

Field Test Quest Q20 and Q40



Fig.1. The neatly packed components of both detectors.



Fig.2. Both detectors now fully assembled.

Figs.3 & 4. Easy to interpret control box layouts for the Q20 and the Q40.



I must say, both Dave Stuckey and I were delighted to get our hands on these new Quest models. For some time now, we had been hearing rumours about these detectors and had wanted to see what all the fuss was about. The recent developments in the detector market can seem somewhat overwhelming, saturated with new models and new manufacturing companies, some of which have developed into household names while others have somewhat fallen by the wayside. The choice of machines these days is phenomenal compared to what it was only a decade or so ago. Launching new machines, let alone a new manufacturing company can involve some serious effort in order to compete with the established brands. However, as we

have seen, it can be done successfully and with great benefit to the hobby in design and development. Would these two new detectors be yet more market saturation or would there be something rather more individual about them?

First Impressions and Assembly

So the doorbell having rung, announcing the arrival of the two new Quest machines, a large package now lay on the living room floor. Dave was at work, so couldn't share in the unwrapping ceremony and associated excitement.

I eagerly opened the boxes, and there inside lay the components for both detectors, neatly packed and looking rather smart in their black and orange livery (Fig.1). Taking all the components out I gave them the usual

thorough quality checks, looking for any poor mouldings, seals or finishes – none were evident. In fact, this seems a good moment to stop and raise a point here. Almost immediately, with the first examination and handling, I was extremely impressed with the build quality. I have to state this really is top notch – each part is solid in its construction and perfect in its finish. I have to admit I was not expecting this for this price range. Build quality is something that, having a quality control background, is very important to me. It is the half-way house marker for products, the other half being how they actually perform. Over the years I've seen good performance and not so good build quality and occasionally good build quality and let's say sadly



Fig.5. The Georgian manor house.



Fig.7. Dave headed off with the Q20.



Fig.6. Just a small part of the extensive gardens around the Georgian manor house.

not-so-good performance. That balance of good build quality and good performance is what I always quest for (no pun intended).

Having finally assembled both detectors (please note a Phillips head screwdriver is required here) I had a few test swings: excellent, well balanced and a firm reassuring rigidity – not the slightest sign of stem wobble or that irritating clicking sound that can emanate from the same issue. With both machines assembled I lay them on their now empty boxes (Fig.2) and thought to myself "There's something about these guys that I just really like." However, they had yet to be put to the test out in

the field and that of course would be the decisive make or break factor.

Instruction Manuals

These are well laid out and although quite basic do contain the necessary operational information. Now, I'm an old hand at assembling a detector and know roughly what goes where – however, in the absence of a completed product diagram (either on the packaging or in the manual) a new starter might have a few issues as regards assembly. Both manuals would probably benefit from a further proof read too (or is that just me being editorially picky?). Something I did like in the Q20 manual

under the 'Detecting Ethics' section was the phrase "Always be kind to interested kids." I found this kind-natured and almost innocent phrase most refreshing, as true enough, these inquisitive 'kids' are the future of our hobby.

Control Box Display

The lay-out of the Control Box Display for each detector (Figs.3 & 4) is well thought out and easy to interpret and with a little consulting of the manual you should be off detecting within minutes.

First Day Out in the Field

The arrival of these two detectors coincided with Dave and I gaining a new permission to search a huge Georgian manor house site (Fig.5), along with all its parkland and gardens (Fig.6). This was perfect – new machines and a new site! We were not out to prove (or not as the case may be), that these detectors would 'revitalise old sites' – just to make a good introduction assessment of how they performed overall. Bagging up beneath an ancient tree, we set up and had a last minute re-read of the manuals – no matter what the machines are, for the first time and a while thereafter, the manuals always come out into the fields with us.

Dave headed off with the Q20 (Fig.7) and I took the Q40 (Fig.8). We decided to meet up after two hours and swap machines. The site we searched was pasture with an underlying matrix of well-drained, dark, sandy



Fig.8. Meanwhile I headed off with the Q40.



Fig.9. Good selection of coinage from Roman to modern day.



Figs.10a & b. George VI florin dated 1950.

soil interspersed with fractured chalk. One thing that immediately registered was just how light both these machines are, no aching arms for us at the end of the day! Another thing we noted for both machines, when in Jewellery and All Metal Modes, was the exceptionally fast and clear target responses experienced. When in Coin Mode the recovery speed is slightly slower but hardly noticeable. The Q40 has an additional Beach Mode but this was not tested on this inland site.

The Pinpointing Mode for both models was found to be very accurate, including small Roman coins at admirable depths. Overall we found that the functions of both machines are really easy to operate. Throughout the search we made many finds, including coinage

from Roman times to modern day (Fig.9) and a nice George VI florin shown in Figs.10a & b. The deepest coin of the search was a Q40 located Georgian penny, having left a respectable imprint in the soil, which measured in at just under nine inches. I was also pleased with my first ever foot patten (Fig.11) and a possible late Anglo-Saxon strap-end (Fig.12). It had been a long day, and after many hours searching it was now definitely time for a rest (Fig.13).

