

## WELCOME TO THE DFX.

I have been privileged to have a hands on preview of White's latest ALL TERRAIN detector, the DFX. Knowing the opportunity was to be a brief one, I hastily acquainted myself with the handbook, and then dashed off to my local beach. Despite 30 years of detecting and owning many machines I was like a two-year-old with a new toy. Because I presently have an XLT then the transition to using the DFX was virtually instinctive. Of course it would take a little while to acquaint myself with extra menus and the interactive facilities that they provided.

The DFX fired up like a Spitfire, and with it's head skimming the sand I soon had a target on screen. It turned out to be an old style 5p at about 8 inches judging by the need for two spade scoops to recover it. A solid audio sound, albeit a highish ID compared to its 'in air' value. But that's reasonable because the detector sees a high ratio of wet sand to coin. With VCO on for pinpointing, locating was easy. I stayed in the area and recovered about 12 targets. Mostly coins of the 1950's era plus a bathing cap 'buckle and two lead fishing weights. Interestingly the weights were well into the 12 inches strata. Now to me, that is pulse detecting depths, with the coins varying from 7 to 10 inches. The copper pennies being the deeper coins found.

The reason I initially chose this particular spot was because pulse machines cannot hunt easily there. This is due to a power line that runs out from the land to the off shore island (Hilbre Island). The DFX didn't seem to be bothered! I was hunting in "BEST DATA" mode, and experimenting with various degrees of AC SENSITIVITY and PRE AMP GAIN. At AC=68 and PRE AMP 2 the machine was rock steady, Only when I was 'pushing on the accelerator' with the pre amp at 4 did I get a bit of backchat from the rippled wet surfaces. But 'Oh boy' could she 'kick cockles'. Moving further off shore, I was recovering a different variety of artefacts. Typical were 38 calibre blanks cases and a few 22 calibre heads, enough brass screws and copper nails to re-plank a dingy, plus several copper coins from 1920's to 1940's and one 1920 silver sixpence. I was fascinated by the variety of small fragments of metal the DFX was locating in this area. I normally hunt here with a pulse machine, and consider it as being somewhat 'bleached', but this new Whites 'E type' was making me have second thoughts. Their new design philosophy built into this detector was certainly 'breaking new grounds'. The results of this outing were making me mentally rejuvenate a list of old 'worked out' sites. So wrapped up was I with the pleasure of the evening's search, I hardly noticed the sun setting. The tide was now on the flood so it was time to make the half-mile trek back to shore before the shrimps had me for supper. What then were my observations on the DFX's performance on this first impetuous outing?

On wet sand? A breeze at normal gain settings, with exciting capabilities for the more adventurous program settings. From my experience of trying the other multi frequency machine, it's depth performance on wet sand left nothing to be desired.

In physical terms, it was a joy to use. NO ARM FATIGUE. EXCELENT DISPLAY and enough choice of AUDIO STYLES to satisfy your needs.

If you want to do battle with the 'pulse boys' then turn up the gain but be prepared to take some 'back chat'. You could be pleasantly surprised how deep you can locate items, which were previously for their ears only. I'll let you into a little secret. The multi frequency machines are really pseudo pulse in their transmissions and so should have an appetite for rings.

Well, that was my first taste of wet sand searching with the DFX.

I was very impressed; the DFX had past the first part of its test as an all-purpose detector.

Next requirement was an inland appraisal.

Because of present restrictions preventing access to normal agricultural sites, I cannot provide a 'free range search' report. In its place, I am able to offer a more subjective assessment by using the well-calibrated test facilities created in my garden.

The set-up is not simply that of a limited number or variety of objects, buried at static pre-determined depths. Such set-ups imposes restrictions on being able to determining the ultimate

detectability range of an object. Instead, my system allows you to incrementally vary the depth of any item, of a size up to two inches, to a depth of at least 14 inches, and know that depth to an accuracy of half an inch. Therefore I am able to determine at what maximum depth the item is detectable. Also it is interesting to see how the ID varies with depth when compared to its IN AIR value.

I can chart the results for any group of settings and dynamically relate them to performance. But the prize bonus of my facility is the ability to compare any number of detectors available on the day, on the same target, in the same situation. The only parameters that are subjective is the decision as to what levels constitute Normal or Default sensitivity, and then ultimately what is Maximum Usable sensitivity. I leave that to each machine's owner who cares to be involved in such tests. I ran the DFX against my mate's 'X' machine (with apologies to all you 'Diggers' out there for referring to it in such a manner, but I'm not allowed to offer specific comparisons). Any way, I can truthfully report that the DFX was still reporting at least an inch after the 'X' multi frequency machine had ceased responding.....even with 'X' at MAX gain, and that's a witnessed fact.

What do you think of being able to detect an ELIZ. 1<sup>st</sup> Sixpence at TWELVE INCHES? (3Khz MODE) ( 70 AC / 3 Pre Amp / 6 Sweep Speed / 30 Recovery / filters, 3 for my lawn)

Impressed? Well, get to one of the September rallies and try out the DFX for yourself.

I predict that when the machine gets into the field, we shall soon be hearing reports of its exceptional capabilities. With its new software and hardware system the DFX virtually eliminate the losses associated with ground mineralisation. This in turn provides an in-soil detecting range comparable to its 'In-Air' distance! That factor now makes it easier to anticipate to what depths you can detect your general range of artefacts. If you construct a table for several items of interest with a column for maximum distance IN AIR for each of the four modes, then you will gain some appreciation of the mode/metal sensitivity relationship.

Success in deep hunting will thrive on your ability to set the sweep speed and recovery rate to your own particular pace of searching. I'll refer to those two functions as SS and RR.

My personal preference being SS = 6 and RR = 30. I found that an RR faster than 30 causes a 'double blipping' on the audio. When you first venture out with your new DFX, use one of the pre-programmed modes, BUT CLEAR OUT ANY REJECTION BETWEEN 0 and 94 at least. Also, get plenty of practice in SAVING your experimental setting. If you don't learn to do that with 100% confidence then you will kick yourself if you loose any productive set-up.

I am personally looking forward to an exciting season of detecting rapport with those acquiring a DFX. My e-mail address is [matt@deetec.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:matt@deetec.fsnet.co.uk)

With the ease and speed of web e-mail, I look forward to exchanging queries, ideas, experiences and any revelations gained from experimenting with different set-ups. Now that the handbook is published on the web, anyone interested can at least get a flavour of what the new detector has to offer in terms of functionality.

I believe this new Whites detector comes pretty close to the ultimate 'Universal' detector.

A true 'Land and Sand' machine.

Do I have any criticisms of the machine? Based on the short period I had it, I can honestly say "No", apart from a perception of limited dynamic range in the audio modulation.

This was in no way whatsoever, detrimental to performance. Perhaps it's my failing hearing? It simply reduced my audible impression of depth relative to the sounds' loudness.

There was just one moment of regret after testing the Whites DFX. ( With apologies to Mal.)

*" I HAD TO HAND IT BACK "*

Matt. Renshaw.