



# FIELD TEST



*Author Clive Clynick takes a break during his Deus field work.*

I began by focusing on the opinions of XP Deus *users*— just as I would when selecting a machine to buy. Usually these comments will be mixed. With the Deus I saw only good feedback. Several themes emerge in the comments of Deus users. All are impressed with the design and the ultralight weight, a trim 2 lbs. 3 ozs. The wand telescopes from either end— a quick snap-out, and you are hunting.

Each of the two control modules (control pod or headphone) can run the detector independently. This also means that with a waterproof hood or sealed bag for the control pod, the detector is rainproof.

*Every single hunter who commented on the Deus was impressed by the speed of response.* Of the nine preset programs that are oriented to various types of conditions / targets, “Deus Fast” is already legendary for its ability to pick out masked signals from dense iron and trash. Other presets are based upon the strengths of two popular XP machines, the Gold Maxx Power and the Gold Maxx 11.

A manual also tells you a lot



*This beach’s black/gray sand is a challenge for any detector. The Deus delivered impressive depth on low-conductivity targets.*

## Testing The XP Deus: A Wireless “Custom” Detector

By Clive Clynick

Anytime a new metal detector arrives at my door, it’s an exciting day! When I was asked to write a few pages about the new French-produced XP Deus (pronounced “Dae-uhs” meaning “deity” or “supreme being”), a quick review of the literature told me that I was going to be trying out a truly unique and special detector. I saw that it was a wireless machine that incorporated

three modules: coil, pocket-sized control unit, and headphone. I also saw that it had a large number of features which could be accessed very simply by way of a basic “point and shoot,” user-friendly interface. I certainly liked the idea of a machine that offered this level of versatility, and set out to see how it would perform in the field under a variety of conditions.



*All three devices (coil, remote display & headphones) communicate with one another via a digital wireless radio link that was developed specifically for metal detecting.*

about a machine and the company that makes it. Obviously, a high-fidelity detector needs clear, simple instructions, and that's exactly what is given. Each feature is explained in terms of what it does, how to implement it, and what kinds of conditions / situations might require it. Overall, the manual promotes the remarkable *versatility* of the Deus well and instructs the new user on just how to best utilize it.

Let's run through some of the more noteworthy features of the Deus— some of the things that are genuinely new:



*Test finds included turn-of-the-century U.S. and Canadian coppers and a Victorian silver dime.*

### Switchable Frequencies

4 kHz, 8 kHz, 12 kHz and 18 kHz. These all offer peak performance in specific conditions. The lower ranges are best for larger, high-conductivity targets in lighter soils. The two middle ranges are for general use, and the highest (18 kHz) is best suited for finding low-conductivity items such as small gold targets in highly mineralized ground, wet or salt beach sand. Small oval tabs air tested at over 10" sitting on sand. I can see this as a great park or beach gold machine.



*This "truck grove" park site was a good test for the Deus's performance around iron.*

## Ground Balancing

The Deus offers three types of ground balancing: Manual or custom allows “over-” or “under-tuning” to suit conditions (an old prospector’s trick used to enhance target sounds or reduce ground noises), Pumping (more typical), and (continuous) Tracking. There is also a specific (tunable!) beach mode suited to saline environments. The level of mineralization of the ground is also shown on the display to guide your setting choices.

## Notch

This feature also offers some entirely new things. While multi-notch (being able to blank out several parts of the conductive range) is not in itself new, the Deus also allows you to identify these by one of up to four tones. It also offers adjustable notch width to custom tailor your reject blocks for exact targets. So, in an area strewn with pennies and pulltabs, you could create a highly effective program by knocking out both the most common varieties of tab(s) and the pennies, so as to focus on the most interesting responses.

## Audio

You can also set the signal ranges you want to ID by tone. The volume at which iron responds is also adjustable. The chatter of iron at higher Sensitivity levels can also be modulated with the Silencer control. I especially liked how the audio transitions cleanly from one tone to another. I can’t wait to get some of my test targets and develop some notch programs to use with the Deus’s crisp, sharp audio.

## Display

Another thing I like about the Deus is that you can customize



*All of the electronics, including the digital LCD display, are encapsulated in a weatherproof disc on one side of the XP headset. Inset: USB connector.*

the display to show one of several things: a grid showing the strength, ferrous and nonferrous content of the current target, or the Reactivity (Recovery Speed) setting as a graph. This is in addition to the standard digital target conductivity information. Another handy indicator at the top of the Display shows the target conductivity against the background of any custom notches you have put in.

