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FIELD TEST

Nokta Impact



Field Test Report Nokta Impact



I was pleasantly surprised when I was asked by *Treasure Hunting* magazine to conduct a field test for the new Nokta Impact. So, before I delve into the machine itself, I think I ought to explain a few things about the company who makes them.

Manufacturing Company

Nokta and Makro are two brands that belong to the same company these days. They are Turkish manufacturers who are very keen to grow and develop their share of the detector market place. They have been achieving this by bringing out new machines on a regular basis over the last few years.

Judging by these new developments they seem to put the feedback from both their field testers and customers at the top of their priorities. I first bought the Makro Racer 1 when it came out. It was a capable switch on and go machine, marketed at a very reasonable price, but with one or two small teething issues.

To my knowledge Makro and Nokta customer care is second to none, having personally experienced a small issue that was quickly resolved. I therefore got to know their main repair agent in Europe. Karin Kooistra handles all their repairs and her company is called The International Detector Center based in Holland and Germany. Karin regularly sends me Nokta and Makro machines to review these days, hence the reason I'm writing this field test. Karin works closely with Dilek who is the sales manager for Nokta and Makro. These two ladies spend countless hours dealing with customers and always put them first. The next machine I was sent to review was a real revelation. The Makro Racer 2 is not only one of my all-time favourite detectors but also that of many other detectorists too. Personally I think the Racer 2 is the absolute pinnacle of switch on and go detecting; it's absolutely packed with features and is a very deep machine. I have found amazing coins and artefacts with both the Racer 1 and Racer 2.

First Impressions

On opening the box containing the Nokta Impact, I could see straightaway that they really mean business with this machine.

The standard pack retails for £799 which includes the standard IM28 DD 11 x 7 inch search coil, wired headphones, 4 AA batteries and a USB cable.

The machine components fit together easily and the first thing you notice upon assembly is that the coil wire is very neatly hidden away inside the shaft. It feels sturdy, well balanced and weighs in at 4.26lbs. Depending on what search mode you're operating in, the 4 AA batteries should last between 15 and 20 hours approximately.

The Detector

The Impact has the capability to switch operating frequencies thereby giving the user more options when out in the field, depending on the conditions and what it is the user is actually searching for. For example you can choose the 5kHz which should be good for coins and relics at a decent depth.

The 14kHz frequency is a decent all-round setting for those everyday types of hunts. Lastly you have the option of using a 20kHz frequency that should be ideal for those low conductive targets such as jewellery and gold nuggets, if you are lucky enough to be able to go after these.

The USB cable that is provided allows you to download firmware updates from a PC as and when they are available, which is another really impressive facility that the Impact gives its operator. The wired headphones provided in the standard pack aren't perhaps the best, so I would personally suggest that you select the optional wireless ones. Knowing the company and how it responds to customer feedback, I almost feel like I can personally guarantee that, in the future, their standard wired headphones will be of a much superior quality.

I had not had much of a chance to use the Impact when asked to do this field test due to work commitments.

Therefore I thought it best to have a day out with a friend who has spent lots of time with this model and who has consequently found plenty of good stuff since its release (Fig.1).

Day Out with Shane

So, heading off to Lincolnshire, I went to see my friend Shane. The first thing he did, was to sit me down and show me an impressive array of marvellous finds he has made in the couple of months that he's been using the Impact (Figs.2-6).

Then it was off to a nice ploughed and rolled field, which was a very pleasant surprise for me, to check out the new machine.

The Impact features an impressive array of 12 search modes. Which are as follows:-

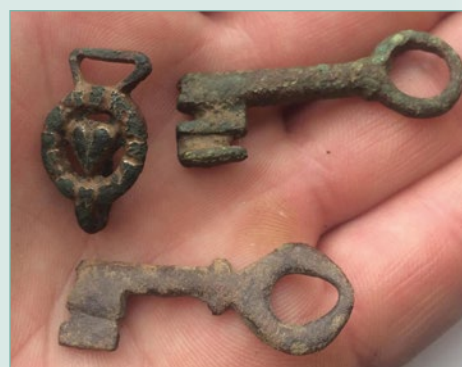
- Two all metal modes with Audio discrimination.
- Two non-motion modes with Audio discrimination.
- Eight discrimination modes, two tones, three tones, four tones, 99 tones, deep, conductive ground (beach), VLX1, VLX2.

