

field test

Minelab **GOLD MONSTER 1000**
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وحش الذهب 1000
GOLD MONSTER 1000



Minelab GOLD MONSTER 1000

Specifications:

Key Technology: Ultra-wide dynamic range 45kHz VLF

Detect Modes: Gold (Iron reject), Deep All-Metal

Discrimination: Gold Chance Indicator (high/low)

Ground Balance: Automatic (Easy-Trak)

Noise Cancel: Automatic (On start-up)

Sensitivity Adjust: Manual (1-10), Auto (11), Auto+ (12)

Volume Adjust: Manual 1-6

Visual Display: Monochrome LCD

Detector Length: 1382mmx944mm (54.4"x37.2")

Detector Weight (with 10"x 6" coil): 1.33kg (2.94lbs) (excl. battery)

Audio Output: Internal speaker or headphones 3.5mm (1/8")

Coils (standard): GM 10 (10" x 6" Double-D), GM 05 (5" Double-D)

Waterproof/Splashproof: Coils waterproof to 1m (3'), Control box rain/splash-proof

Battery options: Li-Ion (included), 8 x AA Batteries (not included)

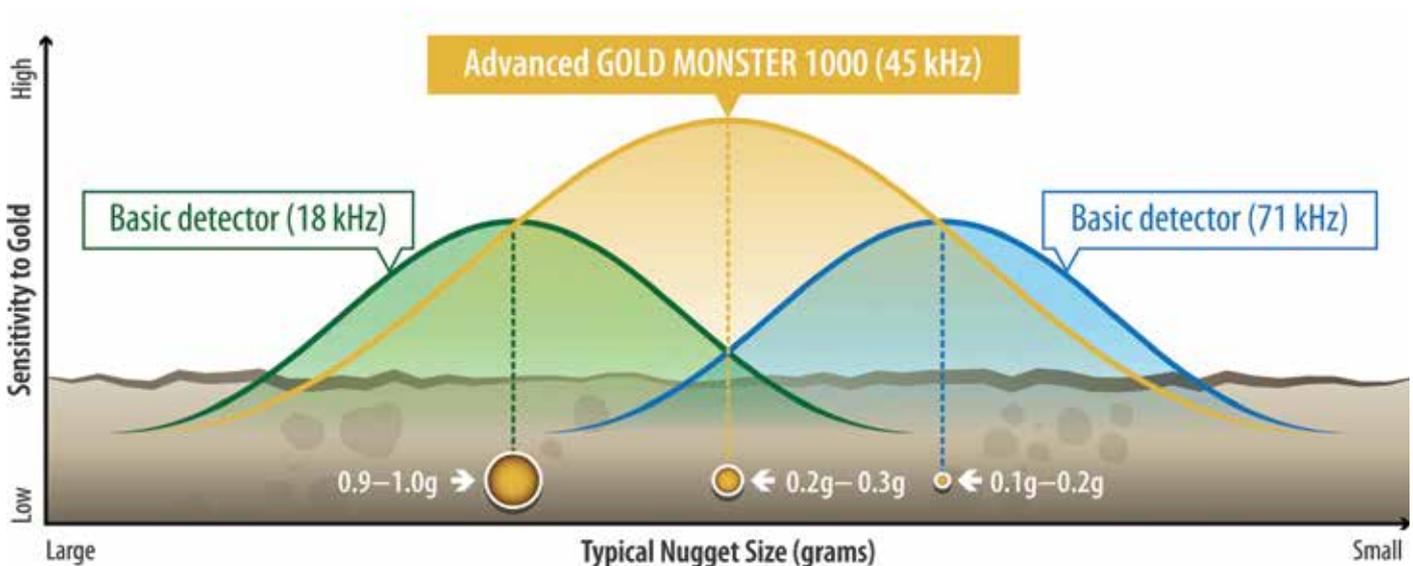
Warranty: 2 years control box & coil

Price: £819.00

Using the powerful Gold Monster on our UK sites

Earlier in the year I attended the Go-Minelabbing weekend rally in Ludlow with the Minelab team. I set up my usual test area that shows how extreme and faint the non ferrous signals, mixed with iron noise are that a small percentage of us Minelab users listen for when all the obvious signals have been dug. I also was helping people and advising them about their machines with the odd bit of light maintenance.

Julian Sammon from Minelab had put several of the Minelab range on a table for display, one of which was the new Gold Monster 1000. Looking at the description on its box I noticed it had discrimination built into it, only iron discrimination but that's all that matters!



For a dedicated gold machine to have any type of discrimination is a big plus in my mind as gold machines are by nature very sensitive machines.

I just had to try it in my test area! I took it out of its box and proceeded to put it together which was very easy to do compared to most machines. When this was done my first thoughts were how light and comfortable it was to hold and swing, another big tick for this easy going Monster, in fact everything about this machine is easy, and I mean easy with a big capital E. It has just four controls, yes I said four!