## Non-Motion Modes

These are impressive, too, in that there are three. As someone who has had great success hunting in all-metal mode, especially in so-called “worked out” sites, it’s exciting to see a machine that offers some fidelity and choice with this effective tool. The Deus offers single-tone, (with visual disc.) and audio ID (in keeping with your settings) and a basic all-metal mode. This feature alone has a ton of potential in

sand or for ID’ing targets, and is a great example of how this detector is applications-based and has clearly been designed by serious treasure hunters.

## Field Test Site #1

I chose this location because it has lots of iron (fencing wire, spikes, and 1940s car parts), and yet there are old, deep coins to be found. I had to try “Deus Fast” here and wasn’t disappointed. At the “Deus Fast” Reactivity speed, good targets gave recognizable short, high tones amid the iron telling me to investigate further. These were mostly deep ’40s, and ’50s coppers that ID’d from “89” to “92.” I liked the consistency of the readings as well, in that it meant the detector was accurate in spite of the amount of iron junk around. I was able to recognize any iron “sound-offs” from the rough tone and by



*The XP Deus ships standard with a waterproof 9" round DD searchcoil and cover. A larger 13" x 11" DD searchcoil is also available as an option.*

using the display's ferrous / non-ferrous grid.

Testing the optional 13" x 11" coil, I noticed that the wireless signal helped quiet the usual large-coil interference problems. It added several inches of depth to the Deus's performance, although I can tell that I've still got some learning ahead with it. Its all-metal air test performance was also very impressive—hinting



*The XP Deus wireless digital display remote control features easy-to-read graphics, a brightly backlit screen and comes in a handy case.*

at its depth potential — given the proper tuning.

## Site #2

This beach site can only be described as “lousy” with dense, gray sand. No machines work well there, and some not at all. This time of year, winter winds strip the light material from the surface, leaving patches of black sand.

I started in “Basic 1” to get an idea of how the detector's median settings perform. This 12 kHz program was smooth and quiet, bringing up targets from surprising depths in the hard-packed sand — both high and low conductors.

I especially liked 18 kHz Goldmaxx Power, a great setup for low conductors. With it, I was able to focus on these smaller, mid-range signals, digging them one after another. Many of these came from over 8" deep in the packed sand.

I also tried Deus Fast in the trash-strewn picnic areas. I liked having a lightning fast setup to flag middle-range responses with, and the display helped me to narrow these down.

Had there been any gold present, I certainly would have been right on track to find it.

I also tried “Wet Beach” and “Dry Beach,” both very smooth, stable setups.

I like being able to scroll through every program with a single button, to cross compare the unit's stability and how targets are coming in.

XP's website mentions that the Deus is the vision of a group of avid detectorists... and it shows! *Clearly, this is a detector developed and tested in the European context — extreme soil and sand conditions with centuries' worth of iron in the ground.*

## Summary

In my series of how-to books I've often said that becoming skilled with a detector basically involves developing a large number of “things to try” and knowing when to do so. The XP Deus is extremely well designed for this approach. This detector can be seen as a “template” for custom-tailoring its many exciting features for your exact preferences, conditions, requirements, and targets sought. Equally as important, there is fast, user-friendly access to everything the detector does. (I was negotiating most of the menu and experimenting with custom programs within 15 minutes.) With its nine well thought-out programs, it's also “turn-on-and-go” for the novice.

I especially liked the clean, crisp audio, performance around iron and the number of features oriented to use in tough beach and salt environments.

Here's another cutting-edge advantage: new features can be downloaded from XP via the internet, using the unit's USB port.

In my opinion, the XP Deus is an innovative machine whose potential is only limited by how far your interest and enthusiasm can take you.

For a free brochure and the name of your nearest authorized XP dealer, contact **Detector Electronics Corp., 23 Turnpike Rd., Southborough, MA 01772. Phone 1-800-446-0244 or 1-508-460-6244.** The XP Deus's specs sheet, manual, and videos can be seen at **[www.metaldetector.com/xp-deus-metaldetector](http://www.metaldetector.com/xp-deus-metaldetector)**

Be sure to mention that you read about the XP Deus in *Western & Eastern Treasures* magazine. □