

Christmas Gift Ideas

Look after the detector with these great accessory items



Carry Bags & Covers



Expand the performance of your detector with a range of accessory coils



Keep a low profile and improve your detector's sensitivity with these quality headphones



To receive a full accessory list, contact Minelab on 1800 637 786

NEW 6" coils for the X-Terra

Minelab have recently released two 6" coils to make the popular X-Terra series even more versatile! Two coils are available: 6" Concentric 7.5kHz Coil which is compatible with all X-Terra models, and a 6" DD 18.75 kHz which is compatible with the X-Terra 50 and 70.

Both coils feature:

- Excellent trash/iron discrimination
- Great performance on wet grass
- Fully waterproof
- Solid yet lightweight < 390 grams
- Good sensitivity and sharp detection



6" Concentric 7.5 kHz - this is the ultimate coin shooter. Perfect for high junk areas, it features superior pin-pointing capabilities, good depth, and excellent target separation. Great for parks, playgrounds, dry sand beaches, old home sites, etc.

6" DD 18.75 kHz - provides better ground coverage, is extremely quiet and stable, and is perfect for use in or around water either wet sand beach, or fresh water creeks and lakes. Its enhanced sensitivity makes it the perfect choice for gold jewellery, small nuggets and specimens. RRP (incl. GST) \$178.00

Here's what a couple of users had to say:

"This concentric coil is sensitive and has a sharper detection point than most other coils so you will find coins, even some ridiculously easy targets previously missed by other detectors."

"Absolutely SUPER on fine gold - this DD coil's sensitivity to small gold is fantastic! It's a great Prospecting coil!"

Concentric vs Double D coils

With so many different X-Terra coils now available, it is important to understand the differences between a **Concentric vs a DD coil**.

A concentric coil has a tight field of detection which helps to isolate good targets in high trash areas, also allows for excellent pinpointing abilities, which is an important characteristic if you have obtained permission to work an area with a perfectly manicured lawn. A concentric coil can also be slightly thinner physically, as the internal windings don't overlap, hence the reduced weight. A concentric coil puts out a conical search pattern which tapers down at depth, so in order to avoid missing any targets you should overlap your sweeps by 1/3 the diameter of the coil. For locations that are generally full of junk such as playgrounds, parks, old home sites, etc. a concentric coil is the better option.

A DD coil sends out a blade like signal almost from tip to toe even at full depth, so you only have to overlap your sweeps by a few cm, enabling you to cover the ground a lot quicker. DD coils also have better rejection of ground noise, and are less sensitive to ground changes, so the need to use Tracking ground balance is reduced. Also, a reduction in ground response means that you can usually run a slightly higher sensitivity setting, for an improved response on smaller targets. So, for open areas with higher mineralisation, and generally less targets like goldfields, and some relic sites, a DD coil is usually the better option.

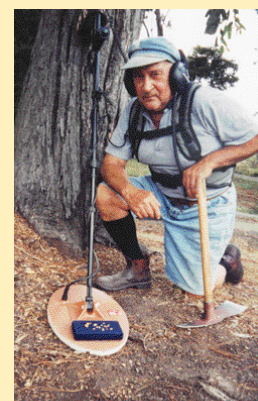
• Minelab • Times •

Look what everyone is finding out there!

GPX-4000 Finds

By Frank Orenshaw

My experience so far is that the GPX-4000 is a dream to operate and is the most outstanding detector I have ever used. The future will be exciting. So far I have only used the factory preset settings as advised and will be confident with experience, adjusting the function and setting knobs for varying settings for various conditions which will enhance the performance.



The lightweight battery and harness is most comfortable, it makes detecting a pleasure. The new battery has a far shorter charge time yet will give 12 or more hours service, this is definitely a plus. The handle button for GB control enables the operator to quickly adjust the GB to suit their requirements and is a big improvement over the GP Extreme. It is quick and positive. As I see it, to evaluate the GPX-4000, we need to look back at all the previous models to appreciate the great advances made in technology by Minelab, who now have produced a detector that is a pleasure to operate and surpasses all others.

Well done Minelab, you are achieving EXCELLENCE!

Letter from Glen Teece

Hi, my name is Glen Teece and I live in Darwin, Northern Territory. I brought a GPX-4000 at the start of the year and I have found a few small nuggets with it. The other weekend I got a signal, so I started digging. 6 hours later I found the target 1.6 metres deep, it was a 100 year old shovel head - bugger! However, all the other detectorists out in the field that day waved over the target but could not get a signal, so it shows the power of the GPX-4000.

Many thanks to Minelab!



