

Field Test Makro Multi Kruzer

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Makro Multi Kruzer, wireless headphones and control box display.



As always, it was a real delight to be asked to examine the latest detector to be released into the highly respected Makro range. The Multi Kruzer is not a complex machine to operate in my opinion, and if I was to sum it up in one word it would be 'versatile'. I was already aware from its existing reputation that it is a very capable machine to use in the fields, on the beach and even underwater, so I was really keen to try it out myself.

First Impressions

Well it certainly looks the part; assembly is a doddle, it goes together very easily and the lower carbon fibre stem sets it all off very nicely. I really like the design of the control box too, each control and menu button is laid out very neatly just under the screen. The buttons are rubberised and do not protrude from the control box surface. The controls are easy to navigate at a glance but most importantly, being flush, they will not snag on anything whilst out in the field.

A first for Makro is the built-in rechargeable 3700mAh lithium battery

which the manufacturer says will last around 9-19 hours depending on how you use the machine. For instance, if you are using the speaker or running it on 5 kHz frequency, these factors will drain the battery faster. My own personal experience is that the battery lasted me for a full day out in the fields, which is all I need. If, however, you are looking for further options to extend the battery life, the Multi Kruzer has another trick up its sleeve. You can purchase an external battery pod as an optional extra that screws to the top of the arm rest at the rear. I have used this and I really like it. Once attached it looks the part and does not affect the balance of the machine in any way. This pod takes 4 AA batteries and also has an input port for wired headphones if you need them.

Wireless Headphones

The Multi Kruzer comes supplied with 2.4GHz wireless headphones, which it must be noted are not waterproof. They have a very good range and if you felt the need you could use them whilst detecting in calm, shallow water as long as you don't submerge them.

Makro have just announced that waterproof headphones for the Kruzer will be available very shortly.

The Display

In the centre of the screen you have large target ID numbers surrounded by the target ID scale. The scale will highlight your discrimination settings, notch settings and also any tone breaks that you have set up. On the top right of the screen are the Search Mode menus – the Multi Kruzer has a choice of six. From the top downwards these are:

- Gen (General which is All Metal)
- 2 tone • 3 tone • 4 tone • Beach
- Deep

Underneath the search mode menus are the following settings:

- Gain • Disc • Notch • Fe Vol
- T Break • Tone • Threshold • iSat

On the left hand side of the screen you have the following options:

- Volume • Bright (display screen brightness) • Vibrate • Tracking
- Frequency • FD/Save • Wireless

Below these you have a two digit number read out which shows you the Ground Balance readings. Finally below that you have the battery life indicator.

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Setting Up

The Multi Kruzer starts up in '2 tone' and 14 kHz operating frequency. Once you have made your own personal choice as to what search mode and frequency you want to use, it is time to ground balance the machine.

There are three ways you can choose to ground balance the Multi Kruzer. Automatic ground balance is easily done by pressing the GB button and pumping the coil – this method will be familiar to most users. There is also the option of manual ground balance for more experienced users who like to fine tune things. Thirdly, there is the tracking option which continually monitors the ground, but is recommended only for when in General mode (all metal).

Multi Frequency

As the name suggests you have three frequency options to choose from with the Multi Kruzer. 5 kHz is best used for when you want to look for deep targets, especially on clean ground. 14 kHz is your everyday frequency for average field conditions. 19 kHz is best suited to more mineralised ground conditions but you will lose a bit of depth with this option.

A Closer Look

Like I said earlier, this is a very versatile detector, but don't mistake its versatility for complexity. Believe me, if I can get my head around this machine, I believe even a keen novice could do so. Looking at the settings, you see the familiar 'gain', or as some call it, 'sensitivity' control. Many people like to turn this up as high as possible, which can aid in finding those deeper targets on some sites.

On some mineralised areas though, too much gain can be counterproductive, as any metal detector run 'hot' can become overloaded with data. Makro advise that if you are on clean ground, set your gain above ninety – maybe around ninety-four. If you are on mineralised ground you should set it below ninety so it gives the machine a better chance to see through iron hot spots, for instance.

I have spoken to many experienced Multi Kruzer users since its release and I've been trying to get a handle on what settings are most popular. For search



Me with the Multi Kruzer set up and ready for detecting.

modes I know many are opting for '3 tone'. However, I do know a few guys who prefer '2 tone' because it's deeper. Then there was the guy who was pulling out small hammered coins at depth using deep mode. Keeping in mind that many people really enjoy using '3 tone' I have come up with my own spin on things that should give you a few easy choices whilst out in the field so you don't keep pressing buttons all day instead of searching.