Second Day Out in the Field

Dave and I returned to our new site a week later, once again armed with both the Q20 and Q40 detectors. During this session we tried out the wireless headphones (supplied with Q40 model only). This is the first time I've ever tried

such and must say the lack of cable was a novelty. Activation of these already paired headphones is a doddle and is facilitated by pressing the wireless function button on the right side of the control box.

We intended to try a different area of the pasture, some distance away from the first test site and situated near to some old stables. Once again the swift target response was evident and the light weight meant we covered a considerable area, making finds as we went. One area had once had several buildings which were demolished in the 1840s, presenting quite a challenge. When digging, it was found to be densely packed with shattered bricks, ceramics, slate, and glass as well as being infested with iron fragments. Both



Fig.11. My first ever foot patten.



Fig.12. Possible Anglo-Saxon strap-end.



Fig.13. A well-deserved rest for both machines and men.

Fig.17. Dave digging away in the distance.

Fig.19. Medieval cast bronze pot leg in the shape of a crude claw after cleaning.



Fig.16. Medieval spectacle buckle.



Fig.18. Jaques & Son tag.



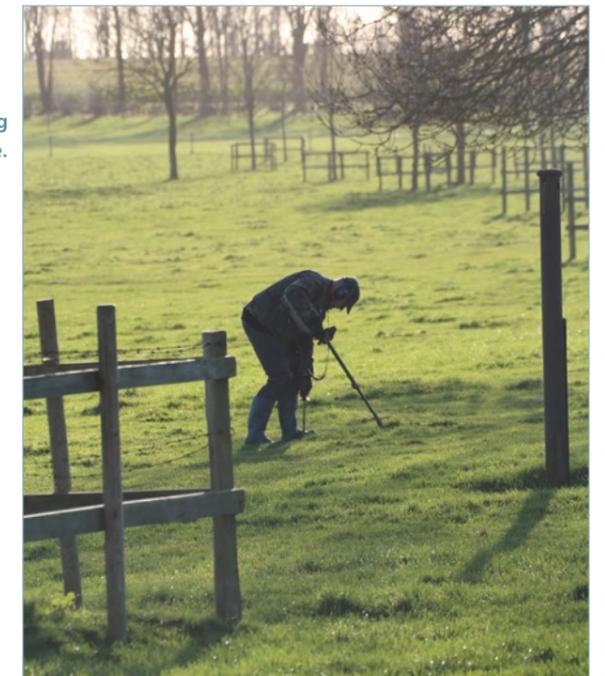
Fig.20. Two leather workers' palm guards after cleaning. Both of these were found in the same hole!



Fig.14. Reverse of a George III cartwheel penny.



Figs. 15a & b. Victoria halfpenny dated 1861.



machines performed admirably well in winking out several coins, including a 1797 cartwheel penny (Fig.14) and a lovely deep green patinated Victoria halfpenny (Figs.15a & b.) from amongst this compact mass.

Hunting along an ancient trackway in the same area revealed the lovely spectacle buckle shown in Fig.16. Having popped it safely into my finds bag, I stopped and took a photo of Dave digging a target (Fig.17) which turned out to be a Georgian spoon bowl. One find (Fig.18), although appearing rather nondescript, was later cleaned by Dave

and found to be a tag from the company Jaques & Son. Dave researched this and found they were major manufacturers of games including sets for outdoor ones such as croquet. Reading the landowner's memoirs revealed to us that his great-grandfather had been a player of some note, even playing at several major British croquet tournaments in the 1880s. Needless to say, this find which may be directly linked to his family, made the landowner extremely happy. A couple of additional finds that were later cleaned by Dave can be seen in Figs.19 & 20.

Product Specifications for the Quest Q20

1. IP66 waterproof protection.
2. Intuitive operation system.
3. Built-in USB rechargeable Li battery.
4. Optimized saltwater performance.
5. Lightweight headphones.
6. Light and balanced weight.
7. Ergonomic adjustable handle.
8. Quick release Cam-Lock, three sectional stem.
9. Our test example was supplied with 9.5 x 5 Blade coil as shown in Fig.21.
10. Accommodates left or right handed operation.

Fig.21. 9.5 x 5 inch Blade coil as supplied to us with the Q20 model.



Product Specifications for the Quest Q40

1. IP66 waterproof protection.
2. Intuitive operation system.
3. Built-in USB rechargeable Li battery.
4. Optimized saltwater performance.
5. Wireless headphones.
6. Lightweight and ergonomic design
7. Real time ground effect monitoring.
8. Ergonomic adjustable handle.
9. Quick release Cam-Lock, three sectional stem.
10. Our test example came supplied with the 11 x 9.5 Raptor coil as shown in Fig.22.
11. Accommodates left or right handed operation.

