

Detector Field Test

C-Scope CS1M

David Drummond

Photos: Peter John Field



At the start of this year I bought myself a new detector. It was nothing fancy but just a model that I had seen advertised for a few months within this magazine. The machine in question, the CS1M is the starter unit in C-Scope's range of motion detectors. Unfortunately, I could not find any reports on the CS1M in the hobby press. These days all the attention seems to be on the more advanced and expensive detectors, while the cheaper and more basic detectors get neglected. I feel this is a shame as some of the more modest machines are capable of a good finds rate and represent excellent value for money.

I personally believe that anyone starting out in this hobby should do so with a simple and basic detector, before moving on to something more complicated and expensive. After being involved in this hobby for over 20 years, and having owned dozens of different detectors of all types, I have actually reverted back to using the cheaper models, of which the C-Scope CS1M is a good example.

I bought the CS1M as a back up to my principal detector, which is a non-motion TR type. At under £200, I thought the CS1M represented a wise purchase, and such proved to be the case.

Having made the purchase over the telephone, I eagerly awaited it to arrive by post. I was keyed up and ready to start using it for a number of reasons.

One was that I had a new site lined up that my research indicated might produce some good medieval finds. I also was keen to see how the CS1M would compare with my existing detector in terms of depth and performance.

Unfortunately, all of this was not to be. It was at this point of the year when the country was hit with the dreaded foot and mouth disease. As in many other areas, where I live in Scotland there has been almost a total shut down in terms of access to the countryside. If I wanted to go detecting, then my choice was limited to beaches or river foreshore. As a result of this my report on the CS1M, which should have taken only a few weeks to complete, has actually been delayed for a number of months.

Description

There have been no major changes to the look and styling of most of the C-Scope motion and non-motion range for the past ten years. In fact, the CS1M is very similar in appearance to the original CS2M and the present CS660

models (the latter of which I tested for the magazine some years ago).

Basically, the CS1M is made up of a two-piece stem in normal "S" configuration. Its compact control box is mounted above a black rubber foam handgrip, and there is a combined arm-cup and detector stand at the end of the upper stem. The 8in isocon waterproof search coil is hardwired into the control box on this basic model.

When putting the detector together for the first time, slide the lower stem into the upper one and tighten the cable around both stems by rotating the lower stem. Never over tighten the cable as this could damage the detector. You should always leave enough slack so that it is possible to tilt the search coil backwards and forwards without strain on the cable.

The battery compartment is located at the base of the control box, and the detector runs on two PP3 type 9-volt batteries.

The control box is grey in colour with the C-Scope logo on the sides, and the rest of the detector is in grey and

white. There are only two rotary controls on the control panel, as well as a standard quarter inch headphone socket and speaker.

Finally, the instruction manual takes the form of a very small and simple pocket leaflet, which is easy to follow and gives good clear guidance.

Controls

The control panel is very simple and, as stated, only has two rotary controls on it. The speaker is positioned centrally and the headphone socket is in the bottom right corner. You therefore have the option of using this detector with or without headphones. However, the use of headphones is certainly advisable as it allows you to pick up deeper and fainter signals. Also, if you are working on a beach or in a public area, you do not want to draw attention to yourself with noisy "bleeping".

The CS1M - like its predecessor the CS2M - uses two PP3 batteries. The use of a good pair of alkaline batteries is recommended, and these should give you between 15 and 20 hours running time. Rechargeable batteries can be used if desired but I find good batteries can be acquired reasonably cheaply from the "Nickel and Dime" type stores.

On the control panel one control is marked "Sensitivity" and this also serves as an On/Off switch. In most conditions sensitivity can be set to a high level. However, if you are working on heavily mineralised ground and experience false signals or "spitting" it may be necessary to turn the sensitivity to a lower setting.

