

# field test

**Nokta Impact**  
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## IMPACT



**Nokta**  
DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES

## Nokta Impact

### Specifications:

**Operating Principle:** VLF induction balance

**Frequency:** 5kHz, 14kHz & 20kHz

**Standard Search Coil:** IM28  
Waterproof DD 28 x 18cm (11" x 7")

**Weight:** 1.8kg (4lbs)

**Battery Type:** 4 x AA Alkaline

**Warranty:** 2 years

**Price:** Standard Pack **£799.00**

Pro pack **£899.00**

**Availability:** Nokta dealers

### A first look at the Impact

There's no doubt that many a dormant detectorist is starting to wake up after the long cold winter we've recently experienced. Thoughts of long sunny days out in the field finding greatness, will surely be all that's on the mind ...

Well, luckily, the manufactures have been busy, and with final touches to the software now complete, we have seen a flurry of new machines hitting the market. None more so than Nokta with their new flagship model ... the IMPACT!

The IMPACT offers three frequencies without the need to change the coil, 12 search modes, online firmware updates (Via PC/USB), basic and advanced settings, a vibration mode, plus a large backlit screen. Promises of uncovering deep hidden treasures are also part of the package that I think you'll agree, all sounds pretty impressive on paper. But what does this mean in reality? Well, there's only one way to find out!

The day arrived and the IMPACT landed. Firstly, I must say, I was extremely impressed with the packaging and the way in which the machine was presented in the box. No machine rattling around in a box far too big for its purpose. The IMPACT came in its own travel case with everything strapped down in place keeping it protected. Following the grand opening of the case, glancing over the assembly instructions and 'sliding' the bits together, I had in front of me a rather sharp looking bit of kit. Batteries are supplied in form of rechargeable AA's and come with the charger. After a couple of hours I was ready to go ... time to choose a program.

### Factory Programs (Search modes)

You're almost certainly going to begin your first session in a standard factory mode program, of which the IMPACT has plenty ... 12 to be exact! These are made up of two static, two All Metal and eight with Discrimination.

### Static Mode (STA)

The device will generate an Audio Response when you hold the coil stationary without swinging. The Audio Response increases in volume as the coil approaches the target. This mode generates the same tone for all metals.

### Static Delta Mode (STA (D))

As per Static Mode (STA) but discriminates shallow ferrous items with a low Iron Tone.

### General Search (GEN)

Different to the other modes, this mode features a Threshold tone that is

### BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT:

LED Flashlight for those late night detecting sessions  
PRO PACK Coils give you best of both worlds  
Online Firmware Update Capability via USB/PC





continuously heard in the background. It also omits a low ferrous tone for targets 0-20 and a higher tone for targets 21-99.

### General Search Delta (GEN (D))

Similar to (GEN) but can discriminate shallow ferrous targets with an Iron Tone.

### 2-Tone Discrimination (DI2)

Recommended especially for relic hunting on clean non-trashy sites.

#### 0 - 15 Low Tone

16-99 Medium Tone rising to a High Tone the nearer the coil is to the object.

### 3-Tone Discrimination (DI3)

This 3-tone program is specifically designed for searching out small non ferrous items on trashy sites.

#### 0 - 15 Low Tone

#### 16 - 66 Medium Tone

#### 67 - 99 High Tone

### 4 - Tone Discrimination (DI4)

A 4-Tone Discrimination mode is designed for searching out small non-ferrous items in areas of low/medium mineralisation.

#### 0 - 15 Low Tone

#### 16 - 30 Medium Tone

#### 31 - 66 Medium High Tone

#### 67 - 99 High Tone

### 99 Tone Discrimination (DI99)

Multi Tone Discrimination mode designed for searching out non-ferrous items in areas of various mineralisation.

#### 0 - 15 Low Tone

#### 16 - 99 Different Tone for each ID (Medium to High)

### Conductive Ground (COG)

This has been produced specifically for the IMPACT for conductive ground (salty wet sandy beaches, ground with

alkaline soil etc). Auto Ground Balance. It can ignore iron and other similar items.

#### 0 - 15 Low Tone

#### 16 - 99 Medium Tone rising to a High Tone the nearer the coil is to the object.

### Deep Mode (DEEP)

This mode is the deepest mode available on the IMPACT. It has lower Discrimination ability so is recommended only for clean non-trashy sites.

#### 0 - 40 Low Tone

#### 41 - 99 Medium Tone rising to a High Tone the nearer the coil is to the target.

### VLX1

This is a 3-Tone Discrimination mode that is designed for users who prefer a lower noise level whilst detecting. Ideal for searching out small non-ferrous items on changing ground and different mineralisation levels.

### VLX2

Deeper than VLX1, this 4-Tone Discrimination program is deeper than VLX1 due to its higher gain. It's designed to search for smaller items on land with difficult and changing terrain.

### Expert Setting

Notch Filter, Audio Tone, Tone Break, iSAT (Intelligent Self Adjusting Threshold) and Frequency.

### Frequency Options

5kHz: Large ferrous and non-ferrous objects

High conductive coins

Medium or relatively small

targets in non-mineralised

ground without iron trash

Ferrous masses and militaria

14kHz: General use small coins

Different size coins in medium-

high mineralised ground

20kHz: Small coins with different conductivities and thin large coins, gold coins, rings, small jewellery, sheet iron, foil small targets in iron trash

### In the field - plough

I was fortunate enough to be testing the Pro Pack which comes with two coils; a DD 11"x7" and a sniper style DD 7.5"x4" elliptical coil. I had opted to use the Standard DD 11"x7" coil for this session as I knew the land was low in mineralisation, rolled completely flat, no stubble in sight and wasn't particularly trashy. With all this in mind, I chose to start the search in DI4 at 20kHz.

