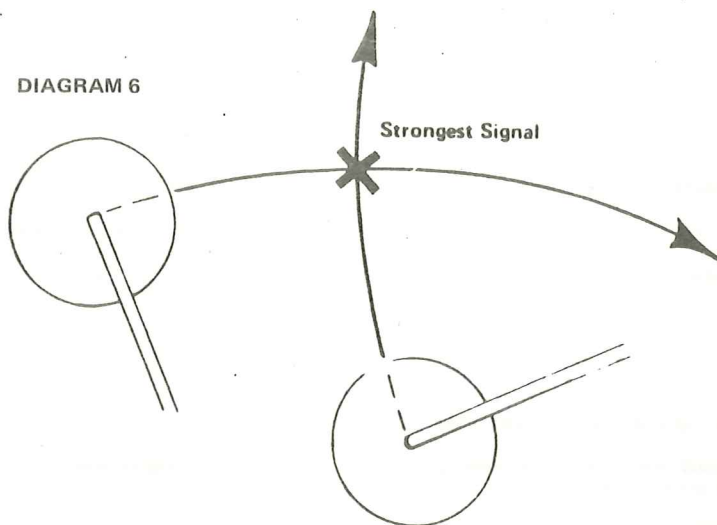
To test for the type of signal you will get, take a coin or metal object and with the detector set up on a table tuned as previously described, move the metal object towards and across the search head. You will note that the volume will increase quickly as the metal object passes across the search head, with the loudest sound occurring when the search head is immediately centred over the metal object. As the object passes beyond the search head the sound will quickly fade.

Since the detectors employ a Total Response search head the object can be detected across the full width, back to front, of the search head. Maximum sensitivity occurring over an area of 1" by 8" down the middle of the search head.

**DIAGRAM 5**



**DIAGRAM 6**



### Pinpointing

- (i) The strongest signal will always be received when the object is directly beneath the centre of the head (See X in Diagram 5). To pinpoint the find, stop the search head when you are directly over the target object, then move the search head through 90° and sweep again, thus forming a cross with the two sweeps as shown in Diagram 6.
- (ii) To 'focus' the target signal further raise the search head, retuning if necessary, and pass the search head over the object until only a faint signal is heard.

The faint signal will then be occurring at point X under the centre of the head (Diagram 6). More accurate pinpointing, particularly of deeply buried objects can be achieved by finding the centre of the target object as described above and fixing its position in the 'minds eye'.

Turning your detector through 90° and sweeping across the target again will give a second reading, accurately determining the centre of the object (Diagram 6).

Digging carefully at point X will reveal the find. With little practice, size, shape and depth of an article may be estimated in this way before digging.



## **CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

### **Care of your Detector**

#### **STORAGE**

When not in use your detector should be stored in a dry and warm environment. If it is not to be used for a certain length of time it is advisable to remove the batteries to avoid leakage which could cause serious damage.

The working life of your detector will be shortened by careless use or neglect of the unit. Think of your detector as a scientific instrument NOT A TOY. Your detector is designed to withstand rugged handling on any terrain, but mis-use or lack of due attention will tell in the end.

After using your detector in a hostile environment (salt water, sand, etc.) the exterior parts of the casing should be flushed with clean fresh water, paying particular attention to the head, and carefully wiped dry.

#### **Salt Damage**

If you use your detector continually in a salty environment, particularly when the wind is blowing off the sea, salty air can penetrate the control box.

Corrosion can occur in vital parts of the delicate electronic circuitry.

It is therefore recommended that precautions such as covering the control box with polythene be taken to avoid damage.

The guarantee cannot cover such occurrences and any repairs needed because of salt water or spray will be charged.

#### **Detector Not Operating**

- (a) Check the condition of batteries under load using meter. (See Battery Check Procedure).
- (b) Check that the search head is properly attached to the control box via the search head cable connector.
- (c) Interchange batteries and ensure connections are correct and secure. Battery life can vary tremendously between makes, therefore your 'new' batteries may already be insufficiently powerful to run your detector.

#### **Oscillating Signal Accompanied by Slight Meter Fluctuation**

- (a) Caused most often by outside equipment such as fluorescent lights, taxis, radios, power lines, and other metal detectors working nearby

#### **Intermittent sound from speaker**

- (a) This could be due to poor battery connections. Ensure they are tight and the batteries are securely clipped into place.
- (b) Loose search head cable connection — tighten.
- (c) Radio transmission from passing taxi or vehicle using radio transmitter equipment.