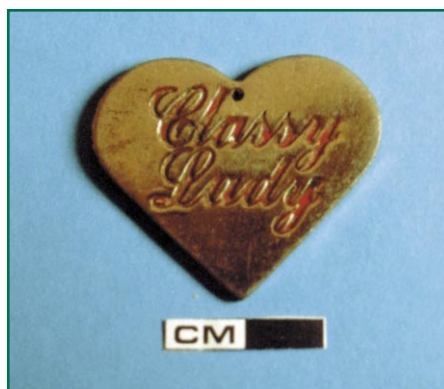
The other rotary control is marked "Disc" (short for "Discrimination"). This control allows you to set the amount of junk rejection you wish to use for any given site. There are two things to remember about this control. If you use too little discrimination you could be wasting a great deal of time locating and digging up unwanted junk. On the other hand, if you use too much discrimination you could be losing wanted targets such as cupro-nickel coins, thin section gold or silver rings, or small medieval hammered silver coins. If you are new to detecting, it is worth carrying out some experiments with this control using a variety of coins and items of jewellery. The control is marked in increments ranging from all metal to maximum discrimination. The instruction manual recommends that you start with a setting of "3" until you gain familiarity with the detector and then try other settings. With the con-



Rangers Football Club Pendant



Beach finds.



trol turned fully anti-clockwise the detector will do just as the marking suggests - pick up all metal including iron.

Field Appraisal

Although I have managed to get in quite a lot of search time with this machine, in terms of *field* appraisal my options have been very limited on inland sites due to the foot and mouth disease restrictions already mentioned. However, it was still possible to gain access to my local beach, and work commitments willing I have been trying to get out as much as possible. As a result I have been able to ascertain some of the CS1M's strengths and weaknesses.

There is nothing complicated about the CS1M, which is basically a simple "switch on and go" detector. When beach searching I use sensitivity set at between half and three quarters on the scale, and discrimination set at the three and a half mark. And that's all there is to it. There is no tuning involved as the detector keeps itself tuned automatically and is very stable.

At the discrimination setting mentioned some small nails and pieces of silver paper did manage to get through and give an audio response. However, these were quite weak-sounding signals compared to wanted targets. I found that coins, ring pulls, and large pieces of iron gave a much louder and stronger signal. Unfortunately, the same is the case with pieces of coke (ferrite oxide) that abound on my local beach. This beach also has its share of crown caps from bottles. This gave a rather muted type of tone that I eventually came to recognise. I didn't see the point in turning up the discrimination any further than "4" as I would lose some thin rings and possibly certain types of coins.

On my original setting I did find plenty of coins on my outings including 1ps, 2ps, and the tiny 5ps. I also noted that the CS1M isn't a particularly good wet sand machine (and, of course, has never been promoted as such). But it does work well on dry sand and is capable of very good depths. Some of the targets were at a depth of more than a foot, although many of these turned out to be buried aluminium beer cans.

My tests over a number of weeks showed the CS1M to be a good dry sand coinshooter. I found over £37 in loose change including 14 £1 coins, and my first ever £2 coin from this beach. Jewellery was not abundant but my finds comprised a silver ring, a somewhat battered gold wishbone ring, and a silver pendant with silver belcher

FIELD TEST



The "coppers" found during the test.



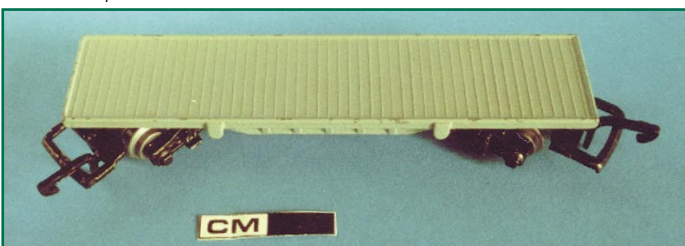
Cupro-nickel coins found during the test.

chain attached. The pendant is in the shape of the Scottish lion rampant with the letters "RFC" underneath. These do not stand for anything as exciting as the Royal Flying Corps, just the Rangers Football Club.