Operating Frequency

9kHz VLF (very low frequency) induction balance.

Assembly Structure

Quick release Cam-Lock three sectional straight stem. Extendable from 80cm to 130cm.

Battery Type

Built-in rechargeable 1200mAh Li-Po battery.

Coils

For test purposes supplied with 9.5 x 5 Blade coil.

Programs 3 search programs.

Audio Output

Built-in speaker, cabled headphones.

LCD Display

60 x 70mm.

Search Modes

All metal, discrimination.

Tones 3 Tones.

Weight

1350gm with Raptor coil (optional), 1050gm with Blade coil.

Battery Life

Up to 20 hours with wireless headphones (not supplied).

Temperature Range

Operating ambient temperature: 32° to 95°F (0° to 35°C).

Non-operating temperature: -4° to 113°F (-20° to 45°C).

Handle Format

Ergonomic with anti-slip dotted pattern surface.

Armrest

Made of robust PP material, ergonomic design.

Ground Balance

Automatic or manual.

Metal Identification

99 Metal ID for target identification.

Operating Frequency

13kHz VLF (very low frequency) induction balance.

Assembly Structure

Quick release Cam-Lock 3 sectional straight stem. Extendable from 80cm to 130cm.

Battery Type

Built-in rechargeable 2000mAh Li-Po battery.

Coils

9.5 x 5 Blade coil or 11 x 9.5 Raptor coil.

Programs

6 search programs.

Audio Output

Built-in speaker, wireless or cabled headphones.

LCD Display

60 x 70mm with backlight.

Search Modes

All metal, discrimination.

Tones

Multi-tones selectable.

Weight

1350gm with Raptor coil, 1050gm with Blade coil.

Battery Life

Up to 20 hours with wireless, 30 hours on speaker.

Temperature Range

Operating ambient temperature: 32° to 95°F (0° to 35°C).

Non-operating temperature: -4° to 113°F (-20° to 45°C).

Handle Format

Ergonomic with anti-slip dotted pattern surface.

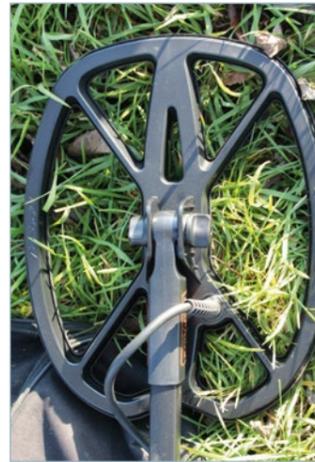


Fig.22. 11 x 9.5 inch Raptor coil as supplied to us with the Q40 model.

Armrest

Made of robust PP material, ergonomic design.

Ground Balance

Automatic or manual.

Metal Identification

99 Metal ID for target identification.

Summary

Well, Dave and I are of the opinion that both these detectors are quite simply amazing value for money. The build quality is superior to some machines costing much more. The lightweight three-part stem assembly, with its three good quality Cam-Locks enable each detector to be very suitable for tall, medium, short, young or old detectorists. I know that I keep returning to the build quality issue but I would most highly recommend that you check these detectors out to confirm this factor. We really couldn't find any fault with either product; well-priced, light, great performance and both achieving good results.

The Q20 model is supplied with quite basic headphones, but they work and if you wished to change or upgrade then that's a matter of personal preference. Based on our findings we would both highly recommend the Q20 as an ideal new-starter model and the Q40, whilst being suitable for a progressive new starter would also not be out of place as a back-up machine for the most seasoned of detectorists among us. As a final pointer, during the first test the landowner had a go with both machines, finding his first ever Georgian coin. He was so impressed that he told us he is seriously considering ordering four Q20s for his grandchildren.

TH

FIND IMPOSSIBLE

Q20 £229.95

- IP66 waterproof control box
- Turn on and ready to go
- 9.5x5" Blade™ TurboD™ coil
- USB rechargeable battery
- Fast release cam-lock
- Intuitive programing MENU
- Only 1.11kg unit weight
- Magic Grip™ anti-slip handle
- 13kHz VLF technology
- Lightning Recover Speed™
- 3 Preset detecting programs
- 10 Segments target I.D.

Q40 £399.95

- IP66 waterproof control box
- Wireless headphones(in box)
- 11x9.5" Raptor™ TurboD™ coil
- USB rechargeable Li battery
- LED backlight illuminates LCD
- Intuitive programing MENU
- Only 1.35kg unit weight
- 13kHz VLF technology
- Lightning Recover Speed™
- FeSen™ ferrous audio switch
- 3 Preset+2 customer programs
- 20 Segments target I.D.



QUEST
metal detectors

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