Shane recommended that I tried the VLX2 mode which he particularly likes, so I set that up with 85 gain, 3 disc, flicked over to the right hand of the screen in expert mode and set ISAT (Intelligent Self Adjusting Threshold) to 1.

Those were my settings for the entire



Fig.1. Field testing the Nokta Impact.



Figs.2-6.
Shane's finds
made with the
Nokta Impact.



day, then I just depressed the trigger switch and ground balanced.

One thing I really like about the Impact is that when you switch it on, all the info is there immediately before you. Top left of the screen are the 12 modes, bottom left are the settings gain, threshold, disc, Fe volume, tracking, brightness, vibrate option, light, frequency shift and menu save. Look to the right of the screen and you have the expert options that need not scare off the beginners. These are notch filter, audio tone, tone break, ISAT and frequency. There is also, a ground balance display, a mineralisation display and a handy battery meter (Fig.7)

On this mineralised soil, the Impact balanced at 61. I got going and dug out a piece of lead and a small blank copper coin. Then Shane also set about searching.

This is where we ran into a little snag that I feel is worth mentioning just in case I can enlighten any other users. I was not wearing headphones at the time as I hadn't received my wireless ones in the post. Shane meanwhile was using the wireless ones and somehow his headphones paired to my machine.

Not a great start to the test, but purely a rookie error on our behalf. It resulted in me thinking I had no audio on my machine for five minutes at least until

Shane saw the light and then admittedly we did have a chuckle.

The field was very noisy at one end with traces of background iron and modern junk. As such it was an ideal place in my opinion to get to know the audio sounds of the VLX2 setting.

I have to state that I was suitably impressed by the tones and feedback it was giving me. The iron was behaving exactly as it should with those low rumbling sounds.

High conductive pieces of lead and copper came in very clearly amongst the background noise. What impressed me the most was the very distinct sounds of the mid tones. I was thinking "Gone are the days of digging those iffy sounding signals, with this machine". Those so-called 'iffy sounding tones' have been transformed into a nice solid mid tone. Having said that, as always dig any signal if in doubt, as they are the ones that can surprise you the most.

I'd previously been assured by Shane that this field was "Always good for a few hammered coins and some decent relics." So being a seasoned detectorist of about 30 years it came as no surprise to me when none of these claimed hammered coins or other decent finds jumped out of the ground. There were many conductive targets, however, and I had dug plenty of small bits of copper and lead after a couple of hours.

Even though I wasn't on the good stuff, I was learning the machine and its tones and just how good it was at pulling up small items at a decent depth of about 10 inches or more with the standard coil.

Lunch time arrived and we decided to stop and have some cake as I'm a great believer in the powers of a nice slice or two to change one's luck.

I set out searching again and got a very scratchy signal that read 20 on the screen.

It turned out to be a well-worn jetton,

Fig.7. The Nokta Impact menu screen.

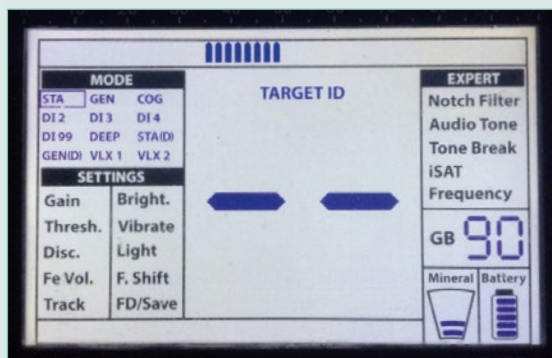


Fig.8. Jetton most likely of Hans Krauwinkel.

Fig.9. Love token made from a silver coin of William III.



