

Field Test Report

Viking 5

(Treasure Hunting, August 1994)

The Viking 5 metal detector has only gone through minor modifications in design over the years, the most recent being its change to the modern 'S' shaped stem with built-in armrest.

The stem is telescopic and can be adjusted by means of a locking collar. The control box is made from tough plastic and has the speaker grill on the front. The headphone socket is located at the top of the box next to the controls and is of standard quarter inch size. The search coil is of 8 inch widescan type, and is 'hard wired'.

This detector uses just one PP3 battery that fits into a magazine-type holder situated at the base of the control box, and provides up to 40 hours use.

In colour the metal detector is of the traditional Viking green and white.

The Viking 5 uses only two controls. One of these consists of On/Off and Fine Tune, and the other is Coarse Tune. Discrimination is in-built and allows the detector to reject small pieces of iron in the form of nails etc.

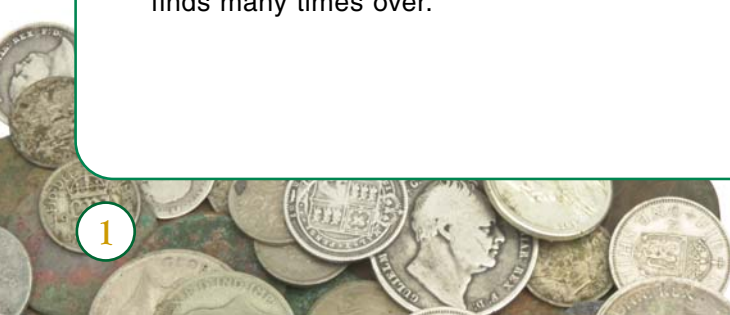
I bought my own Viking 5 in 1993 after reading a mention of how useful this little machine can be for beach work in one of Willie the Wizard's articles. What he said about the Viking interested me so much that I just had to own one. It has certainly proved to be a good investment and had paid for itself in terms of finds many times over.

The first time that I took the Viking 5 onto an inland site I anticipated that I would not find any coins as the detector is not a deep seeker. However I was proved wrong. On my first day out searching a field I found two Victorian pennies, a silver threepenny piece, and a musket ball. Admittedly, these were only 3 or 4 inches down but the Viking had no trouble at all in finding them. The same field had previously produced three hammered silver coins, one of which was on the surface and the others only down about an inch. So if the Viking had been in use at the time, it would certainly have found these.

Since searching that field I have occasionally been out detecting with my brother and have lent him the Viking to use. We have found that it will work well on close cut stubble fields but does not like the long, thick stubble which spaces the search head too far from the ground.

A field of short stubble we were working yielded about a dozen coins to the Viking 5, dating back to George II. In addition my brother unearthed two pieces of scrap silver and quite a quantity of scrap lead, copper and brass. If the numbers sound a little low to you, remember that I am talking about sites in Scotland which are far less productive than the fields you lucky lot have down there in England.

My personal favourite use of the Viking 5 is for beach detecting, particularly on dry sand areas. If you can get onto a busy beach with the Viking on an early summer morning before other detectorists are up and about, you could find yourself in for a busy time digging up recently lost coins and jewelry.



The Viking can drift off tune from time to time (on my own machine it is an upward drift where the threshold starts to get louder). This is not a frequent occurrence and simply involves turning the threshold down on the fine tuner until it is at its optimum point of being on the 'edge of the sound' again.

Pinpointing targets with this detector is very easy and just involves waving the search head in an 'X' across the signal. The target will be under the immediate centre of the search head where the signal is loudest.

Since purchasing my Viking 5 I have found hundreds of coins with it, most of these having come from my local beach. I mainly use the Viking 5 as a back-up machine to my main detector, but having said that I like to take it out now and again just by way of a change. I also use the Viking 5 when beach metal detecting for an initial 'recce' before switching to my other machine.

Running on just the one PP3 and giving such good battery life, this little detector can be very economical and convenient to use.

To date I have found five rings with the Viking during beach detection; two of these were gold and one was silver. As a proof of how sensitive this detector is, the gold rings were babies' Christening rings (very thin and very small). The detector gave a signal as clear as a bell on them, however.

As something of a footnote, just before sending away this report I took the Viking down to the sands at St Andrews. Although the sun was shining it was more like a winters day, being bitterly cold and extremely windy.

On arrival on the beach I was amazed to see a large area of sand exposed and stripped by the wind. On this patch the Viking performed very well and recovered 57 coins including nearly £8 in spendable cash (£1 coins etc).

The Viking 5 is a metal detector that has attracted something of a cult following in this country, and to my mind quite rightly so. It is a very light machine and you certainly will not get any aches and pains from using it. The controls are simple, and this detector will produce good results time and time again. It is thus ideal for beginners while at the same time having good uses for professionals (i.e. searching heavily iron contaminated areas).