Product Review

AccuPoint Pinpointer *from Nokta*

by Adrian Gayler

Fig.1. The Nokta AccuPoint.

Last year I heard that Nokta, who already have their Pointer and Pulse Dive models, were in the process of developing a new pinpointer. At that time no specific details such as name, colour, or features had been disclosed, only a tentative release date of 2023. Then, in April of this year, during an interview with Dilek Gonulay for *Treasure Hunting* magazine, I caught a sneak peek of this upcoming pinpointer, now known as the 'AccuPoint' (Fig.1).

I was immediately drawn to its vibrant yellow colour, which I found practical for easy spotting in the field or in case the lanyard snaps. While many pinpointers emit beeps when left on, visual cues are undoubtedly just as important in many cases. After the interview, I learned that it also boasted a colour screen and a removable tip, but it wasn't until the official launch of the AccuPoint that I got a comprehensive look at its features. At this year's Detectival, Nokta announced the AccuPoint alongside the addition of two new detectors to the range, the Score and Double Score, soon to be released. The AccuPoint was getting a lot of interest from those attending the event from the BETA sample on the Nokta stand. The specifications certainly seemed impressive:

Specifications of the AccuPoint

Operating Frequency: 20kHz.
Operating Principle: VLF.
Sensitivity: 9 levels adjustable.
Waterproof: IP68 (up to 3 m./10 ft).
Screen: Colour LCD.
Metal Detection: Audio, Vibration and Audio and Vibration Alert.
Frequency Shift: Yes.
Discrimination: Yes.
Bluetooth: Yes.
Backlight: Yes.
LED Flashlight: Yes.
Volume Control: Yes.
Lost Alarm: Yes.
Auto Shut-Off: Yes.
Coil Interference Blocking: Yes.
Battery: 1650mAh Lithium Polymer rechargeable.
Battery Life: Up to 25 hours.
Charging Cable: USB Type-C.
Dimensions: 24.7cm x 3.8cm x 3.8cm (9.7'' x 1.5'' x 1.5'').
Detection Tip: 9cm (3.5'').
Weight: 217gr (7.65oz).
Working Temperature: -20°C/+50°C.

Fig.2. AccuPoint box contents including spare 'O' ring seal and tip.

Nokta announced they would be assigning a handful of the AccuPoints to those who signed up as part of their BETA testing programme – a great way to research a product by actually offering it to users in our hobby who would use it in a variety of soil and beach types as well as with different detectors. Towards the end of September, along with 80 others I received the AccuPoint (Fig.2) and was pleased to see it was exactly the same as the one I had handled at Detectival. Still yellow, along with all the features shown, as well as a spare 'O' ring for the battery compartment, spare tip, lanyard, USB C charging lead and a Nokta holder.

I highly recommend getting a pinpointer that synchronises with your machine. Why? Well, the simplest reason being no more having to cake your headphones in mud when removing them to listen to your pinpointer to

Fig.3. The AccuPoint screen and single button after pairing to headphones.

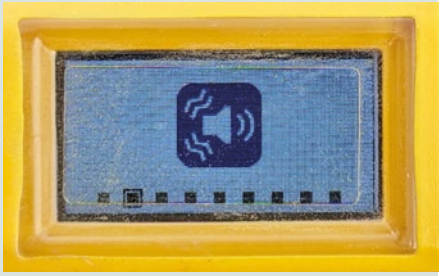
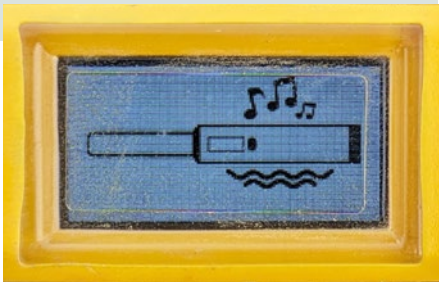


Fig.4. An example of the on-screen actions to adjust the sound / vibration using the one button push function on the AccuPoint.



find the target. Secondly, with the headphones on, you block out any interference from wind or rain giving a clearer definition of the target. Also, if detecting in a group you do not attract attention from other detectorists when they hear your pinpointer going off as you embarrassingly uncover a crushed 1978 Panda Pops can from 12 inches down.

