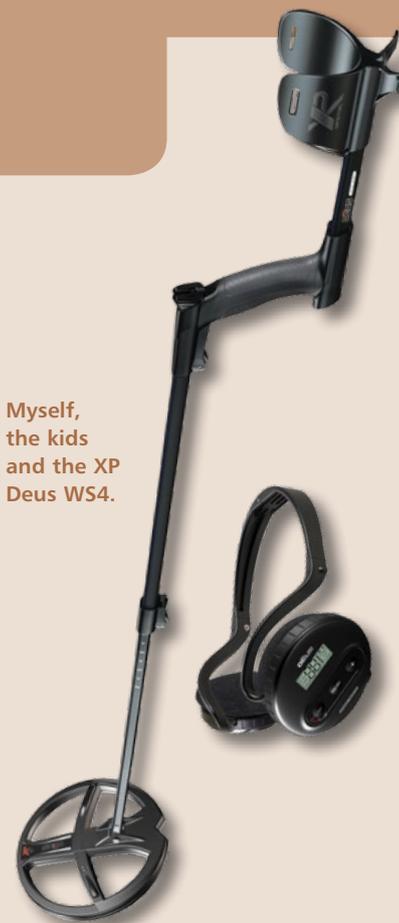


Tell Us Your Story

My XP Deus WS4



Myself,
the kids
and the XP
Deus WS4.



Although I knew deep down that my mind was made up about purchasing a metal detector, I still continued with my homework for several weeks. I realised this quest must stop, however, because I had reached a point where I found myself dreaming about metal detecting and looking for detectorists in fields, to question them about their favourite machines.

One evening I was thumbing through a magazine while Sue my wife was watching the soaps on television. She asked if I had any more thoughts about metal detecting. I replied with a sigh, while turning another page of *Treasure Hunting* magazine "I don't know, it's a lot of money to buy a detector. What if I don't like it?" I could feel her staring at me, and I looked up knowing it was going to be that oh so familiar face, a very slow side to side head shake I have seen many times before. I saw it recently when I put the milk in the bin and the rubbish in the fridge, and then when I locked us both out of the car.

"Just buy it!" she said, "if you want it buy it! Stop being an old woman. Tell you what, if you pay half the family will all chip in the rest and get you one for Christmas." Fantastic, I thought, not a mention about the golf clubs that were

sitting in the garage having only been used twice. So the big day came and went, and I was the new owner of a Deus WS4, plus a pinpoint probe and a coin identification book.

As you get older, some things become harder to understand – like instructions. But having watched several XP videos with terminology comparable to the manual, I soon became confident and was able to make some simple adjustments. I remember watching one video, where the presenter said that repetition is the key to learning the Deus menu, and he was absolutely right. Keep doing the same task over and over again and it becomes very familiar.

I was desperate to get out into the field and put my new skills through their paces. My first permission was from a neighbour, who owns some woods and a small paddock at the back of my house.

My First Outing

So off I went in the rain with my hand trowel and the Deus. After some frantic digging I realised there was much more to metal detecting than I had originally thought. I found my whole technique needed a lot of work, very much like that golf swing I never mastered; that is not to mention cutting all my knuckles on the flint while I was using the small trowel.

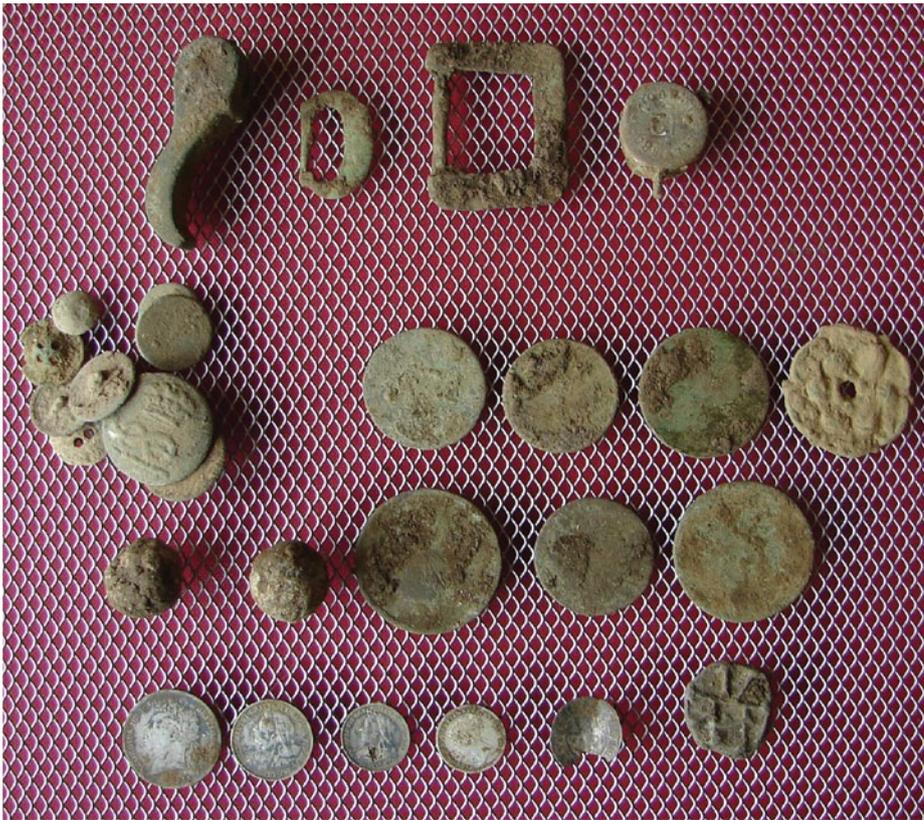
I started making adjustments to the sensitivity and tone settings, but after a short time I had no idea which program I was using and what I had adjusted. My confidence was quickly deflated, it was just too much. The rain had soaked through my coat and I returned home feeling totally beaten.

