

# Field Test Report

## The White's Classic III SL

By Dick Stout



Field testing the White's Classic III SL was not so much an assignment as it was a pleasurable experience. Having detected for 25 years, I found myself reliving the good old days when finds were recovered through an uncomplicated audio process. I actually felt like an enthusiastic beginner again... I did not have a meter to look at or a lot of controls to manoeuvre or confuse. The Classic III SL was user friendly, light as a feather, and quite capable of finding coins at decent depths!

The new Classic III SL now has a slim-line control housing similar to that of the Spectrum XLT, and comes standard with the 'Blue Max 9-1/2" searchcoil'. It's powered by eight AA batteries and weighs only 3lbs 5oz., making scanning effortless. The batteries will last about 80 hours under typical conditions.

The detector's control panel offers Discrimination, Frequency and Sensitivity adjustments (all with preset indicators for those wanting to turn on and Go) and a toggle switch to improve performance in highly mineralised areas.

All of the controls are clearly labelled, easy to read and provide the user with a lot of options when in the field. Another new and handy modification to the Classic III is the stem-mounted GEB/DISC toggle switch. It's literally at your fingertips for instant mode changing and pinpointing.

Discrimination offers two labelled presets. Ring Range and Coin Range. In Ring Range the detector will reject most iron and tinfoil, yet respond to most valuables including jewellery. The Coin Range, as you might expect will detect most coins but will reject pulltabs, nickels, and some jewellery. My preference (a notch below nickel acceptance) fell between the two and was used for most of my in-the-field-testing.

While I did dig some trash, most of it was identifiable by typical broken audio responses. Only the two holed pulltab managed to slip through, and that happens on every detector I've tried. Digging these responses was necessary in order to accurately test the machine, and in one instance it actually resulted in the recovery of a Mercury dime on edge. I also used the K/W Pro Headphones, which I have found to be exceptionally sensitive on those slight audio fluctuations that often accompany deep targets.

### In the field

I want to emphasise that this field test is not as thorough as I would have liked. Deadlines and a very busy vacation schedule were the culprits. I received the Classic III about one week before John Howland and his wife Margaret arrived from Oxford, England. They were spending their holiday with my wife Fay and me, and we had planned to travel extensively making any sort of long, leisurely testing impossible. The timing however, did not allow for John to give the Classic III a workout, adding another. Three's perspective to the test.

John is no stranger to many Three's in the States, having attended a few of the FMDAC conventions in Atlantic City. He is also the author of 'Treasure Hunting British Waters', one of the founding members of the national Council for Metal Detecting in England, a frequent contributor to British treasure hunting magazines.

I wish I could say that I took the Classic III to a lot of varied sites, but I didn't. It was tested at a small town park, a relatively new schoolyard, and an old picnic grove. These places were chosen because of time, convenience and the potential challenges they offered. In

particular, the town park and picnic grove are considered hunted out by many detectorists living in the Dallas area.

The park in Rockwall was the first place I visited and it's one tough little site to detect. It dates back a few years has been hunted quite a bit, and is a site that I had pretty much given up on. I began my search along the outer fringes of the park, ignoring the more heavily used playground area in the middle and while I didn't find anything too exciting, I did start finding clad coins fairly consistently. All were relatively shallow, and what junk, I did recover sounded off as such... allowing me to feel comfortable about the detector's ability to accurately accept and reject. Pinpointing was effortless, with all targets located in the centre of the Blue Max's eye!

I worked my way towards the center of the park, and after about two hours of searching I had found 22 clad pennies, two Wheat cents, 6 nickels, 8 clad dimes, a quarter and a car key! Not quite enough to buy lunch but impressive nonetheless, given the park's 'hunted out' reputation.

The next site was an old grove area (also just outside Rockwall) that typically gives up one to two nice coins, but not many. It was here that John put the Classic III to work, while I hunted with a 6000 Di Pro. The grove was somewhat overgrown, making a thorough search difficult, but where we could manoeuvre our coils, John and the Classic III excelled. His take for the day ... A Standing Liberty quarter, two Mercury dimes, and four Wheaties, all about 6 - 8" deep. One of the Mercury dimes, buried on edge, responded like a nail or elongated object, but because the area was so old, John dug it anyway.

I wish I could say I fared as well, but on this day he honours went to John. His personal assessment of the Classic III SL? 'Brilliant' .... A lot of detector for a nice price.

The last place for my testing was a fairly new schoolyard about a mile and a half from my home here in Rowlett. I was well aware that probably nothing of value would be found, but I felt that the site

would provide me with an abundance of 'new' trash and an assortment of clads. I was right on target and had to lower the sensitivity settings immediately and increase discrimination somewhat. As a result I was able to recover quite a few clad coins (Most fairly shallow) and a child's pin. Once again, most of the newer trash items responded as they should, but it was a site where I would definitely have used a smaller coil had I had one with me.

### Conclusion

I was impressed by the Classic III's versatility and ability to find coins that some of the top of the line detectors had missed. Also, but turning up the sensitivity and using the KW Pro headphones. I was able to receive faint responses on most all of the very deep coins in my test garden at home. Its functions and controls are easy to use providing you with all that you'll need to be successful in the field and its extremely light weight will spoil you. I intend to use the Classic III again soon.