The machine comes as standard (both packs) with Phillips straight-wired headphones. I wasn't overly crazy with the idea of being tethered to the machine via this long straight cable that didn't particularly seem designed for detecting, but I was willing to give them a chance.

The headset input is in the battery case under the arm cup at the rear of the machine. You turn the machine on (whilst pointing the coil in the air) via the On/OFF Volume control at the rear of the machine. After the confirmation beep, the first thing you notice is the screen bursting into life.

The screen has pre-printed graphics and in the middle you get the '00' whirling around as the backlight flashes on. The backlight factory settings are bright enough to see the screen in direct sunlight which was handy as the day turned out to be somewhat sunny.

**Ground Balancing:** This was relatively simple via a little trigger switch conveniently positioned under the control box in reach of your forefinger. I found an area with no metal, pushed the trigger forward and it started to beep. Pumping the coil smoothly up and down between 3cm and 15cm I got the confirmation tone that the ground balancing was complete.

As I set off, I quickly noticed how

#### BOTTOM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Acurate PinPointing meant less ground disturbance

Equally at home on Pasture...

...as it was on Plough





balanced this machine was ... it seemed perfect (weight and balance was my biggest concern!). I had the telescopic stem out at maximum (notch 7 of 7) and felt no urge from the IMPACT to pivot forward or back. Well done NOKTA, I was relieved and could see an effortless days detecting ahead.

Swinging at a moderate pace across the soft rolled soil I was getting a few sparky sounds pipping through the headphones with every other swing. The DI4 program is what many would call a 'HOT' program and I liked it. I felt it would sniff out whatever I went over and that's exactly what we look for in a program.

It didn't take long and I was picking up the usual buttons and pieces of lead. The signals had all been clear and the pinpointing was exceptional. The depth target meter reads in CM's and although jumpy at times, it was reasonably accurate on these targets.

That afternoon I hit a field with what can only be described as modern farming waste. Plenty of iron nails and sheet plus the odd shottie shell. I switched to DI3 in order to try and limit the noise coming through the headphones but stuck to 20kHz and it worked. Discrimination was good and fewer tones meant my concentration peaked again.

Not long into my trek through the field and I had my first positive tone with a reading of 80 on the VDI and around 11cm on the depth meter. Once the soil was flipped over it showed itself as

a rather beat up Elizabeth hammered sixpence - my first silver with the IMPACT with exactly what I would read the indications as. Well, that was the highlight of the day for sure but you only find what you walk over and I was confident I had plucked out everything in my path.

### Pasture

I was keen to take the IMPACT to a paddock permission I have had for over 10 years. Needless to say, I believed I had stripped out the goodies long ago. With this in mind I wanted to see if the machine's promise of deep, accurate searching was going to detect anything I'd missed.

The bottom half of the paddock fields are very clean so I navigated to DEEP in the control box and slowly headed off. NOKTA recommend a one second swing pace for this program (one second side to side) which felt slow, but it's essential. The program works and works well.

It wasn't long before I'd pulled out an undistinguishable piece of bronze at a recorded 8". The tone was very good and loud when directly above it and I got the sense it would go a lot deeper. This was put to the test when I got a weak signal, flickering on the depth indicator at only 11 - 15cm. Seemingly odd as it was weak, I proceeded to dig the target and 10" later I was still digging and my pinpointer was still telling me it was below. At 14" I pulled

out an old 3" diameter brass clock face. Not exciting in itself but it made sense. Larger targets will have a shallower depth measure than smaller targets which is why on all machines they don't seem too accurate. The pinpointing of the item was bang on though.

During my time I flicked through most of the programs and picked up the odd button and a few coins including a couple of Roman bronzes but with little detail on them unfortunately.

### Overall first impressions

If you want a machine that is comfortable to use, looks good, allows you to keep it simple or maximise its efficiency with numerous adjustments ... the IMPACT is right up your street.

In my first couple of weeks with this machine I barely scratched the surface of its capability and still managed to feel confident in what I was doing and don't feel on the day I would have been better doing anything different ... isn't that what we all desire?

The programs have plenty of features to entertain most markets across the world, but I have concentrated, in this introductory test, on those that most of us detecting arable and pasture would head for. It certainly worked for me.

The build quality is very good. With the telescopic coil stem extended fully, you get a little wobble when swinging at a moderate to fast pace but that is the same with other telescopic stems

**ABOVE LEFT:** Elizabeth I sixpence  
**BELOW LEFT:** The Backlight makes viewing the screen easy in all light conditions  
**BELOW:** The IMPACT worked well even on trashy sites





I've used and doesn't affect its ability. The coils are strong and waterproof. The smallest coil in the pack will be perfect for those areas infested with iron or green waste, meaning you no longer have to walk away from such areas.

The Pro Pack is worth the extra cost involved as it comes with useful additional items! The carry case keeps it all together, the cover cases and stand protects the machine, the additional sniper coil and stem can be packed for those tricky areas and the re-chargeable battery pack can be plugged into the car to charge.

The only negative I have is the supplied headphones. I don't feel they are sophisticated enough to be worthy of plugging into a machine with such capabilities. NOKTA will soon offer a wireless 2.4kHz set though which, with any luck, will be more suited to the job in hand.

#### More to come ...

In part two I will look at the other coils, more advanced features and settings and take it to the beach. This machine has got so much to offer I'm looking forward to exploring all of its capabilities. ●



## Nokta Impact test results

(Scores out of ten based on price category)

- Ergonomics (weight/balance): 10**
- Simplicity/user friendliness: 8**
- Build quality: 9**
- Weather resistance 8**
- Discrimination Performance 10**
- Overall detection Performance 9**
- Value for money (£899): 9**

#### The Searcher Rating