After my horrific first outing I spent the rest of the Christmas break practising in my garden. I concentrated on sweep speed, pinpointing, and target recovery, this time all at my own pace. It wasn't long, before my realising it, that everything started to become second nature. It was evident that I was over complicating things, and trying to learn the inner workings of the Deus in just a few days.

My first and biggest mistake was trying to adjust something that did not require adjusting. There are 10 factory preset programs within the menu, so why the heck was I trying to make my own custom adjustments on my first outing?

When I purchased the Deus the fact that it was a manipulative detector really appealed to me, but you have to know what you are doing. The recommendation was to use program 1 as this was an ideal introduction to the Deus. Now received and understood!

My second outing, (or as I like to call it my first real outing) was back to the



General finds made over the last six weeks.

Close-up of button finds.



woods using factory program 1. I have to say the whole experience was much more relaxed; I felt in control and was actually enjoying myself.

My very first target was a 1805 sixpence, and I had found some real history at last! Was this a sign of things to come? Seven shotgun cartridge cases later, a mud-covered Victorian penny showed itself after its long sleep. I remember saying to myself, as tried to clean the dirt from it, what a fantastic hobby I had just taken up. In addition, my new long handled spade made digging very much easier.

As I was admiring my finds I heard voices and a clatter of metal. It was my wife and kids on their bikes...oh happy days!

They stood around as I detected, and I felt like a prize bull being paraded at a cattle market. My son then asked if he could have a go. I replied "Not really Jack, these things require technical knowledge and a lot of concentration." My wife then butted in and said "Just let him have a go – you are being an old woman!" I hear that a lot these days.

I shortened the stem and reluctantly handed over the machine and headphones. I suggested we walked through the gate into the paddock, as the digging would be easier for a youngster. To my

surprise Jack's coil swinging technique was far better than mine; I felt a mixture of pride and jealousy.

It wasn't long before he stopped and looked up. "Dad, dad I've got something!" I dug a small hole and recovered a large nail. "Never mind son," I said, "keep trying!"

However, as I went over to show my other son Max the nail, there was another shout "Dad, dad, there's still something here!" Jack was swinging the machine over the same hole. I dug down a little deeper to find a beautiful Georgian shilling. That was another lesson learned – always check your holes.

After that two buckles and an artefact that looked like a gun trigger came up in the same area.

Not long afterwards, of course, my wife decided to try her luck. She recovered two penny-shaped coins and a tiny silver Victoria coin with 3d on the back.

I must say the pinpointter really earned its money – it made finding targets very much easier. A friend of one of my boys had a birthday party that afternoon, so under protest they had to go home.

I continued searching the paddock and to hone my skills. Several more targets appeared including another threepence, a sixpence, two lead musket balls, some buttons, and a lead coin or

token. I also recovered a very thin coin, which I have now identified as a medieval hammered penny.

Suffice to say we are all now hooked on this fantastic hobby. What was initially intended as a pastime for dad has now become a family event.

So returning back to the Deus WS4, what are my thoughts after six weeks?

I am no expert, and having never used any other machine I have nothing to compare it against,

but something inside tells me that I have made the right decision. The XP Deus just feels right, and has more than enough adjustments. The 10 factory installed programs can be called up with a simple press of a button. So far I have not felt the need to assign custom settings, but I will experiment now I am feeling more confident.

Is it worth the money? You bet! I have no regrets, and in fact I may very soon be looking for another XP machine, possibly an ADX 150, for the boys to share.

Summing up the Deus

One of the good things about the Deus is you can just turn on and go rather easily! So if you are a beginner looking to get a machine, this one won't challenge you too much (unless you want it to). The Deus is super light, the battery lasts for ages on just one charge, and the back up and support available is second to none. I am proud to be a member of the XP family and would suggest that if you are sitting on the fence then jump; there's nothing to fear.

I absolutely love the Deus and hope I will be using it for years to come.

I said earlier that I had no regrets, but that is not quite true. My one regret is that I didn't take up this wonderful hobby years ago!

TH