#### **The Detector Drifts out of Tune**

- (a) Temperature drift caused by the change in air temperature when a machine is moved from a house or a car into the open.
- (b) The greater the change in temperature the more the drift, and up to 30 minutes may be needed for the electronic circuitry to acclimatise itself.
- (c) Sometimes battery drain can cause drift of signal. Replace batteries and this should help to maintain a stable signal.

Before returning a detector for repair to C-Scope ensure you have done the following:-

- Read instructions thoroughly.
- Tried new batteries and checked procedure outlined above.
- Speak to local dealer about performance of the detector, especially if you are still unfamiliar with metal detectors in general.

Return detector with letter giving details of fault.

## TREASURE HUNTING TIPS

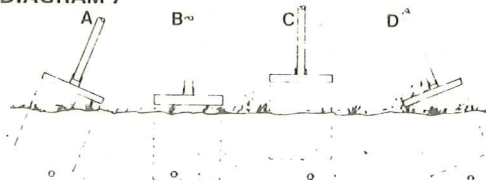
### Sweeping For example:

For extremely small object searching, such as coins, rings, nuggets, etc., lower the search coil to within one inch of the ground. Sweep the coil from side to side in a straight line in front of you. Keep the coil at a constant height as you sweep from side to side. Move the coil at the rate of one foot per second (see Diagram 7).

After you have become familiar with the instrument the sweep rate may be increased to two feet per second. The optimum sweep rate must be determined by each operator.

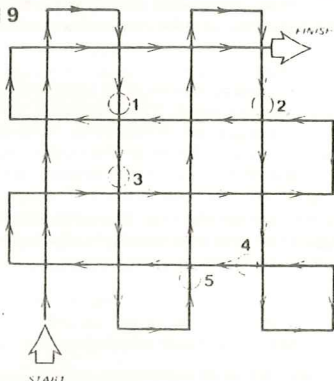
The detector should be held comfortably in the hand, with the coil held as closely to the ground as possible. As the detector is scanned from side to side in front of the operator, the search coil should be advanced approximately two-thirds the diameter of the coil. This keeps the operator moving ahead, and it allows some overlapping of each sweep. This overlapping ensures that nothing will be missed. It is as well to note here that the operator **SHOULD NOT RUSH**. This is one of the most common mistakes made by detector users. If you rush, you will not adequately cover the ground.

DIAGRAM 7

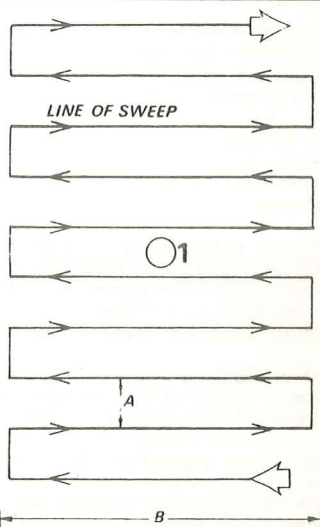


It is essential that the search head is kept close and parallel to the ground to avoid missing finds as in A, C, and D.

DIAGRAM 9



On arrival at the site a criss-cross search is made marking the positions of finds: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. A detailed search of the area around the finds is made on completion of the criss-cross search as in Dia. 12.



An area ten foot square is marked out around the find located by criss-cross search. This is then divided into strips which are carefully searched.  
Distance A = width of the detector's pick-up area.  
Distance B = length of a comfortable sweep.

DIAGRAM 8

## Use in the Field

Treasure hunting can be a profitable and rewarding hobby, if approached in a patient and diligent manner. Time spent researching to locate a worthwhile site for a search can be time wasted if your search is hasty and erratic. To achieve maximum results, it is important, then, to decide on your approach to any particular site, in advance of the actual search.

Tactics will be decided by the type of site - it is more profitable to scan a small area thoroughly, than to conduct a haphazard search of the total site. However, when the site is too far away for you to make several return visits, a plan should be adopted which gives maximum site coverage, at the same time as indicating the most likely areas for detailed search.