Dear Minelab,

Thought we would let you know how happy we are with our GPX-4000's. The result speaks for itself as we have had an excellent result in the West. We found 42 ounces, or just over 1.3 kilos, and picked up nuggets in places where hundreds, if not thousands of people including us, have been detecting in the past. All up we have found over 1900 pieces of gold, with the biggest weighing just over 5 ounces.

Thank you Minelab!

Adventure Club training pays off

A case of beginners luck, or being properly informed.....you decide! A first-time detector operator using his new GPX-4000, has found a 5.4oz nugget, the morning after attending the Adventure Club training in Clermont, Qld. Using the standard 11" DD coil he headed out at 6am to utilise the skills he acquired from the course, and soon found this 5.4oz beauty from 450mm deep, and was heading home by 8am.

From a beginner to a proud detectorist in just one training session and a good morning's work, it just goes to show that Minelab's Adventure Club training really pays off.



Do you want to be in our next issue?

Minelab are always interested in customer stories and photos to use in the Minelab Times as well as on our website. If you have anything you'd like to share, or suggestions on what you'd like to see in future issues, feel free to contact our Marketing Department on: 1800 637 786 or Email: ho@minelab.com.au

Minelab reserves the right to respond to ongoing technical progress by introducing changes in design, equipment and technical features at any time. Certain descriptions and illustrations may differ from the exact model purchased.



TIMINGS EXPLAINED

Until the release of the GPX-4000, most people would never relate the term timings to something on a metal detector. To some, timings were either something you had to get perfect on an old points distributor, or after receiving a pile of bills in the mail after you just splurged on some new camping equipment could be called bad timing!

Electronic timings are present in all SD and GP model detectors, but it wasn't until the GP extreme was released that a choice of timings was available in the form of the Soil switch, being Sensitive, Normal and Salt. It wasn't until the release of the GPX-4000 that the term Timings was actually used, but what exactly is the Timing?? Traditionally, Pulse Induction metal detectors have offered control over various parameters such as sample widths and pulse delays, to try and provide the operator with some fine tuning ability. In order to achieve the depth and ground rejection capabilities that the SD & GP series machines are renown for, Minelab make use of more advanced technology that requires precise adjustment of multiple parameters – this complex series of events is known as Timings.

A good detector is one that simultaneously provides sensitivity to large and small targets, rejection of ground mineralisation, conductive soil noise rejection, management of variable ground, immunity to EM fields etc. For a single timing set, juggling the various parameters to achieve all of these goals can be a complicated task! One option is to offer a single timing that is a good compromise to suit a range of different targets and conditions, such as on the SD series. However, in order to allow the detector to punch as deeply as possible when searching for large nuggets, to maximise sensitivity to smaller targets, or to reject high levels of ground noise in extreme cases, it is necessary to have a range of different user selectable timings, which are optimised for a specific task.

One example is the new Sensitive Smooth timing found on the GPX-4000. It may not be the best choice for searching out large nuggets at depth, but if you wish to find nuggets in very heavily mineralised soils, it's the best tool for the job! It will reject most false signals generated by hotrocks, buried clay domes, etc. and also allows the use of a monoloop coil without any ill effects. To date, the Sensitive Smooth timing has found thousands of nuggets in ground that was previously very difficult to work, even with a DD coil.

A question that I often get asked is, "How do I know which timing I should be in?" This is a good question, but one that doesn't have a simple answer. The reason being is that you can't predict how a particular soil will cause your detector to react just by looking at it. Some soils may appear to be heavily mineralized, but when you start detecting it is surprisingly workable. So basically you just have to start detecting and then fine tune as you start to "work out" the conditions. This not only applies to the type of soil, but also the type and depth of target you are likely to find, e.g. if you are detecting on an old surfacing, it is very unlikely that you will find a 1oz nugget at two feet. The odds are that you will mainly find pieces up to 1 gram, and very few targets deeper than 6 inches, so you might be best off trying the Sensitive Extra timings, or possibly Sensitive Smooth if it is highly mineralized. However, what if you are away from any old workings, and have no indication as to the soil type, probable target size and depth????

What I generally suggest is that if you are new to an area, always start detecting in Normal timing, as this gives you the best compromise of depth, sensitivity, and ground handling ability, so that if there are a few nuggets lying around, you'll have a good chance of finding one or two of them. From then on you can make an informed decision as to what timing may improve your chances, but remember that experimentation is the key. When you receive a faint target response, before you dig it up, try the various timings, and see which one picks up the target the best. However, this timing may also be the noisiest on the surrounding ground, so it is always a balancing act. You need to find the best compromise between maximum depth and sensitivity whilst maintaining a stable threshold, and the best way of achieving this is to try different settings on the ground.