1. Power
2. Sensitivity adjust
3. Detect mode
4. Volume adjust

The display is also simple, but yet it's very informative.

1. Gold chance indicator (Ferrous – Non-ferrous)
2. Battery Level
3. Sensitivity Adjust
4. Auto Sensitivity
5. Auto + Sensitivity
6. Error Indicator
7. Volume Adjust

In my test area the first of my buried targets was a tiny gold Saxon mount at only 1" depth but a very hard target hidden in-between natural and iron washers. All the difficult targets in my test area were buried this way at depths between 1" to 5", hammered farthing, hammered half penny, half and quarter cut hammered and some small artefacts. The only detectors able to generate a signal on these are the Minelab Explorers, E-Tracs and CTX's used very slow and low and set up as hot as they can go.

I know lots of you using other makes of machine are thinking mine will pick the targets up but trust me they won't. It's due to the FBS (Full Band Spectrum) multi-frequency technology.

As per the instructions I held the coil around 12" from the surface and waited 10 seconds to go through noise cancel. I put the settings into Auto Sensitivity 12 and Iron Reject mode and waved it over the first target the gold mount. I was expecting a faint barely audible signal but how wrong I was! It gave a good solid two-way signal that filled the non ferrous right hand side of the indicator fully up and stayed solid when centred on the target.

It did this on every target in the extreme section. I couldn't believe it. It was completely silent on the iron. No spitting, just silence until a target was hit. There's no Threshold on this machine but it's that sensitive it doesn't need it.

I tried the Monster in manual Sensitivity and that small change really enhanced all that was happening under the coil. It made it more 'lively' and as such even more responsive on targets. There was more one-way signals to iron too but the indicator told me that's exactly what it was. Turning the Sensitivity down made it nice and stable. I tried it in All Metal and it was signal after signal as you move the coil over the surface, that would take a lot of getting used to but the indicator still tells you if the signal is Iron or not.

I thought throughout the day about sites where the Monster would be perfect to try out and just had to get one to test. A month later I had delivery of a Gold Monster to do the field test.

And like I said previously it was

really easy to fit all the parts together. Straightforward, with just the occasional glance at the picture on the box to see if I was doing it correctly. I didn't have to read the instructions it's common sense type of scenario. One thing I did like was it only has a bolt to tighten the coil, there is no nut. Again so easy, plus the coil was tight and very sturdy.

In the field

The first site I took it to was one I've done many many times and tested each new machine I get on. It has a very highly mineralised footpath that runs down the side of an old demolished flax mill and a stream. The footpath is full of cinders and burnt residue with lots of iron nails and irregular pieces of the same.

A quick press of the power button and ten seconds for Noise Cancel and I was ready. I put the settings to Auto Full Sensitivity and Iron Discrimination. I couldn't believe how quiet and stable the Monster was on this usually noisy path. Hardly any background chatter at all and the signals started coming through straight away.

The first signals were small bits of foil then a 177 airgun pellet which sounded more like a 22 bullet. The next signal had me feeling deflated as it was the dreaded coke. The really light stuff and on the next signal I also dug another piece but I noticed the non ferrous side of the indicator didn't fill up solid with all four boxes shaded out, it was intermittent shading just two then three then one. So from then on I just centered on the signals and if all the boxes shaded out, and stayed shaded then I dug the target. If not I left it and



it worked.

I continued detecting along the footpath and dug up lots of lead, tin, brass scrap etc but also modern and pre-decimal coins, a nice weight and a cross pendant full of glass stones. All these finds were a surprise as I didn't expect no where near as many as this and the most astonishing was the airgun pellets ... all 12 of them! All missed on previous sessions and I'm very thorough when I search.

On to another footpath and the weed free patches at the side that runs through a small wood at the side of a park, I had the same successful results finding coins etcetera that I'd missed previously. Additionally the machine's first ring, only a modern costume one, but it still counts!

I really liked the fact that you can get in between all the stems and right up against large boulders, walls and tree trunks. One of the latter had me digging a solid signal right up against the bark of the trunk and a minute later I was handling a lovely enamel black cat badge with the words 'WITH LUCK FROM CARLISLE' within a horseshoe from the 1920s.

A few days later I took the Gold

Monster to a new pasture field which I've never searched before. The grass is nice and short and it did extremely well on this field. Though it's obviously not the deepest of machines and doesn't claim to be but it held its own and found an array of nice coins and artefacts.

Finds of note were a large horse brass, a sizable base metal St Christopher and a Post Medieval copper alloy brooch. I also dug a tiny part of a hammered coin (possibly a Henry VII).

Next up several stubble fields in North Yorkshire courtesy of Keith Loyde which was brilliant news. On arrival I searched around the entrance to the field where earlier in the year I'd found a Stephen penny but no such luck again. So I drove down to the bottom of the field that produces Roman coins and the odd Celtic artefact. As usual lots of detectorists hit the spot, found the odd coin and wandered off when it went quiet for them.

