

Field Test

NOKTA LEGEND 2

By Adrian Gayler



Can you believe it was way back in 2021 when Nokta pulled the covers off the Legend with a global live launch across YouTube and Facebook? It certainly made a bit of noise at the time. Unlike the previous release, the Simplex+, this wasn't aimed at the entry-level crowd. The Legend was clearly pitched at the more serious detectorist, but with a price tag that immediately grabbed attention. It felt like a big step up from the original Simplex+. On first impressions, I liked the look of it: sleek, all in black, compact. I was trying to work out where it sat against the competition. With prices starting around £599, it was hard to ignore, and you couldn't help but wonder if Nokta were about to shake things up a bit.

Launch of the Legend 2

At last year's Detectival, Dilek Gonulay, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Nokta Global, called me over to her stand early on the Friday afternoon. I had already seen pictures of the new Legend 2, but was I finally going to see it in the flesh? Smiling like a Cheshire cat, Dilek quietly said, "Adrian, come and look at this" (Fig.1). We sat down and one of the Nokta technicians handed me the new Legend 2. I could see Dilek watching my face to see my expression. "Well," she said, "what do you think?" The first thing I noticed straight away was that it was lighter, a lot more compact and had a bigger screen, basically the same detector after a strong coffee, a firmware glow-up and a bit of time in the gym. Dilek kindly let me take the demo machine out the back of the marquee for a while to have a play with the new navigation screen and tones (Fig.2).

After an amazing, hyped introduction the following Saturday night, with T-shirt blasters firing Nokta merchandise into the crowd, Dilek announced the machine would be available.... soon. A little frustrating for some who either wanted to upgrade from their current Legend or were looking to purchase the



Fig.1. Me with Dilek with the new Legend 2 during Detectival 2025.



Fig.2. Having a play with the machine prior to launch.

Nokta Legend vs Legend 2 Specifications

FEATURES	NOKTA LEGEND	NOKTA LEGEND 2
Technology	Simultaneous Multi-Frequency	Improved Simultaneous Multi-Frequency
Frequencies	4, 10, 15, 20, 40 kHz	4, 10, 15, 20, 40 kHz
Target ID Scale	60 ID scale	Expanded 99 ID scale
Ferro Check	Yes	Yes Improved
Search Modes	Park, Field, Beach, Gold	Park, Field, Beach, Gold + Relic mode
EMI Channels	13 Channels	19 Channels (better stability)
Audio	Multiple tones (limited)	Expanded audio (up to 7 tone options + harmonic tones.)
Waterproof	IP68 (up to ~3-5m)	IP68 (up to ~3-5m)
Weight	1.4 kg	1.2 kg
Battery	5050 mAh	6700 mAh 30% Extra runtime - 5-6 hours charging time.
Headphones	aptX low latency wireless	Improved aptX low latency wireless + ability to use bone conducting headphones.
Software updates	Via USB/Computer	Via USB/Computer & Mobile phone
Screen	Square	Rectangular (Larger)
Pinpointer	Yes - No ID when pinpointing	Yes - ID when pinpointing
Coils	LG30 12"x9" (LG30)	LD28 (11" / 28 cm) + LD21 DD Coil (8" x 5.5" / 21 x 14 cm)
Ergonomics	Telescopic shaft	Full carbon fibre shaft and Improved shaft and locks
Price	£679.00 WHP Pack	£995.00



Fig.3. The NOKTA backpack with more pockets than a snooker hall.

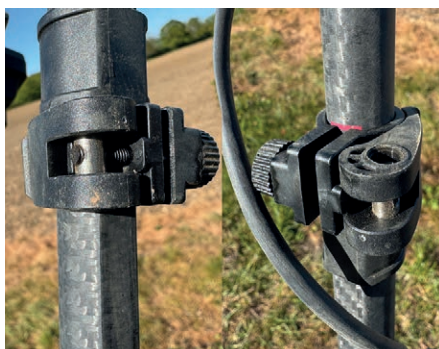


Fig.4. The 'D'-shaped 'no spin' shaft with red limit markings.



Fig.5. Me with all the gear no idea, getting wet on the beach.

machine immediately. However, I know for a fact Dilek is a perfectionist and did not want the machine launched until it was just right. Ok, it might still have a few software updates, but that felt like a sensible choice.

The Legend 2's Arrival

The machine arrived with me in late November 2025 and came supplied with two coils: the LD28 11" DD and the smaller LD21 8" x 5.5" DD, giving a nice bit of flexibility straight out of the box. It also included a rather impressive Nokta backpack which, at the time of writing, is being offered free with the machine, more on that later (Fig.3).

