

## FIELD TEST



### C-Scope CS6MXi

#### Spec sheet

Operating Principle:	VLF
Frequency:	17 kHz
Standard Search Coil:	200mm x 280mm elliptical (2 other sizes available)
Weight:	1.45kg incl. batteries
Battery Type :	8 x 1.5v AA
Warranty:	2 year + 3 years parts warranty
Price:	£545.00

This month I'm testing a new machine from C-Scope, a brand I've known since the late 70's. The high frequency, fast recovery speed, three toned all-metal CS6MXi is an exciting addition to their range. I can see similarities to other top ten professional detectors on the market and all of them costing a lot more.

#### Out of the box

On unpacking the new detector, I was immediately impressed by the ruggedly built control box. The giant

Figure 1



Posidrive chrome screw heads gave it an almost over-engineered quality. I couldn't help thinking, "This thing must be indestructible!"

Putting it all together followed the normal procedure of assembling the two-piece stem system, attaching the coil to the bottom and then securing using the supplied nut and bolt. Then slide and click the control box onto the upper stem bracket, wrap the coil cable up around the stem, taking up any slack before pushing the cable plug into the back of the control box (which will click into position). I was able to assemble this well-engineered machine in less than two minutes.

#### Controls

There are five rotary knobs and a switch to operate Pinpoint; the Sensitivity control (SENS) also switches the detector on. When fully anti-clockwise it is in the off position, and as you turn it clockwise, the sensitivity increases.



Figure 2

Iron Volume (IRON VOL) controls the volume of the low tone iron responses, whereas the Disc Volume (DISC VOL) knob controls the volume of the non-ferrous tones (medium and high).

The Discrimination control (DISC) adjusts the breakpoint between high and medium tones. Even at full Discrimination, the detector will not null-out a cut quarter penny. It will merely change its audio response from a high to a medium tone (once it passes the setting of 5).

DISC is used to control non-ferrous sounding false targets like coke, which will turn to a medium tone at 3. So it's possible to fine tune this control and keep all good targets singing a high tone ... coke humming a medium tone ... while iron grunts a low tone.

The last knob is the GROUND control, and when this is turned fully anti-clockwise, it clicks into the AUTO position.

#### Test bed

The last C-Scope I tested was the CS3MX. Its performance was somewhat limited by its 8" coil, which was hard-wired into the control box. This current machine has a larger elliptical version that isn't hard-

wired, so other sizes may be fitted. The supplied coil was ideal for my test bed.

I started the test running Disc at 3, the Iron and Disc Volume 10, with Ground Auto and Sensitivity at 8. The CS6MXi hit every coin to a depth of 10". *What was more impressive was how it managed to pull a cut-quarter penny out of an iron patch.*

## Field test

I received this detector just prior to a short weekend holiday in Suffolk. The land around the farm guesthouse is prolific in hammered coins, and I try to book at least two weekends per year to search for them. The best field is a short walk behind the main farmhouse and slopes gently down 300 metres to a large ditch.

The soil is full of small nails, so fast recovery rate detectors have previously been the best choice.

As I entered the field and started detecting, I received my first signal - a clear high tone response - at about ten paces in. Digging down a couple of inches revealed my first hammered of the day, a holed commonwealth penny. I continued searching the field steadily accumulating more coins, and after eight hours I'd found eight hammered coins.

The CS6MXi was a joy to use, giving nice two-way positive responses. However, I did unearth a few pieces of coke, although I'm pretty sure I knew what they were going to be before digging. Iron was rarely a problem, and apart from a couple of horseshoes, most of it was left in the ground.

The next place I wanted to try was a really bad Roman site, literally covered in thousands of Roman nails including some tricky hobnails that give other detectors 'iffy' responses. This site had become very hard to find any positive signals, I guess that happens wherever you dig all the coins and leave the iron ... things get harder as the years go on.

The new machine started work, and soon started pulling tiny fragments of dross lead. The first Roman coin was a small minim, quickly followed by two more in the space of ten metres. Again I was impressed with just how clear the target responses were, solid and repeatable.

This detector does it all for me, requiring the minimum of analysis on my behalf ... I just swing and dig when it goes beep! At the end of the three hour session I had covered a large area and found 22 Roman coins, and some interesting artefacts including three brooches. This is more than I can remember finding in previous sessions in such a short session.

The final session of note was while detecting a large farm in the Chilterns. This was new land for me, which had never been detected - so I had been told. Most of the farm was in pasture, grazed by sheep and cattle, so there was very little to look at except grass.

I decided I would cover as many of the fields as I could, detecting fast to get a feel of the land. I concentrated on digging the sharp shallow targets and soon amassed a good collection of decimal coinage deposited along the many footpath criss-crossing the land.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

On an area high up over-looking a valley I realised the area was a likely place for picnics, so set to work gridding a prominent mound. Sure enough older coins started to come to light including five silver coins.

## Conclusion

For the money this detector is hard to beat. It is very sensitive to small hammered coins, and is a good choice for anyone searching ploughed fields for Roman and Medieval. It has a very fast recovery rate, allowing users to cover the ground faster. It should be a great rally detector ... or for when you're searching new land looking for hot-spots.

The build quality is excellent and as I indicated in the introduction gives the impression of indestructibility. It's a well-balanced detector, although heavier than I expected. You can of course hip-mount the control box if the weight becomes an issue.

The only thing I wasn't sure about was the clip-in coil lead plug. Although I didn't have any problems with it during this field test, it didn't look like it matched up with the ruggedness of the rest of the machine.

This is a great detector that I would be pleased to have as my main machine for iron infested sites. It's very rare these days to see a top rate pro-machine, with an entry-level price tag ... Well-done C-Scope!

CS6MXi (Scores out of ten based on price category)		
TEST RESULTS	Ergonomics (weight/balance)	9
	Simplicity/user friendliness	9
	Build quality	10
	Weather resistance	9
	Discrimination Performance	9
	Overall detection Performance	9
	Value for money £545.00	9.5
SEARCHER RATING		