One method is to divide the area into large squares by use of a criss/cross search pattern. Starting along the left hand perimeter, search in a straight line, marking the location of any finds with small sticks, until you have covered the length of the site. Then, moving approximately ten feet to the right, search in a straight line parallel to the first line of search. This pattern should be repeated until the right hand perimeter is reached; then follow a similar pattern across the tracks of the first lines of search (Diagram 10).

## A GUIDE TO TREASURE HUNTING

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RIGHT APPROACH

#### HOW TO LOOK

#### THE BEST SITES

#### WHERE TO LOOK

#### TREASURE HUNTING AND THE LAW

#### THE RIGHTS OF THE FINDER

#### TREASURE TROVE

#### A CODE OF CONDUCT

### The Importance of the Right Approach

Your detector alone is not a guarantee of successful treasure hunting. Any detector needs an operator and for the best results the operator needs the right approach, attitude and technique. Too many beginners neglect the importance of pre-planning and research before using their detector in the field, and patience and technique during the actual search.

A successful search should begin with research sometime before the day of the actual search. The extent and thoroughness of your research will be one of the major factors in the success of your detecting. You should aim to get as complete an understanding as possible of the local history and geography.

The key to the choice of the site is to think of people, where they congregated over the past few hundred years. What were their customs and pursuits? Where did they spend money? Where did they carry money? The answers are not Roman sites, nor are they associated with mystic treasure stories of crocks of gold. Rather, they are unassuming, undramatic places, like public footpaths and ancient rights of way, old houses and so on.

When you have chosen your site, allocate a whole day from early morning to early evening for the search. Make sure that you have all equipment you are likely to need. Your detector should be checked before starting out, and you should always carry a spare set of batteries. You will also need a strong, sharp trowel. It is also a good idea to have a set of lines and pins so that you can lay out your search area scientifically. Most beginners make the mistake of rushing about hoping to chance upon a rare find. If for example, there happened to be a valuable ring that was buried 4" deep on the site you were searching, if you rushed about haphazardly and quickly on the site, the odds would be very much against your finding it. On the other hand, if you pegged out the area scientifically and searched slowly and thoroughly, the odds of finding the ring would be much more in your favour.

Remember, BE PATIENT and WORK SLOWLY. Do not try to cover too large an area. Restrict yourself to a small area and work through it thoroughly. Make a note of the position and extent of the area, and then when you return you can start again further on without missing any ground or covering the same area twice.

It is also important to keep the detector head as close to the ground as possible. Ideally, you should "iron" the ground with the search head of the detector, so that you do not lose any detection range.



Similarly, if you work slowly and carefully you should be able to distinguish the faint signals as well as the clear-cut signals and further increase your finds.

The technique of getting the best out of your detector is not learnt overnight. You need to get as much experience as possible so that you can recognise every kind of signal. Indeed, a good detector operator can often tell you what is being detected before it is unearthed.

### **Where To Look**

It has already been mentioned that the most profitable sites are those where people have congregated, walked, or lived over the past few hundred years, or even longer.

**HOUSES** If you live in a Victorian house you might not even have to leave your home for your treasure hunting. Old houses have seen remarkable amounts of money pass over the threshold during their history. Britain has had its fair share of misers, and it is surprising how many little hoards or boxes containing savings turn up.

One area to concentrate on is under skirting boards, where coins or rings might have rolled. Doorways too, may prove rewarding as many money transactions take place there. Old fireplaces and chimneys should be well scanned with the detector, as these are favourites for finding hoards, etc. The floor-boards should be examined carefully and special attention paid to short lengths which could conceal caches. It is also surprising how much money is lost in old chairs, so give them a look over. And then, of course, the garden should be thoroughly examined. The amount of coins lost in old houses cannot be over-estimated. Most coin shops confirm that many people bring coins in for valuation that they have found accidentally in their houses. A deliberate search in a house of the right age can hardly fail to be rewarding.

**RIVERS** The best parts of rivers to concentrate on are (1) public footpaths along river banks (2) Bends of the river where erosion has been taking place. (3) Bends in the river where coins are likely to be deposited against a particular bank by the action of the current. (4) Areas downstream of old drainage pipes or upstream of projections such as wooded piers, or other obstructions. (5) Old fords or bridges. (6) Areas exposed at low tide where eddy action has been taking place.

Tidal rivers are particularly interesting, as once you have found a good site or spot where coins have collected due to the currents, you can search the area well one day and still return at a later date for more rewarding finds. Rivers tend to sort out their load and distribute it according to weight along the bank in places like those itemised above.