My plan was to use my CTX3030 with the 17" coil for the most part of the afternoon and get the Gold Monster out when the signals got few and far between.

My first thoughts on stubble were that the machine felt sturdy and rigid. No floppiness or bending and the small

elliptical coil did a really good job of getting through the stubble. The soil in this spot was very dark, soft and sandy. The first signal was a solid sharp one that filled the indicator full up to the right. It was snug tight, just sticking out in a tiny lump of soil and although a small grot, it was a lovely sight none-the-less.

A few pieces of lead later I received a signal that was not filling the indicator up, and didn't solid out which meant now it was coke! But I dug it just to check and sure enough I was correct. The next signal and one of eight, since using the machine, and was what I now know to be deeper big iron. Yet again I dug it just to be sure. The signal identified is solid and loud but it's wide and sounds large. A big non ferrous is still a narrow signal.

These are the things you pick up as you learn the language of the machine. However, to decipher the signals you have to pause and think hard about all the different reactions you receive.

Another tip I've learned is if a small find is giving a weaker signal, but is not filling the indicator up, it will be a very narrow tight signal. Unlike coke which is wider.

The soil was as I said, very dark and similar to a Roman site I know and was quite mineralised but the Monster remained very quiet. I was very impressed so far with its performance



and chuffed that my initial thoughts a few months previous that it would be a useful tool was correct.

One signal of note that I received was the type I have just explained. Quieter and very narrow not showing solid up and it turned out to be the smallest Celtic/Roman toggle I've ever seen. I resumed detecting and the next two signals surprised me. One was a very thin solid silver wire, circular in form but not connecting at the ends. I was surprised because items like this are usually very iffy and uneven but this was sweet and solid. The other signal was a tiny fractional piece of a Roman bronze coin.

These signals are coming through while pushing through the stubble and that's what you call sensitive and is bound to fill oneself with confidence in a machine.

I finished the session with a few more Roman bronzes and bits of lead including airgun pellets and shot. It was 8.30pm so I'd been using it for 3.5 hours and had found an extra six Roman coins.

Added to the scrap non ferrous the Monster found 21 more targets. All with one thing in common; all the finds were small. So for me the Monster will be a great tool in my detecting kit.

My final jaunt for my test was at a local beauty spot on a river.

The beach part of the river and riverbed are small and has large pebbles like most rivers around the Yorkshire Dales. From start to finish the signals were non stop. Again the Monster was quiet and stable.

Most of the coins were small change plus of course the large amount of ringpulls and foil etc. I tried it in the water with no problem at all as the coil can be submersed up to 3ft. However, do not let the control box go under the surface - although the Monster is weatherproof it isn't waterproof. After under 3hrs later I had a large amount of finds proving yet again what a fabulously capable detector it is.

Conclusion

To summarise the Gold Monster 1000 is a top performer. A high end machine for people at all levels of the hobby. In my opinion, definitely the best machine on the market for a beginner, very, very simple to set up and use.

It's also a great tool for the expert to wander around looking for hotspots on new sites and hoovering up the most difficult small finds amongst the iron. It

can also be a fabulous main machine for all genres of detecting.

Finally, a few things to top it all off and truly make it different from the crowd. The battery seems to go on forever after a charge. It's weatherproof and all the parts can be put onto a broom handle or similar if for instance you drive over it and snap the stem. Additionally you can even charge the machines battery from your car battery, how cool is that!

TIPS

Large iron - a solid but wide signal. Easy to get used to once you have dug a few.

Coke - a solid sound but doesn't fill the blocks to the right on the indicator. The odd piece does get through but after digging it you sort of know it would be.

Tiny very narrow tight signals that don't fill the indicator blocks to the right should be dug. It's just a very small learning curve and very easy to

get used to.

Throughout testing I only dug five pieces of iron and around eight chunks of coke out of hundreds of signals. The number is fewer now as I get to know the machine more and more.

Settings - Auto Sensitivity plus one is all you will need, as even set up like this it's more sensitive than any general hobby machine. But if you want to go hotter then be prepared for lots of digging.

One point I'd like to make readers aware of is I didn't get asked to do this test by Minelab or any retailers. I asked Minelab as I was sure it would be a top performer. Any product that can improve our chances of better detection should be shared.

This article having been read will cut your learning time down and give you a head start as I've done all the hard work. This has hopefully shortened your learning curve with the objective always being of improving your finds rate. ●



Gold Monster 1000 test results

(Scores out of ten based on price category)

Ergonomics (weight/balance): 10

Simplicity/user friendliness: 10

Build quality: 8

Weather resistance 10

Discrimination Performance 8

Overall detection Performance 9

Value for money (£819): 10

The Searcher Rating