Operating with the right timing in any given goldfield location, can be the difference between getting skunked, and coming home with a rattle or two in the nugget bottle!

Nenad Lonic – Minelab Customer & Technical Support

Minelab in Mongolia

In less than 15 years, Mongolia (or what we know as Outer Mongolia) has moved from being dependant on first the Soviet Union and then China, into being a separate democratic nation with strong natural resources and an interest in attracting overseas trade. One of the resources that they are favoured with is the king of all metals – Gold.

In a recent trip to Mongolia, Minelab's Ian Aitken got to see first hand the gold that is being found there. Most of the nuggets ranged from the normal small pieces up to pieces of a few ounces, however February of this year saw a large nugget "the size of a mans head" found in the Gobi desert.

A large proportion of the population are still nomadic herdsmen who move across the goldfields, living in their yurts (tents) and detecting in their spare time. Minelab detectors have proven to be the detector of choice in these areas and are making a significant difference to the quality of life for the families of the prospectors.



Detecting Seminar in Central Mongolia

International Test Results Prove Minelab's Superior Performance

Results are in from the International Test and Evaluation Program which invited all the major manufacturers of land mine detectors to provide their detectors for independent evaluation. Trials were conducted in Mozambique and Croatia in a wide range of soil types and on a selection of landmine targets.

Some of the conclusions from the exhaustive tests were:-
 ... "The two Minelab detectors had the highest probability of detection and lowest false alarm rate in the trial."
 ... "The obvious ideal choice for demining in this soil type (Obrovac soils) would be the Minelab F3 or Minelab F1A4."
 ... "Again the two Minelab models would be the best choice for this type of soil." (Benkovac soil)

In May 2007, Egypt invited manufacturers to a trial witnessed by the U.N Development Program and Geneva Int. Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The conclusion from the trial report was "The F3 mine detector (Minelab) has the highest probability of mine detection and thus was considered to be the best detectors."

Ref: Systematic Test & Evaluation of Metal Detectors –Interim Report Field Trial Mozambique 2005
 Ref: South-East Europe Interim Report Field Trial Croatia, 2007



Each year, Minelab sponsors numerous metal detecting and gold panning competitions and fun treasure hunts. From Coolgardie WA (see pg 3) to Ararat, VIC and Mareeba, Nth QLD, the competitors come together to match their skills and have a great get together.

Paul Robson is the winner of the Clermont Metal Detecting Championships, presented with a new Minelab detector by Olga Dunn.

150 hours for fun and profit

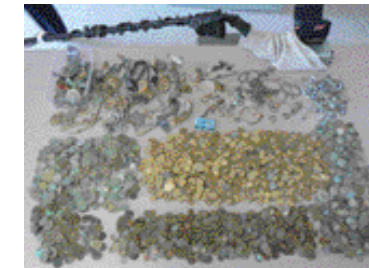
"How much gold can you find at a spot one day and then come back in a month or two and find that more gold has been deposited? Well for us coin hunters that is the case as more coins are lost."

That is why I like coin hunting better than gold hunting, the fever has the same symptoms as gold fever but the fields extend all over Australia, not just to small areas where the deposits were laid.

The indicators you look for are different e.g., tissues, cig. butts, ring pulls, used personal protections, tickets, low broad shrubs in parks, kids playgrounds to name a few. I don't get time to go out for days on end so I just take the detector everywhere and if I see a likely spot off I go, and very seldom do I not get at least one coin to give me a fix.

Often I stop at phone boxes and detect around them, a lot of people come up and ask why I am doing that, I tell them that my V8 Landcruiser costs a lot to run and I need some coins to buy fuel to get to the next town.

Research has to be done the same as you do for gold, if you want to get the old coins and the older folk are the best for that. My favourite sentence I like to hear is "Have you been to XXXX where there was an old XXXX?" is enough to get my heart racing - coin fever is the best.



The picture is the result for a 150 hours of detecting
 447 of \$2.00, 311 of 10c, 5 of florins, 110 of pennies,
 378 of \$1.00, 272 of 5c, 12 of shillings, 54 of 1/2 penny
 78 of 50c, 309 of 2c, 19 of six pence, 13 of foreign money
 270 of 20c, 273 of 1c, 31 of 3 pence, 1 \$10.00 note

Total: 2582 coins for \$1474.23, and a hoard of jewellery as well and a lot of fun. All found using a Minelab Sovereign

Julian Domaracki, NSW



All heads down at the W.A. Panning Championships



A great number of participants receiving instructions, eagerly awaiting the start of the W.A. Detecting Championships