

USEFUL INFORMATION for New Detectorists

Purchase of Equipment:

Metal Detector:



The group leader has a Garrett Ace 350 (this has now been superseded by the 300i, the Euro Ace and the 400i)

Some members wondered if it was possible to start off with one of the cheap detectors on the market but **were** advised against this as it could lead to little success and much frustration and advised that it was better to buy a decent second hand machine.

Dave Crisp, in his book 'Metal Detecting – All you need to get started' evaluated several starter detectors and rated the Garrett Ace150 as 8 out of 10 as a starter model but did have this to say:

“The Garrett Ace 150, despite its bright yellow colour, looks and feels like all the higher end Garrett models. This one has no pinpoint mode, but the Ace 250, which is slightly dearer, does have this facility. However, it is light and very simple to master, with a beautiful intuitive display. This is another excellent starter machine, particularly for its low price”

The other models evaluated were the:

Bounty Hunter Tracker 4 (6 out of 10)

C.Scope CS1MX (9 out of 10)

Fisher F2 (9 out of 10)

Minelab X-Terra 305 (6 out of 10)

Tesoro Laser B1 (8 out of 10)

Viking 30 (5 out of 10)

The advice given is always to buy the best spec detector that you can, even if you buy second hand, as detectors rarely go wrong. It cannot be over stated how important this message is as it will determine the future pleasure that you derive from metal detecting.

Small Pinpoint Probe:



A small pinpoint probe is one of the most useful bits of equipment that you can carry. They are little metal detectors in their own right and their job is to check the inside of your hole, or your pile of dirt, for the target that you are digging. They can save you lots of time and frustration and locate the objects that you would otherwise lose.

Cheap models can be bought on the internet for under £20 with well-known models costing upward of £100 however the more expensive models do give much better results.

Spade/Trowel/Digger:



Whilst a garden trowel will do the job it is far from ideal as you will have to spend a great deal of your time bending down and may also lack the strength necessary. A decent detectorist's spade can be bought online for around £25.

Headphones:

Headphones should always be used as they enable you to hear the faint signals, rather than just the loud and medium ones (should your detector have an integral speaker).

Also, detecting without headphones is inconsiderate as internal speakers make a racket that disturbs other detectorists, the public, dogs, or just the tranquillity of the countryside.

A quality pair of headphones will have a good layer of padding on them and perhaps a detachable lead, as they have a tendency to break when fixed at either end.



Other equipment:

Like most hobbies, there is an endless list of things that can go on your Christmas list but you will need a



A 'Finds Bag' which not only carries your 'finds' but also has loops to hold other items of equipment. There are many advertised on eBay for under £20



There is an increasing use of Grid Positioning equipment to enable accurate location of important finds or just simply to be able to find a spot to return to. It's not long ago that these pieces of equipment were a real luxury costing £50-£100 but now it is possible to download an App onto your mobile phone absolutely free of charge. There are several Apps available but the one that I am trying first (because it looks simple) is called GPS Status & Toolbox, downloadable free on your android or i-phone



GPS Status & Toolbox

MobilMIA · EclipSim · Travel & Local

PEGI 3

Offers in-app purchases

This app is compatible with all of your devices.

★★★★★ 132,475

Installed

Search Agreements and Permits:

Apart from your own land there is absolutely nowhere that you can search that is not owned by someone and for which you will need a permit or agreement.

Firstly, if you fancy beachcombing with your metal detector you will be restricted to the area between low and high tide. This area is part of the Crown Estate and requires a permit. It is free of charge and can be obtained from:

<http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/rural-and-coastal/coastal/metal-detecting/>

All other land will require permission and more information as to who owns what can be found online. Obviously local farmers are the most available and it is important that written agreement is obtained. Click here to download a [Model Search Agreement](#) which is the one recommended by the **NCMD** based on their experience and knowledge of any legal implications. It also incorporates a copy of the 'Code of Conduct' which applies to us as members and is there to reassure the landowner that we will act responsibly by refilling our holes, closing gates, respecting crops, livestock and other users etc. etc.

For more information about this group please contact Dave Cusworth on 01487 814984 or [click HERE to email](#)

All additional information used here is courtesy of Dave Crisps superb book, 'Metal Detecting – All you need to get started', It's a great read and a useful future reference book, and is available from Amazon in paperback for £12.

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