

FIELD TEST



Adventis 2

Spec sheet

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Operating Principle | VLF induction balance |
| Operating modes | Motion (All Metal & Discrimination D1, D2) |
| Frequency | 4.6 KHz |
| Standard Search coil | Waterproof 9" carbon impregnated plastic |
| Weight | 1.6kg (3.5lbs) |
| Battery type/life | 8 X 'AA' / approx 45hrs (alkaline) |

I first heard the name 'Adventis' several years ago on internet forums long before they arrived on our shores. The buzz around the machine was phenomenal, with personal endorsements from those detectorists lucky enough to get their hands on one. The detector soon gained a reputation for depth and sensitivity, with the added bonus of good target separation. I soon got caught up in all the excitement and I eagerly awaited the UK release.

When the XP range officially arrived in the UK, it was the Goldmaxx that took our market by storm. With its higher frequency and ability for finding thin sectioned silver, it soon became dubbed as the 'Hammy Hoover.' The Adventis just seemed to slip into its shadows, and even now you rarely see them mentioned on UK forums or even see them advertised in the UK magazines. So why is this when they are still so popular on the continent?

Detector

The Adventis is a mid-range single tone metal detector made by the French company XP and shares the same solid construction and faultless build quality of the rest of their range. The machine runs at the low frequency of 4.6 KHz which allows it to detect larger finds deeper than the higher operating frequency XPs like the Goldmaxx. Along with the standard 230mm (9") carbon impregnated coil, I was also given the 270mm (11") coil to test.

Instructions

Unfortunately the instructions supplied with my ex-demo detector were for the original Adventis not the Adventis 2. So without correct instructions it took a while to work out exactly how I should operate the Adventis 2. The previous model had a SILENCER switch but now this had been replaced with a FREQ SHIFT switch which seems to do something completely different than before. Anyway Google soon came to the rescue...

Controls and Preset Positions

The five controls, two switches and three knobs, are positioned on the end panel and are easy to access and use. Each control has a small red triangle indicating the factory preset position. These preset positions are very good and well thought out, and allow a user to 'set and forget' in most situations, making this truly a 'switch on and go' detector.

With experience you will probably want to fine tune the controls for extra performance, so it's good to understand what each setting controls.

Frequency Shift

The Frequency Shifter (FREQ SHIFT) switch allows users to minimise interference from other XP users close by. Simply choose from Freq. 1 or Freq. 2 to find the quietest frequency. The Adventis also has a wireless transmitter circuit board fitted allowing the use of the optional XP cordless headphones. So the FREQ SHIFT switch also doubles as a channel switch allowing users to toggle between the two available channels.

Sensitivity

The on/off Sensitivity control (SENS.) switches the detector on/off and adjusts the sensitivity of the Adventis, allowing control over the stability of the detector on various ground types.

Note: In testing on all test sites I manage to maintain high settings of this control.

Ground Control

The Ground Control (GROUND) works in a slightly different way to other detectors that truly Ground Balance. It works like a ground tuner and is used to maximise target responses while controlling the Adventis' sensitivity to hot rocks and ground mineralisation. During testing I ran this control in the 12 o'clock preset position and encountered no falsing from any hot rocks.

Discrimination

The Discrimination is designed around the needs of European detectorist (not those in the USA like most other manufacturers). Most of our detecting is done in rural places where the only thing we ever really want to discriminate out is iron. If you detect the beach or parks and need to knock out pull-rings and screw tops etcetera then this is not the detector for you!

The three position switch (AM, D1 and D2) works in conjunction with a rotary control. The All-Metal (AM) position switches off all Discrimination. Switch to D1 or D2 and Discrimination is then controlled by the rotary control knob. Around this knob is an inner and outer scale. The outer scale indicates the lower Discrimination level (D1) and is marked 'All Metal' around clockwise to 'IRON'. The inner scale (D2) indicates the higher level discrimination and is marked 'IRON' around clockwise to (and past) 'FOIL'.

The marked preset positions are switch to D2 and the disc knob turned fully anti-clockwise (7 o'clock).

In use I found the Discrimination very good and the only thing I couldn't knock out (at any setting) were two pieces of large surface coke (buried coke wasn't a problem.)



There are two very effective ways of using these controls. The first is to set the Discrimination at the level you require and dig every signal.

For more control and a higher find rate, you can adopt a two level Discrimination technique. Set the Discrimination knob to 3 o'clock and search with the switch set at D1, thus discriminating most nails. Then if you suspect an 'iffy' signal from junk you can switch to D2 to Discriminate coke, silver paper etcetera. This technique will give you better feel for what you are detecting and increase the detection of deeper non-ferrous items.

Field use

When switching the detector on you need to hold the coil up at about waist height and wait for it to indicate it has noise cancelled to the environment. Then that's it! With the control in preset, you're ready to detect!

The first field I took the Adventis to was a freshly ploughed and maize sown field. This field had never really lived up to expectations, only producing a hand full of Roman coins over several years. The field however is very noisy with a high proportion of trash so was perfect to test the Discrimination ability.

I started searching using the standard coil and found it very easy going with no falsing at any Sensitivity setting. After digging a few surface signals I decided to swap over to the larger 11" coil and moved to the most productive area of the field. I was soon digging buttons and buckles at good depths which had been missed the previous seasons.



The single tone had a quality that allowed me to distinguish deep non-ferrous signals from the occasional deep iron signal that broke through the discrimination. These iron signals were a lot coarser compared to the smooth rounded sounds from positive targets, so were easily ignored.

The second field I used the detector on was a heavily detected and contaminated Roman site. Although the best has been found over the last 20 or so years, this field still produces a few Roman coins each year. This year I knew the field had already been detected with two different higher frequency machines, so it was going to be hard to find anything worth digging. But after a couple of hours detecting I had found eight grots (fig.1). None of these were deep however, all had been found close to iron that the other detectors had missed. And the audio signals were obvious!



Optional 11" coil

Conclusion

The most outstanding features of the Adventis are its multi-level Discrimination and its depth on larger metal objects like pre-decimal coins. Being a low frequency detector it's also less sensitive to small thin pieces of non-ferrous scrap like foil while still retaining an uncanny ability of finding hammered coins. It also has a very fast recovery rate, unusual in a low frequency detector, enabling non-ferrous finds to be winkled out of iron infested areas.

This is a very capable machine which would suit someone moving up from their first detector, wanting the power of a top of the range detector but without the complications of multi-tones, multi-frequencies or visual displays. It will also appeal to fans of single tone detectors or as a second machine to users of high frequency machines giving them the additional tools to get those deeper finds.

So was all the early Adventis buzz justified? Probably... but the mighty Goldmaxx has certainly stolen its limelight and still remains my favourite XP metal detector.

Search Ed

| User Features – (Scores out of ten based on price category) | |
|---|---|
| Ergonomics (weight/balance) | 7 |
| Simplicity/user friendly | 8 |
| Build quality | 8 |
| Weather resistance | 7 |
| Discrimination performance | 8 |
| Overall detection performance | 7 |
| Value for money (£499) | 8 |

TEST RESULTS

SEARCHER RATING