The AccuPoint Controls

Initially when I first picked up the AccuPoint at Detectival and saw just one button which is the on / off and options (Fig.3) I was very intrigued how it would work navigating between the different menu options on the screen. I have many pinpointers and often forget the key combinations to make changes to any of the features, so having a screen was going to be a game changer. The AccuPoint is very simple to operate: to turn it on you just need a quick depress of the button and once you hear a single beep, the AccuPoint is ready and connected to your headphones if synchronised. To access all the features, you simply hold down the same button and wait until the indicator bar slides to the right of the screen to the cog icon. Here you are then presented with the following options:

Sensitivity This consists of 9 steps, with 7 being the default – by pressing the single button you can increase or decrease in single steps. I found between 6-7 being ideal for me.

Sound and Vibration Here you can have the option of either sound, sound and vibration or just vibration.

Modes and Discrimination You have the option of choosing up to 3 different search modes: 1 Tone, where the AccuPoint uses the same tone for all ferrous and non-ferrous metals; 2 Tone, where the AccuPoint discriminates between iron and non-ferrous metals (the iron tone is a slightly more delayed tone to the normal non-ferrous signal but very noticeable. I found you needed to get very close to the small iron for the AccuPoint to notice this – a piece of plough however would be identified within 2-3cm); Finally, Iron off, where the AccuPoint alerts you to only non-ferrous metals and is recommended for highly mineralised soil or wet sand.

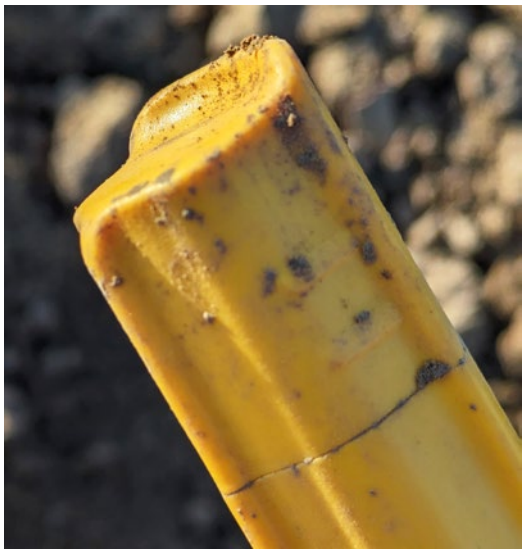


Fig.5. The AccuPoint protective and replaceable tip.

Bluetooth The AccuPoint can be paired with the machine's headphones or, according to Nokta, any other headphones which use the same Bluetooth low-latency technology. You also have the ability here to change the connection from just your headphones to both headphones and the machines speaker.

Frequency Shift If you have any interference from overhead cables, electric fences etc, here you can change to one of 3 different frequencies. I only used this once in the time I tested the AccuPoint but found it fixed the problem straight away.

LED Light As the features states, this is where you can turn on 2 x LED lights when the AccuPoint is turned on for nighttime detecting.

Volume The AccuPoint comes with two volume levels 'Low' and 'High'. If using the headphones this is not that relevant, but I did find that for me

Fig.6. I found the curved tip was more than a gimmick in helping towards digging targets out of the soil.

Fig.7. Testing out the ferrous tone on the AccuPoint.

personally, the 'LOW' was too quiet and the 'HIGH' was a bit too loud – but this is only a very minor point.

Backlight There are two levels for the colour LCD screen, 'Bright' (i.e. high) and 'Low'. The backlight lasts for 20 seconds then cuts off if the AccuPoint is not being used. I found the 'Low' more than useable even in dark situations.

Factory Reset By depressing the main function button for 2 seconds, the AccuPoint is reset, back to its factory default settings, removing any of your changes.

To make any changes to any of the above options you just hold down the main button for two seconds when at the option you wish to adjust, then make the relevant changes which are also saved when you turn the AccuPoint off – a very simple and yet intuitive interface which you can pick up in minutes (Fig.4). In summary, a short press to turn the AccuPoint on/off and long press to access the options above.

Additional Features

Lost Alarm The AccuPoint will alert you if left on for over five minutes by emitting an audible alert along with flashing LEDs.