Assembly took less than five minutes, and one of the first things that stood out were the cam-locks. Solid, positive, and reassuringly firm, they feel among the best currently available, holding everything securely in place with no wobble or fuss. The complete carbon fibre shaft has clear red markings to ensure you do not overextend it, helping prevent wobble issues. And the icing on the cake for me is the 'D'-shaped shaft. Such a simple solution, but it stops the dreaded OCD in me from constantly noticing the shaft twisting and putting the coil off-centre (Fig.4).

The machine also comes with an easily adjustable arm cup via a latch system. This was a little stiff at first, but after changing it a few times for my son it loosened up nicely. My son currently uses the original Legend as his go-to machine, more about why later.

Signal Strong, Socks Not So Much

With the horrendous weather we had this winter in my neck of the woods, I was desperate to get out, but most of my permissions are heavy wet clay and were completely flooded during the early part of the year. This forced me out of my comfort zone and onto the beach for the Legend 2's first outing. I headed up to Norfolk in January to a mainly shingle-and-sand mix beach. It was cold, windy and deserted, the perfect time to detect without answering the usual questions we get asked as detectorists. I initially opted for the larger of the two coils and headed along the edge of the swash, much to the amusement of my daughter who was watching from a safe, dry distance, no doubt wondering how long it would take before I either found something decent or got completely soaked again (Fig.5).

The wind was cutting straight through me, the kind that makes your eyes water and your hands question why you didn't bring gloves. But the beach itself looked promising: patchy shingle giving way to firmer sand, with the odd dip and trough that always catches your eye. Running along the edge of the swash with the machine set to 'Beach Mode Wet-Multi', I kept the coil low and steady, listening carefully as the machine settled in. Straight away it felt stable, even with the sensitivity set to 23. A few early signals turned out to be the usual suspects, bits of foil and the odd corroded fragment, but it didn't take long before a faint, yet repeating tone stopped me in my tracks. It sounded shallow, so I scraped back the sand and shingle with my boot and reached for the Nokta AccuPoint. Only then did I realise I hadn't paired it to the headphones, a simple job with the Legend 2 and a real bonus once done. Without it, the pinpointing might as well be a car alarm, happily announcing your find to anyone within earshot (Fig.6). At around three inches down I spotted a very small gold single ear stud, probably lost by someone during the summer months. I was quite impressed because although it gave a faint VDI, the 2-tone program still produced a clean, positive tone.

Despite the cold, wind and soggy feet (I definitely should have taken my wellies), the machine settled in quickly on the wet sand and felt stable and easy to use from

the off. A few early bits of rubbish were to be expected, but it wasn't long before the cleaner, repeating tones started coming through, giving confidence that there was more to be had with a bit of patience. What stood out most was how effortless it felt, no constant tweaking and no fighting the machine. By the end of the session, I'd picked up a handful of modern coins and plenty of trash, which you would expect, but apart from the gold ear stud I also recovered a lovely little silver chain, possibly from a young child or even a baby (Fig.7).

First Day Out in the Field

As the weather improved over the coming weeks, I headed out onto one of my permissions with the Legend 2 early on a Friday morning and again all day Saturday. Brushing sand off the coil and still finding it in my boots, I parked up next to what my detecting buddy and I call the 'Gold Stater Field'. I won't explain why we call it that, hopefully you can work it out for yourselves. The field had been ploughed and was lumpy in places, but thankfully drier than it had been in recent weeks. A ploughed field throws everything at a detector: mixed soil, moisture, iron and mineralisation, all of which this field had in abundance.

The amount of information the machine has to process can really put the electronics to the test. Coming from the original Legend, I found the Legend 2 interface fairly easy to pick up. However, Nokta have introduced a new 'Quick Settings Menu' (Fig.8). Here you can access the most commonly used features whilst detecting, such as sensitivity, frequency, discrimination patterns, recovery speed and bottle-cap rejection. Additional options are available in Beach and Relic modes as well. You can also mute the machine by holding the same button down with a long press. This is clearly Nokta listening to feedback from original Legend users and is a really welcome addition when trying to operate buttons wearing muddy winter gloves. I like this feature a lot, although it would be nice if the menu could be customised, but that's me just being picky.

I connected the supplied Bluetooth aptX Low Latency headphones with no issues, but you're not limited to using just those. If you do decide to use third-party wireless headphones, make

sure they support aptX Low Latency. Standard Bluetooth headphones or earbuds will work, but you may notice a slight delay. I ran the machine in Field Mode using the standard discrimination pattern rejecting IDs 1–21. For anyone new to detecting, this is a natural starting point and a good 'turn on and go' setup.

