

FIELD TEST



Deus Large Coil

Spec sheet

Operating Principle:	VLF – 4kHz, 8kHz, 12kHz or 18kHz
Large Search Coil:	34x28cm (13"x11")
Weight:	592gms + 70gms with coil cover
Battery Type:	Lithium polymer 15hrs
Warranty:	2 year
Price:	£349

Usually a larger coil just consists of an increased diameter wound coil of wire, but in reality this Deus coil is a completely new detector.

Out of the box the new coil looks pretty impressive being slightly elliptical in shape (fig 1). After fitting it to the extra supplied stem, it was just a matter of 'pairing' it to my Deus controller. This should've been an easy procedure, but for reasons discovered later things didn't go to plan. To pair the new coil, you enter the OPTION menu of the controller > select COILS > and scroll down to an available slot. First you name the coil, and then add the serial number and enter the VALID option.

Simple or so I thought ... but I just couldn't make the damn thing work! After the third attempt and losing my cool, I called it a day and put it back on charge before going to bed. The following day I thought I'd try it again. When I switched on, it worked! So the pairing procedure had worked perfectly, and I concluded it was just the fact the new coil wasn't fully charged that caused my problem ... user error again!

Deus v2

The detector I used for this field test was running the latest version v2 firmware, and the new controller clip replacing the earlier magnet. In my original test (see *The Searcher* July 2010) I found I often knocked the controller off the stem, but the new clip is a lot sturdier. Throughout the test I didn't accidentally detach at all. I welcomed other improvements that had been made to the stem and arm cup, making them sturdier and more comfortable to use. (Fig 2)



Figure 2

The v2 firmware upgrade is also a big improvement, giving several new features to enhance what was already a great detecting experience. One of my favourites is the new ferrous/non-ferrous 'horseshoe' signal strength meter, which has helped me get a better feel for those deep iffy targets, reducing a lot of digging for deep iron. The new firmware also includes an array of new non-motion modes and improved beach programs.

And remember, you don't have to replace your original Deus, you can upgrade to v2 firmware simply by visiting: http://www.xpmetaldetectors.com/uk_detecteurs_DEUS_update.php

Test bed

In my original field test the Deus was fitted with the standard 9" coil, and it found all but one of the deepest hammered in my test bed, an Edward I penny buried at 10". So I was eager to see if this larger coil could hit this target ... it did with a repeatable high tone whisper. In fact the new coil hit every target in my test bed, giving clear responses that I would dig every time in a real detecting situation.

The next thing I wanted to test were the depth differences on selected objects, between the standard and new coil. The test objects I decided on were a cut quarter short cross penny, an Edward I penny and a large crotal bell. I buried each of these object at increasing depths, testing each coil in turn. I then recorded the deepest depths of what I considered as 'diggable' audio responses.

Object	Standard coil	Large coil
Cut quarter penny	5 1/2"	5"
Edward I penny	9"	11"
Crotal bell	13"	17"

The soil I buried the objects in had a reasonable level of mineralisation, which for my area would be considered average. Benign soils would give better depths, whereas high mineralisation would reduce depths further.

As you can see, the extra depths attained on larger items are impressive. There is a slight reduction in depth on small items like cut quarters, but this is minimal, and any detector that can get these coins at 5" is fantastic!

Field test

The first field I selected to test the new coil was the same used in my original Deus test. This field hadn't been properly ploughed for a number of years, the farmer adopting a minimal tillage program. Good surface finds were becoming much harder to find these days, so I was eager to see if the new coil could find a few deeper targets previously missed.