Battery Indicator Displaying the amount of power left from the internal rechargeable battery (25 hours estimated use)

Replaceable Tip Protector This is designed to protect the AccuPoint's tip but also due to its unique design (Fig.5). I found it useful in removing certain objects out of the ground, especially coins stuck in wet clay and a much better option that using a metal trowel or spade to prevent scratching.

Performance in the Field

After quickly reviewing the straightforward instructions for the AccuPoint, I set out the following day accompanied by a selection of the most popular detectors on the market, including the Nokta Legend which synchronises with the AccuPoint's headphones. Initially, despite having read the instructions, I attempted to connect the AccuPoint to the Legend, as one would with the headphones. However, despite my attempts, it simply would not establish a connection. Recognizing that this was a BETA pinpointer, I grew frustrated, wondering if there was an issue with either my machine or the AccuPoint itself. In a bid to resolve the issue, I performed a factory re-set on both the AccuPoint and the Legend. Surely, I thought, this would do the trick. Unfortunately, it still refused to connect to the headphones. I removed my muddy glove and promptly sent an email to Dilek at Nokta.

The day was cold but dry, with the sun shining and I anticipated being out detecting for at least eight hours. I was eager to see how the AccuPoint, coupled with the headphones, would perform. In the meantime, I continued detecting with other machines to gauge if the AccuPoint caused any interference when used alongside them. After a couple of hours, I received a reply from Dilek. It dawned on me, in my eagerness to get started, that I had overlooked the crucial step of synchronising the headphones with the AccuPoint, rather than with the actual detector, as outlined in the email instructions. I sheepishly realised that these instructions were also provided in the manual! Within minutes, everything was successfully synchronised and in working order.

Throughout the day, each time I activated the AccuPoint with just one press from my thumb on the button behind the display, it connected instantly to the headphones. Once connected, the AccuPoint automatically disconnects the Legend's coil's transmission, preventing any interference which worked a treat. With a quick depress once finished, the coil reconnects to the headphones in milliseconds. Being a BETA version, I did get a digitised voice from the headphones telling me it had disconnected from the AccuPoint two or three times. This was quickly resolved via a Legend software update from Nokta (System Software V1.13 (2023.10.16)). This update is needed if you purchase the AccuPoint with the Legend.

Finding the Smallest of Targets

Apart from that minor niggle which has now been rectified, the AccuPoint just worked all day long without any problems in both connecting and finding the smallest of targets. One such target was a .177 air rifle pellet which, in times past, would have been an impressive item for a detector to pick

Fig.8. Although waterproof up to 3 metres, the AccuPoint easily handled over an hour submerged in a stream.

up. With the new, evolving multi-frequency technologies that we are now seeing from manufacturers, our machines are homing in on the smallest of targets which at times can be like looking for a needle in a haystack.

I experienced this after a very faint tone and no VDI reading on the Legend. I dug down three inches and waved the AccuPoint around in the damp soil. After sweeping the AccuPoint horizontally over the soil, the 360º detection area which ranges from the end of the LED near the display to the end tip located on the AccuPoint, located the .177 pellet in seconds. Not that the average detectorist is looking for air rifle pellets every weekend, but this shows the power of the AccuPoint in doing what it should, 'pinpointing' targets.

An example of this was with a small hammered I unearthed. Digging a plug six inches deep, I placed the AccuPoint in the hole and obtained a very fast bleep from the sidewall (Fig.6). Based on pinpointers I have used in the past, I thought the target would literally be millimetres from the sidewall, but it was in fact over an inch into it. Possibly the fact that the AccuPoint runs at 20kHz, while many of the competition run at 11-12kHz could be one of the reasons for this?

The same applied to larger targets like old pennies – it seemed to detect deeper into the clod on many occasions. I did also test the AccuPoint against iron – when it was 1-2 inches from the target, it emitted the ferrous tone which is a slower beep to the non-ferrous sound (Fig.7). The larger the object, the more accurate this was, but on small nails or similar you pretty much need to be less than an inch away for this to work, by which time you have dug the hole anyway – but it's a nice feature.

I did try the AccuPoint out on some highly mineralised soil on one of my permissions where it can be a challenge for both the detector and pinpointer alike. This is the only time I encountered erratic bleeping from the AccuPoint when in the field, even after turning the sensitivity right down. However, it was quickly rectified by holding the tip to the ground when turning on the AccuPoint. This, I presume, performs some kind of calibration to allow for the soil type – naturally a slight loss in depth was noticed, but better that than a noisy and erratic pointer throughout the day. I have yet to try the AccuPoint on the beach with wet sand where the above no doubt will apply.

