

Field Test Report

Deteknix Scuba Tector



Since originally starting in detecting, when I was in my late teens, I have been totally immersed in it. I've been involved in almost every aspect of it, from land to beach, both in the UK and abroad. Presently I run weekly digs in Scotland, so I am always surrounded with something that concerns detecting.

I will admit that these days it does take a pretty impressive find to give me a buzz when out with my mates or on digs, I guess experience can foster complacency. I go out most days for a laugh and a wind up with my mates, and generally have a great time. I also enjoy seeing others make good finds.

About four years ago, for reasons unknown to me, I suddenly got the urge to take up scuba diving. It had never even crossed my mind that one day I would be linking this with detecting.

Fast forward a few years and I am now qualified as a PADI Scuba Diving Instructor (Master Scuba Diver Trainer). I also run my own company teaching scuba diving as well as making time to organise my detecting digs.

Scuba diving has got a grip on me like detecting. I just love being in the water. What has really got my blood pumping with enthusiasm again is the potential for the combination of both hobbies by detecting under water.

For a year now I have been researching sites and doing test dives, and when I come out of the water and think of what I have seen I am utterly buzzing in the same way I was during my first 20 years

of detecting. I was asked by *Treasure Hunting* magazine recently if I would like to test the new Deteknix Scuba Tector. I was absolutely delighted to do so – how could I not be? This product combined my two passions of diving and detecting!

Currently I am teamed up with a very experienced detectorist named Bobby who has been dedicated to the hobby of detecting since the 1970s. Despite having achieved and experienced most things that the hobby can offer, he is not a diver; however, he is a very keen beach detectorist.

He has many tales of the finds and situations he has experienced over the years and loves to tell us all about them (many times!). Bobby recently told us about the day when he was at a loch that he had previously researched and discovered had been very popular in Victorian times as a wading and swimming area. Therefore he and his pals at the time headed out to this very promising site.

Back then he had recently sold one of his mates, Patrick, a Fisher 1266 detector as he did not have one at the time. The area they were going to search was a narrow strip of beach about 100 metres long and only some 4 metres wide.

Bobby informed me that they were getting a lot of Victorian silver coinage and that his pal Patrick had even found two gold sovereigns with Bobby's old detector. As I have found to my dismay over the years when you get a good site on land or sea you either lose it due to some physical reason or other, or it gets poached by other detectorists circling like

vultures at the smell of a good find. My personal tip to beginners is that if you make good finds always keep their locations to yourself and the local museum. It protects the site and stops the landowner getting pestered. I apologise for the digression, but it is an important part of this account.

The good site they mention was finally to go the same way, and they were going to lose it. This was due to the loch getting flooded to raise the level and so the little beach strip would be lost. Bobby informed me they had resorted to putting on waders to detect it, but it was too hard to retrieve the finds due to the depth of the cold and stone ridden bottom. Fast forward some 20 years and now I intended going to this very same site.

I picked Bobby up and we headed out to the 'lost beach' with my scuba gear neatly packed along with the Scuba Tector. I was not sure what to expect from it, but was very excited at the prospect of testing its capabilities. If it proved to be no good I would still get a dive in anyway.

I suited up and had a bit of a climb down in to the loch, but finally managed it without a problem. I always get a good buzz going onto a new field and get the same excitement when going into a new dive site, especially now as I was going to detect it. In fact, I am anxious to get back out there, even as I type this! So in I went and got settled. It was not long before I spotted the hard packed stones Bobby had mentioned, along with several discarded bottles lying about. I will also say that I had put the Scuba Tector in diving mode, which is fully explained in the instructions.

I am not one for reciting the whole manual when doing a field test, preferring to focus on the performance and build quality while also including any handy usage tips I discover. It was not



long before I was hitting targets which included iron fragments, big bolts, nuts and batteries, so I headed out a little further and things quietened down considerably. Shortly afterwards I soon hit upon my first old penny.

Yes, as I said before, I felt like I had just started up detecting again and as if I was out on a new field. I then thought "Now if I am getting coins going back to the early 1900s here, there is every chance that any artefacts will go back to a similar date."

I was settled in and felt very comfortable and relaxed with the Scuba Tector, it was silent with no chatter etc.

I also felt very confident in its ability to find the desired targets.

Every couple of sweeps I found more coins as well as other non-ferrous and ferrous items. After an hour or so I had only used 100 bar, which is half my tank capacity, so it was time for tea and a quick sandwich.

After my break I headed back into the water and this time only concentrated my efforts on smaller signals. By this I mean you place the head of the detector to the left and slowly pass it over the target to the right in a normal sweep until the beep stops; it takes no more than 5 seconds. Larger items take considerably longer to stop beeping, so over time you begin to get a good idea of the target size even before you locate it. On this particular site a scoop wasn't necessary; you just

need to wave your hand to move the top stones or sandy deposits. I also carried a small screwdriver with which to force out any stones that were stuck fast.

It is important as a diver to keep an eye on your air and be a certified solo diver if diving alone. But it is always better to detect with a buddy as diving can be dangerous; always plan your dive and any emergency procedures that might be required.

Make sure you are not diving in an area that has a lot of boat activity because being so shallow you are much nearer to the propellers. Also, please only carry out this activity if you have been properly trained by a qualified professional.

I had used up my one tank quota for that day, and also my battery was nearly exhausted after two hours of busy use. So all in all 'Bobby's cove' had been a very good experimental dive.

Product Conclusions

- The product is manufactured to a very high standard.
- It is both a deep and very sensitive piece of equipment.
- The Scuba Tector can be charged by USB.
- Both vibrate and light functions are very useful.
- It has an attachment for your BCD.
- One factor to consider, though, is that when let go underwater the product is positively buoyant; however, this

is easily remedied with any variety of suitable non-metallic weights.

Technical Specifications

- Ribbed and ergonomic body design.
- Easy to use two button controls.
- Lost alarm.
- Lanyard attachment loop.
- Depth usage of 200 feet (60 metres) in salt or freshwater.
- Length 42cm, width 10cm and height 6cm.
- Battery, built in 3.7 volt Li-Poly type.
- Pulse Induction method.
- 95kHz operating frequency.
- Target indication is via audio/vibration LED beam lights.
- Two control modes Snorkel Dive (0-8m) and Dive Mode (8-60m).

You can have so much fun with this detector using it in rivers, streams and lakes; it could easily be used as a probe on land too. I hope you have enjoyed this in-water field test as much as I have enjoyed using the detector. I have now a brand new passion which is underwater detecting and feel in this new pursuit that I have many many years of new thrilling experiences ahead of me.

Follow me on @toddysdigs on social media and I have also made a video relating to this field test that will be on my YouTube channel after this test has been published in *Treasure Hunting* magazine. TH