Fig.10. Small post-medieval buckle.



Fig.12. All my combined finds for the second day out.



Fig.11. Silver sixpence dated 1923.

probably an issue of Hans Krauwinkel shown in. Fig.8. Suitably impressed by the restorative powers of a nice lemon drizzle cake, I got another signal that read 65 on the screen. I took my time to uncover it as I thought it might have the possibility of being a so far elusive hammered coin. I teased it out of the earth and on looking at it in the clod, I did indeed think "Hammered" so I took it over to Shane to unveil it. It turned out to be a worn love token made from a silver coin of William III (Fig.9), which I was still very pleased with. After a fair few other conductive targets that turned out not to be 'keepers', I did indeed get one of those iffy signals. Shane had commented on our lack of buckles and relics thus far. Funny how such off-the-cuff comments can often have an impact on your finds, as next up for me, was a tiny buckle (Fig.10). It appeared late to post

medieval in date but of a design that I had not seen before.

It rang in with a scratchy mid-tone and came in at number 26 on the screen. I really like this bent little buckle as it's the first of its type for me.

Another hour went by of non-stop digging conductive targets, all of which were not keepers but each and every one was telling me more and more about this very capable machine. My next half decent sounding signal came in at number 74 on the screen and it turned out to be a sixpence (Fig.11) that was about 8 inches deep.

By this time, I was certainly really impressed with the performance of the Impact.

With having so many search modes and audio options available to choose from, I thought it best to stick to VLX 2 at this early stage so I didn't get too bogged down with things.

Another Day Out

Next time out I chose to go by myself to a well worked out field that was fairly local to me. After digging a few bits of the usual rubbish, I got a nice signal that came in at number 76 on the screen. It sounded very deep too. Eventually I retrieved a crotal bell from about 9 inches down. A few more hours passed by, digging mainly pre-decimal coppers and

little bits of scrap, when I got a booming signal that came in at number 88 on the screen. This turned out to be a worn George III cartwheel penny at about 8 inches deep. I was just about to go home when a nice clear mid-tone signal rang up at number 64 on the screen. I was well pleased when this turned out to be a good example of a Victorian groat, quite a scarce detecting find. It was about 6 inches deep and gave a very clear signal for a small coil. What impressed me the most was a target just a few inches away; I was getting an iron signal that turned out to be half a horseshoe. This told me all I needed to know about the recovery speed of the Impact which as I expected it to be, is very quick indeed. All my combined finds for the second day are shown in Fig.12 while Fig.13 shows all my conductive targets that I chose not to take home.

IM 40 15.5 x 14 inch Coil

At this point, I decided to put the 15.5 x 14 inch IM 40 search coil on (Fig.14). This is a great looking coil that currently retails for £155. I won't use any large coils if they are too heavy or affect the balance of the machine. Although I have used lighter large coils, I found the balance on the IM 40 was still very good and it most certainly wasn't a chore to use. I went on to locate a further six pre-decimal coppers at depths from 8 to 12 inches deep with the larger coil and I'm sure when the correct target presents itself it will go much deeper. I also found that pinpointing with the IM 40 coil was easy.

I personally never use the pinpoint mode on any machine. I simply draw an X through the target and spiral in on it. With enough practice this becomes



Fig.13. All my conductive targets for the day.

second nature, even while using large coils; it is quicker and you don't have to stand around with an annoying pinpoint mode squawking in your ears.

My Makro wireless headphones (Fig.15) eventually arrived in the post and I was also really impressed with these. They are not overly large but big enough to blank out any extraneous noise; they currently retail for £115. They pair up easily with the Impact and there certainly was no noticeable lag.

All in all, these headphones seem to be a really good buy and I believe are a great match for the Impact.

The 7.5 x 4 inch IM 24 Coil

Finally, I put the IM 24 search coil on, as shown in Fig.16. Not only will this coil excel on trashy sites but it will be great in constrained spaces and excellent in stubble. I was pleasantly surprised when this coil pulled out coppers at decent depths of over 8 inches too. I know many Impact users who aren't afraid to leave this smaller coil on for extended periods, as they have found it doesn't compromise

much on depth and gives great audio feedback when in amongst the iron.