Imagine you have just acquired the Multi Kruzer and also a new permission to go with it. Now stop smiling and pay attention. I suggest you try running it as follows initially: 3 tone, 94 gain, disc 0, notch 4, Fe vol 2, T break 5-30, Tone on factory, iSat 1.

Try these initial settings and see how you like the sounds and target responses. Keep in mind that you can save any preferred settings with the save option. You are running the gain high and using minimum discrimination now. If the ground is fairly clean you will be punching deep and hearing everything, including the iron. If the machine is stable like this on your site, then I personally would stick to that set up until I was happy I had located most targets within the first ten inches.

However, if the machine is just too chattery for your liking, the first thing I would adjust is the gain. Lower it slightly into the mid-80s. I also find that using notch instead of a little discrimination is best as you don't lose any



A barrel tap, Roman bronze awl and part of a Roman fibula brooch (left to right).



Roman bronze coin.



Ancient low-alpha lead.

depth. If this doesn't help, then you could try raising the iSat to cope with mineralised ground.

This is where I chuck my two pence worth into the mix. You're running in '3 tone' because it's popular and all your friends like it. You now have to lower the gain to suit the field conditions, which will affect your depth slightly. So my advice is: if you're in '3 tone' and do need to lower the gain slightly, why not also switch to '2 tone'? Because '2 tone' goes a little deeper, you will claw back some depth.

After you have been over your new permission many times in the above settings it's time to give deep mode a chance. A slower sweep mode is advised and also pack plenty of stamina.



Hammered coin and a spectacle buckle.



The signals may be fewer by now but I guarantee you that deep mode won't disappoint.

Tips for the Beginner

If you have purchased the optional external battery pack you have to keep in mind that once it is plugged in, it overrides the built in rechargeable battery. So it's essential to have AA batteries inserted in the pack, otherwise when you go to turn the machine on you will get no response, even if the internal battery is fully charged. Also, when pairing the headphones you have to switch them on first and wait for the bleeps. Then putting them to one side you need to depress the settings button and the on button at the same time on the detector. This way you should have no problem pairing the headphones.

Out in the Field

The first time I took the Multi Kruser out, I went on a Clodhoppers rally in Worcestershire on some gentle slopes surrounding a medieval church. Some nice finds came up on the day but not quite as abundant as I was hoping for myself, although I did have plenty of buttons and such like. My best find of the day was a nice example of a barrel tap. I got a solid audio signal and a target ID number of 85 and found the target at about eight inches deep.

Off to South Wales

I put a call out to all farmers in the country via social media to see if I could get any land. A nice chap from South Wales answered my prayers which was very kind of him. I drove the two hours to get there with my good friend Sid Perry or 'Sid Tecting' as most people call him. We had heard good things about the immediate locality surrounding the farm, so we had our fingers crossed. We met the farmer and he spent the first hour showing us some of his many fields which was very good of him considering he'd just met us. We started detecting on a field close to the farm house that had been gone over recently by the farmer's friends, as he had explained.

My best find on it was what I believe is a Roman bronze awl, used for working leather perhaps. For the next few

hours we tried various fields with little result. Some of them had obvious signs of the dreaded green waste. The farm consisted of 1500 acres which we couldn't possibly cover in one day, but we tried to narrow things down as best we could. Detecting is a funny old hobby. If you're finding good targets then you are energised and don't want the day to end. If, however, the finds are lacking, then you feel tired and the day drags on.

Some Roman Activity

We decided to move on a considerable distance down the lanes, to a large ploughed and rolled field in hope of better finds. The first half hour was decidedly quiet and my spirits sunk a little deeper. All of a sudden, Sid let out a shout of "Hammered!" which came as a most welcome boost. He had found about two thirds of a Short Cross hammered coin. We gravitated to the top of this very large field and before I knew it, Sid had found a Roman coin and part of a Roman trumpet brooch. I was pleased for him, but also realised I was playing catch up. I got a decent audio signal and a target ID number of about 60 on the Multi Kruser. I dug down six inches to reveal part of a bronze Roman fibula with a nice patina on it. Things had certainly started to look up.

On a Decent Area

No feeling in our hobby is better than the one you get when you realise that the spot you are detecting is willing to offer up good finds. It was game-on now, so the pair of us started gridding this area diligently. Sid found another Roman coin which proved we were doing the right thing. Eventually I got a fairly strong audio response and the target ID numbers were jumping between 50 and 60. I dug down seven inches to uncover a fairly decent Roman bronze coin. I was delighted - it had been a long day and a bit of a roller-coaster if I'm honest. We were on a reconnaissance mission with this new farm, and it hadn't all been plain sailing, but at least we now had some finds to show for it. We carried on gridding the small area at the top of the field but the signals came less and less. I got what almost sounded like a deep iron signal, but

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Medieval casket key.