One oddball find I made with the CS1M remains a bit of a puzzle. I made the find on one of the sandy footpaths that lead onto the beach. A good sounding signal resulted in a tiny toy train wagon. I hadn't seen anything like this for over 30 years, for it was made by a company called Lone Star and was one of a series of toys called "Locos". This particular carriage was in near mint condition with its paint still intact. I remember these small toys very well with their tiny metal trains and metal railways. When I was a small boy my father used to bring me an engine or a carriage home every week. I suppose that if I still had them and their boxes today they would be worth a small fortune. Lone Star toys were the railway equivalent of the famous Matchbox cars. I don't know if the carriage I found is an original or a modern reproduction, but I would certainly like to find the rest of the set as these toys were beautifully made. Perhaps a reader would know if these toys have been re-released?

As a break from beach detecting I gave the CS1M an outing on a local river foreshore. My search didn't produce any coins, but it did prove that the detector is quite at home on this type of site. I retrieved about 40 targets that

The Lone Star carriage.
Is this a repro?



The £1 coins and £2 coin found.

had all given good-sounding signals. In the main the items recovered consisted of pieces of scrap copper, brass and lead, some shotgun cartridge ends, screws, and a number of tiny nuts. The finds that were nearest to coins were a number of old buttons, dating to the 19th or early 20th century. While searching the foreshore I didn't notice any performance problems; the detector just did everything it was meant to do.

The nearest I came to the conditions of an inland site were the overgrown grass playing fields of a old, recently-demolished school. I soon found that

Silver ring and gold wishbone ring



the fields - besides being full of humps and bumps - were full of building rubble that was concealed by the long grass. Nearly all of the site had been used as a dumping ground for all sorts of junk, and a lot of good sounding signals resulted in targets such as cut up aluminium cans, ring pulls and various nails, screws and bolts. Despite this hefty level of junk contamination I did manage to find around 16 coins, three of these being pre-decimal. The depths achieved were much as expected, the detector being capable of going down around 5-6in on coin-size targets and about double that depth on the pieces of aluminium cans.

In early August I was invited to search a field used to grow berries. The field was on the slope of a very steep hill but at one time was within viewing distance of a burn and ancient mill. I had made a search of this site in the past and knew that some hammered pennies had been found on it.

My friend and I hoped that we might find a couple more on this occasion, so we set about going up and down the berry rows. Our detectors started to register plenty of signals most of which resulted in pieces of scrap copper alloy and lead. The C-Scope coped very well despite some problems with the scree covering the soil surface, and made a large number of finds. In the main these were scrap pieces of copper alloy and lead, but some more familiar pieces came up including buttons, coins, a lead seal, and a musket ball.

By the end of the search we had not realised our hopes of finding



hammered silver, but we did find a silver coin each. My own find was a Jubilee Head Victorian threepence that I ended up giving to the landowners as a thank you for letting us search their field. The other two coins I found were a worn halfpenny of George III and a worn Scottish bawbee. Depths varied to between 4-5in on coin size targets, and as much as double that on some of the bigger pieces of scrap or iron.

David Drummond on the beach with his C-Scope CS1M



Conclusion

The C-Scope CS1M offers all-round simplicity and anyone should be able to master the basics of using this detector in a matter of minutes. As it is fully automatic it can adjust to almost any type of ground condition, but as with most motion machines was not at its best on wet sand. I found its sensitivity to be above average with good depths achieved in particular on the dry sand. The CS1M is also good at registering the smaller targets with a good signal.

I feel that this detector should be particularly effective in situations where you are specifically hunting for coins. The type of terrain - whether it be field, woodland, park or beach - shouldn't be a problem.

My only gripe has to do with the way the batteries are installed. I would prefer to see the wires and clips being replaced by simple drop in pods.

As a "starter" model in the C-Scope motion range the CS1M is an ideal detector for a beginner, and a good "all round" performer.

Specifications

Model: C-Scope CS1M

Type: Motion, variable discrimination

Manufacturer: C-Scope International Limited, Kingsnorth Technology Park, Wotton Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 6LN. (Tel: 01233 629181 Fax: 01233 645897)

Batteries: Two PP3s (alkaline or rechargeables recommended)

Battery Life: 15 to 20 hours with alkalines.

Search Coil: 8in waterproof isocon type, hardwired

Price: £179.90 (inc VAT)

Guarantee: Two years.