I moved down the field digging an array of post-medieval targets, (fig 3a) working towards the river running along the bottom edge. I eventually reached a gravelly area, which is highly contaminated with iron nails, but had previously produced some nice coins. I slowly and methodically worked this area finding several small pieces of lead, before getting a sweet repeatable high-toned target. From the faint audio response and horseshoe meter I knew the target was small and deep. I said to myself, 'that's a hammered'. Sure enough it turned out to be a small cut quarter from about 4". I continued working this area for several hours filling my finds pouch with all sorts of interesting items, including more hammered coins. (Fig 3)



Figure 3

The second site I took the new coil was new land, which I had only just received permission the week before. This land was flanked by an ancient track way (probably a Roman road), now a public footpath. An area of dark soil had been the draw for me to obtain permission, and walking out on to this area for the first time I could see it was covered with a large scatter of Belgic and Roman pottery.

I setup the Deus in GMPOWER, two tones and modified tone pitches, and it wasn't long before I was digging early Roman coins.

Unfortunately the condition of the finds weren't great, so I quickly worked the dark area before moving back towards my car when I got a repeatable smooth high-toned target response. I could tell it was deep, but what surprised me was how wide the target was. It was obviously large, so with the thoughts of a possible hoard in mind, I started to dig ... and dig. At a depth of over 18" deep I dug a large piece of lead. I had never previously dug anything that deep with a Deus.



Figure 3a

The next detecting trip started off disappointingly, but ended with a good find. I received an invite from a friend to search a building site in a village ten miles from where he lived. We both met up with the key holder who let us onto the site. The field that was being developed had previously contained two barns (now demolished), and it soon became apparent that there had been a lot of bonfires on the field.

After about ten minutes of digging loads of melted blobs of aluminium, we decided to call it a day. It was at this point my friend said he had a field nearby where he'd found a few Roman coins, and asked if I would like to search it? Five minutes later we were parked in the field's gateway unloading all our gear.

The field was long and thin and triangular shaped and there was a flat area along the far edge that sloped down to both the other edges. I walked along the shortest edge and started finding small unidentifiable green discs that had once been Roman coins (grots).

Fig 4.



Figure 4



Figure 5

The Autumn light was fading, when I got a nice deep repeatable high tone response. Digging down I soon had a lump of soil in my hand with the target. I slowly divided the soil, rechecking the target until I was holding a small lump. This is when I first saw the glint of gold. Now we've all had the disappointment of gilded buttons, and to be honest this is what I thought I had found. I flipped the lump and sure enough the soil lump looked as if it could be covering a loop, so I gently nudged it with my thumb and to my surprise the soil lump fell away. I removed my glove and this is when I realised how heavy it was. I knew it was a gold coin, but couldn't work out what it was and I didn't want to risk scratching the surface rubbing off the mud. So I marked the find spot and walked back to the car. A quick rinse with bottled water revealed a nice condition Victoria full gold sovereign dated 1856. At today's gold prices this one find covered 80% of the price of a new Deus coil! (Fig 5)

Conclusion

This is a great coil that retains most of the sensitivity of the standard one. What minimal depth you lose on small items is more than compensated with extra performance on larger items. I particularly like the extra ground coverage, which makes the Deus even better for moving quickly over new sites, finding those hotspots before slowing down and pulling out the deeper signals.

I also love how easy this coil is to pinpoint, which you do on the front middle blade (about an inch behind the XP graphic). You simply move the coil from behind the target, and moving forward while swinging.

The large coil would be my main choice for most sites, only being substituted by the standard coil on a few select sites where smaller target sizes warrants its use, or where iron contamination and mineralisation is excessive (e.g. Roman sites).

The only negative point I can think of for the larger coil is what it does to the overall balance of the detector; it becomes very front heavy on the lightweight shaft. Although in use I didn't ever fatigue, so the balance issue may not be as bad as my impression, or maybe it's because I never seemed to swing the coil more than a few sweeps before digging another target!

Will I buy one? I already have!

Deus Large Coil (Scores out of ten based on price category)		
TEST RESULTS	Ergonomics (weight/balance)	8
	Simplicity/user friendliness	10
	Build quality	10
	Weather resistance	10
	Discrimination Performance	10
	Overall detection Performance	10
	Value for money £349	10
SEARCHER RATING		