Firecat toy gun.



Possible pipe tamper.

knowing that I was on a Roman patch I decided to dig it anyway. I kept digging and digging – eventually I got down to a depth of at least 18 inches, only to find what seemed like a large rock blocking my way to the target. I uncovered this rock at the bottom of the hole and tried to move it. It was incredibly heavy and something just did not add up. I gave it a jab with my spade in frustration. Imagine my surprise when I scratched the surface of this huge thing only to realise it was the biggest lump of lead I had ever seen.

Ancient Low Alpha Lead

I could hardly lift this thing and it was about the size of my head, which

is considerable! Not only that, but I realised that being in amongst the Roman finds, and at such a depth, this piece of lead was certainly last worked by the Romans. Not only is this cool, but it makes it a certain kind of lead. Low Alpha lead is lead that has not been exposed to any modern radiation, having been hidden underground. It has not been exposed to fall-out, for instance from any of our nuclear testing, which makes it highly sought after in the electronics industry, or at least it used to be, for some reason that you'd have to ask an expert about.

It was late in the day now and having carried that huge piece of lead off the field I was feeling a bit worse

for wear to say the least. Sid and I sat down with our backs against the fence to reflect on how the day had gone. A nice horse joined us and we were in good spirits as we made a fuss of him. It was now 6.30pm and I had to drive us the two hours home. The question was, did we detect the few hundred metres off the field or did we just get up and go home?

I'm so glad I made the pitiful effort to swing my detector from side to side for the last stretch. I got a weak audio response with a target ID number jumping 20 to 25. I dug down about five inches and unbelievably, I saw a small hammered coin peeping out of the bottom of the hole. Well happy days indeed, I thought. Not only had I made a lovely discovery but I'd also redeemed myself somewhat in regards to catching Sid up.

Testing the Multi Kruzer's capabilities in the water.



No Field is Ever 'Done'

It was about a week after all that adventure that I decided to go out again having gathered my strength, just to a nearby field that I have hunted extensively. I only go on it when I'm stuck and also to get to know new detectors. I got a nice audio response and a target ID number of 65 on the Multi Kruzer. Eight inches down I uncovered a nice example of a spectacle buckle.

I was really surprised at this coming off this field, seeing as I'd detected it so much. It just goes to show though that no field is ever hunted out. I soldiered on a bit longer but targets were few and far between. I was just about to call it a day after a couple of hours, when I got another signal. The audio was strong again and I had a target ID number

around the 50 mark. I dug down six inches and was delighted to reveal a beautiful example of a medieval casket key. It had a lovely patina too and was my first of this type.

I went out only a few days ago now, with two friends to a farm in the Midlands. We had a good day digging lots of buttons and pre decimal coppers. Also a few toy cars and a toy gun came up. At one point I got a bit of what I would say was a broken audio response and the target ID numbers jumped from 60 to 70.

About eight inches down I recovered my own toy gun called a Firecat. I was like a little kid buzzing because it was fully complete.

I continued mopping up pre decimal coppers and a few buttons. Some of the fields on this particular farm had given up nice examples of hammered coins and also ancient relics. I got a sense these fields had been disturbed

somehow, and probably would not give up anything quite as old as that. I got another strong audio signal and a target ID number of 60. Digging down around seven inches I uncovered what looked like a bird, possibly a stork. My guess is that it might be a pipe tamper, but I'm not sure – maybe a *Treasure Hunting* magazine reader will know?

Water Treatment

I couldn't write this article without testing the Multi Kruzer's capabilities in the water. I decided not to be too ambitious first time and chose a shallow stream, mainly to test out the waterproof seals and make sure the machine could withstand a good dunking. I surprised myself at how much fun I had wading in the shallows and finding a small modern coin spill amounting to the huge sum of 42p. This was better than finding the toy gun – all of a sudden I was a little kid again!

I submerged the machine completely on numerous occasions and dropped it in the mud and also into the nettles. I wasn't holding back, I was having too much fun and I wouldn't like to spoil things by worrying if my detector was up to the job. This is when I really fell in love with the Multi Kruzer.

Conclusion

In summing up, I'd say not only is this a versatile machine, but it is also very rugged too. It comes with 5 extra coil options if you want to take it out in the field. My friend has done well with the small concentric coil in the rivers. Finally I'll let the last word be with my friends the beach detectorists. They too rate it as a very good detector for the beaches and have found plenty of jewellery with it. The Multi Kruzer is not only Multi Frequency but also a definitive Multi Purpose machine if ever there was one. TH