**BEACHES** Beaches are, without a doubt, the favourite haunt of the average British treasure hunter. At one time or another, almost everybody has made the journey to the coast. The beaches are the only place where people undress publicly; anyone who has attempted to change into a bathing costume discreetly and then store their coins on the open sand knows the chances of losing not only coins, but jewellery and wristwatches too.

Once an object has been mislaid on the beach, it is maddeningly difficult to find it again.

There is also a high incidence of wrecks along our coasts, the contents of which are deposited at intervals on our beaches.

These factors contribute to make our beaches probably the richest site for the amateur treasure hunter. The best times to explore beaches are after heavy storms when the sand has been thoroughly stirred up and shifted. A good place to concentrate on is along or just below the tide marks, which are easily identified by the lines of debris that are left. Under piers or alongside breakwaters also usually pay dividends.

Other good sites are:- Fairgrounds, Children's Playgrounds, Tobbogan Runs and Demolition Sites.

### **Treasure Hunting and The Law**

The rights of the finder fall into two distinct classes. The first relates to objects that have recently been lost, and the second to items of gold or silver which are subject, or might be subject, to the laws of the Treasure Trove.

In the first place, where the object has been recently lost and found and is valuable, it should be handed to the Police as soon after it has been found as possible. The Police will then attempt to locate the owner. If they succeed in locating the owner, he has the legal right to the object and is not legally bound to reward the finder. That is a matter for the owner's conscience.

In the event of the Police failing to locate the owner they will probably return the object to the finder. If, however, the owner makes a claim for the object at a later date, the finder must return the item to the owner.

If the owner is not located the finder has the best rights to ownership, provided that the object was not found on private property, in which case the owner of the land often has a better right than the finder. The solution here, of course, is to obtain permission beforehand and to come to some agreement with the landowner with regard to the division of any finds.

If on the other hand, the find of gold or silver can be proved to have been deliberately concealed, with a view to recovery at a later date, the find comes under the laws of the Treasure Trove. If the objects cannot be proved to have been deliberately concealed, the find cannot be declared Treasure Trove. Usually this point centres around the quantity of coins in a hoard, or whether the find is in a container. Obviously, if there are a hundred or so coins in a pot, they were almost certainly deliberately concealed. If, however, there are only one or two coins, it is more likely that they were lost accidentally.

If the objects are declared Treasure Trove, the finder has no need to worry, for he is rewarded with a cash settlement to the full market value of the find.

When the objects are not declared Treasure Trove, the owner of the land on which the find was made usually has a better claim to ownership than the finder.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. Do not interfere with archaeological sites or ancient monuments. Join your local archaeological society if you are interested in ancient history.
2. Do not leave a mess. It is perfectly simple to extract a coin or other small object buried a few inches under the ground without digging a great hole. Use a sharpened trowel or knife to cut a neat circle or triangle (do not remove the plug of earth entirely from the ground); extract the object; replace the soil and grass carefully and even you will have difficulty in finding the spot again.
3. Help keep Britain tidy — and help yourself. Bottle tops, silver paper and tin cans are the last things you should throw away. You could well be digging them up again next year. Do yourself and the community a favour by taking all the rusty junk you find to the nearest litter bin.
4. Do not trespass. Ask permission before venturing on to any private land.
5. Report all unusual historical finds to the local museum and get expert help if you accidentally discover a site of archaeological interest.
6. If you discover any live ammunition or any lethal object such as an unexploded mine, do not touch it. Mark the site carefully and report the find at once to the local Police.
7. Learn the treasure trove laws and report all finds of gold or silver objects to the Police. If a coroner's inquest finds that the objects were deliberately concealed with the intention of retrieving them, they become the property of the Crown and therefore treasure trove. But even if the British Museum decides to exercise its right to keep the property, the finder is granted the full market value.
8. Respect the Country Code. Do not leave gates open when crossing fields, and do not damage crops or frighten animals.
9. Never miss an opportunity to show and explain your detector to anyone who asks about it. Be friendly. You could pick up some useful clues to another site. If you meet another detector user, introduce yourself. You may learn much about the hobby from each other.
10. Remember that when you are out with your detector, you are an ambassador for the amateur treasure hunting fraternity. Do not give us a bad name.