Underwater Alarm

However, I did one day leave the AccuPoint turned on in a fast-flowing stream for over an hour while I carried on detecting, just to see if it had any issues with its IP rating (Fig.8). When I went back, the strength of the flow after recent heavy rain had caused the AccuPoint to come loose from the gravel bed where I had lodged it and it had disappeared! I was highly concerned I had lost it like a complete idiot, but fortunately for me, one feature on this pinpointer saved the day. The AccuPoint continues its lost alarm and flashing LEDs (Fig.9), until the battery is flat. Luckily, I heard this sound coming from downstream where the pinpointer had got caught

Fig.9. The twin LEDs on the AccuPoint provide a very powerful beam.

Fig.10. The 25-hour built-in USB-C chargeable battery and audio booster.

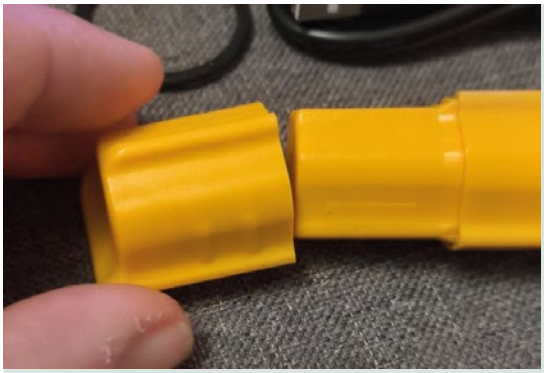


Fig.11. A spare tip for the AccuPoint is provided along with 'O' seal ring.

Fig.12. The AccuPoint has great distance even without full sensitivity selected.

up with some logs creating a temporary dam. The battery life had dropped two bars leaving only one bar, but it happily continued to work fine for another four hours of detecting.

With regards to battery life, firstly the AccuPoint is rechargeable using a USB-C connection, which is the same as my phone and many other devices, so charging at home or in the car is a breeze as I always have one of these leads laying around if I forget the one supplied (Fig.10). Nokta state that the battery lasts up to 25 hours. Naturally, the ambient temperature outside will affect the battery life, however, 25 hours is a very long time considering you probably have it on for an average of 1-2 minutes when digging a target. I have so far managed over 50 hours of detecting and only had to charge it once due to leaving it on and nearly losing it in the stream. Not having to worry about carrying spare batteries will be a bonus, as long as you remember to charge it alongside your machine.

Overall Impression

I have now had the AccuPoint for a couple of months and I like a lot of things about it. Firstly, synchronising with the headphones on my Legend is a huge bonus – especially with the winter coming I can keep my ears warm and mud off my Nokta Low Latency headphones. The colour yellow (which could get the AccuPoint known as the 'Nokta (ba)Nana' stands out easily if left unattended in the field, alongside the lost alarm. Also, the removable protective tip which at first I thought was a gimmick based on the slight lip at the top, but actually I found to be a very handy little tool when unearthing coins (Fig.11). Whether these may come loose and need replacing, only time will tell, but mine is fine at the moment and a spare is supplied.

The heavily protected double layer Perspex screen and interface are not necessarily groundbreaking but being able to physically see your settings I like a lot. The rubberised one button function is so simple to use and has a wide area for your thumb to press. Finally, the AccuPoint really does have some distance when trying to find your target, either above the surface or within the ground. I never used full sensitivity, as level 6 or 7 proved to be more than enough.

I did carry out an air test next to other pinpointers and the AccuPoint fared extremely well from all angles (Fig.12). However, I tend not to put too much store in these, as how it performs in the field is more interesting than how it works on your kitchen table.

AccuPoint is not the cheapest Pinpointer out there, but you do get good construction and lots of features for your money and it will more than suffice for any detectorist's need in the field. Well done Nokta on a very well thought out and well-designed pinpointer and a great addition to their growing range (Fig.13). The AccuPoint is compatible wirelessly with the following Nokta Detectors: Simplex BT, Simplex ULTRA, Legend and Score.

Fig.13. A rugged pinpointer with great features and performance.