Nokta Impact Pro Package

This currently retails at £899 and includes the following:-

- The IM 24 coil and the standard IM 28 coil.
- 4 AA rechargeable batteries.
- AC and car charger.
- Wired headphones.
- A handy stand.
- Protective covers.
- Extra lower stem.
- USB cable and carrying bag.

Summary

It's not only my personal impressions of the machine that I am using here to give the readers an opinion on the Impact. I am in touch daily with countless detectorists all over the world. Many people have been impressed with the DI 99 mode, which as it suggests, breaks up the audio responses right across the board.

My friend, Tony, also insists that I

try out deep mode using no discrimination. He's had extremely good results in digging hammered coins at great depths with this particular mode. Another friend, Henk Nel, in South Africa is using both Nokta and Makro machines to significant effect on the beaches out there, regularly digging up gold rings. My friend Dan, from the UK has travelled abroad extensively with his Nokta Impact and has literally cleaned up on some highly mineralised iron infested Roman sites with it. Furthermore I know many people who have also tested the Impact and people who have been using it since day one of its release. I haven't heard a single bad word being said about it from any of them. It even passed the rally test for me. As it was a brand-new machine, many people on the rally I took it to wanted a good look at it. One guy even whipped out a gold ring, the likes of which I had not seen before. It looked like it would fit a small child as it was so very thin. The ring's owner said "Not many machines will even give you a signal on it." So, he swung it under the



Fig.14. The 15.5 x 14 inch IM 40 search coil.



Fig.16. The IM 24 search coil.

Fig.15. My Makro manufactured wireless headphones.



coil of the Impact. I don't know who was more pleased, him or I, when it boomed out a nice clear mid-toned signal. Therefore, it seems the Impact really is three detectors rolled into one, without compromising on the end results. It certainly seems to be that way when the settings I'm being recommended by all these old hands, seem to vary. There really does seem to be something for everyone with the Nokta Impact.

Product Specifications

Induction Balance (IB)

Frequency: 5, 14 or 20kHz Auto tune Mode(s)

ISAT Intelligent Self Adjusting Threshold Ground Rejection: Ground Grab, Manual, Tracking Soil Adjust Normal and Salt (Beach) Modes Discrimination: Variable with Visual ID, Tone ID (2, 3, 4, 99), Notch ID, Variable Tone Breaks, Iron Volume Volume Control: Yes Threshold

Control: Yes Tone Adjust: Yes Audio Boost: Yes Frequency Offset: Yes Pin-pointMode: Yes Audio Output: Quarter inch headphone socket plus speaker Standard Search Coil(s): 11 x 7 inch DD Optional Search Coils: 7.5 x 4 inch DD, 9.5 x 5 inch DD, and 15.5 x 13.5 inch DD Battery: Four AA Operating Time: 8-15 hours Weight: 4.26lbs Additional Technology: Wireless headphone capability built in (headphones optional). TH

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H	N	D	U	T	D	R	G	I	O	O	X	C	U
S	E	A	G	S	L	E	T	A	C	S	I	E	N
I	L	R	V	A	Z	E	T	S	R	T	E	O	N
F	A	A	Z	M	S	Z	C	E	E	R	X	T	F
C	B	C	Z	N	L	O	X	N	C	A	E	Y	T
E	R	E	S	A	L	Z	K	F	S	H	Q	T	O
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T	E	X	A	S	T	M	O	G	N	I	K	I	V
L	O	R	E	N	Z	A	D	O	Z	T	C	D	E

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DETEKNIX	MAKRO	SCANMASTER	WHITES
FISHER	MINELAB	TEKNETICS	

ANSWER

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• Enter online at: www.treasurehunting.co.uk/competition • Email: competition@treasurehunting.co.uk

The winner will be drawn on the 18th September 2017 – entries received after this date will not be entered into the draw.
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