By default, the machine runs on M1 in Field Mode, one of three multi-frequency options: M1, M2 and M3 (Fig.9). These aren't separate frequencies in the traditional sense, but different ways the detector blends and weights multiple frequencies at the same time. Nokta, much like other manufacturers, don't publish the exact breakdown, but in simple terms:

M1 = General all-round detecting.

M2 = More sensitive to smaller or lower conductive targets.

M3 = Better suited to mineralised ground and wet conditions.

On my original Legend, I tend to favour M2 with a discrimination pattern around 6. It does make the machine a little livelier, but it really helps pull out weaker or smaller targets that can otherwise be missed.

The machine is only slightly lighter than the older model, but it felt solid and very comfortable swinging away in the field. The portrait-style rectangular screen is also much easier to visualise target IDs and depth compared to the older square display. However, when drilling down into the deeper menu settings, some of the icons are still quite small for those of

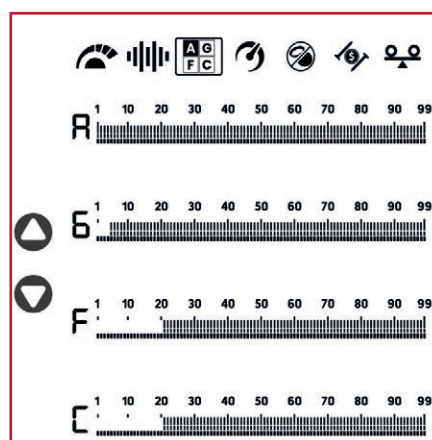


Fig.9. The Quick Settings Menu and discrimination patterns.



Fig.6. A small gold stud cheered me up.



Fig.7. A nice little silver chain, possibly once belonging to a child.



Fig.8. The new Quick Settings menu.



Fig.10. The original legend and new Legend 2 screens with my attempt to improve the old machines keys.

us who now need reading glasses. I did find myself lifting the machine closer to my face a few times.

The biggest improvement is the keypad. It feels far more modern and is much easier to see than the original Legend's buttons, which tended to blend into the control box, hence my own previous attempt at filling the icons in with a white permanent marker (Fig.10). You can buy an aftermarket cover from Nokta which highlights the buttons better, although this appeared after I had already attempted my own 'custom modifications'. The Legend 2 also

came supplied with a screen protector, although I applied my own protective film. It's basically a scratch-resistant UV-filter film designed for cars, available cheaply on Amazon or eBay. It removes cleanly without leaving sticky residue and I now use it on all my detectors. You'll probably spot it in some of the control box photographs.

Beginning to work over the recently ploughed field, the machine was running slightly sparky at the default sensitivity of 25, so I dropped it back to 23. The audio on the Legend 2 was one

of the first upgrades I noticed properly in the field. Compared to the original machine, the tones feel cleaner and much more refined, giving just that little extra bit of detail through the headphones. I kept things simple with the standard two-tone setup initially, with plans to experiment with the higher tone options later in the day, which now go all the way up to 99 tones. You can also adjust tone breaks, pitch, and volume to suit both your hearing and the site conditions.

In use, the audio felt easier to interpret. Better targets tended to stand out with a more rounded and confident sound, while the iffier targets, such as lead, carried a slight grunt within the tone. As the day went on, I dug a wide range of targets ranging from lead fragments, buttons, and buckles to a few bent thimbles and even an old washing-line pulley. However, after digging the pulley and carefully filling the hole back in, I naturally swept the coil back over the area, as you do. Right on the outer edge of the hole, I picked up another three or four targets, all within inches of each other. Intrigued, I cut a much wider hole and eventually went down around 12 inches deep. Dipping the AccuPoint into the bottom of the hole, I quickly located the first target, a 1938 George VI penny sitting right at the base (Fig.11). But the surprises didn't stop there. Not one, not two, but four more George VI coins followed, all recovered from the same tightly packed area. I had found a hoard, admittedly not one of major significance, but I still spent the rest of the afternoon wondering whether a child had dropped



Fig.11. A George VI penny dated 1938 at over 12 inches depth.



Fig.12. A few decent finds plus my coin hoard.

them while running across the field, or whether a farmer had lost them whilst making a tactical retreat to the bushes for a nature break (Fig.12).

Silver Saturday

After a good few hours out with the Legend on Friday, I headed out again the following day onto a different field where I regularly find a mix of medieval and Roman material. I switched the machine to M2 in Field Mode with the discrimination pattern set to 6, exactly how I run my original Legend. It was definitely noisier, but I was happy with that if it meant squeezing out a few extra targets. By this point I had used the Legend 2 for around 7–8 hours with the wireless headphones and the battery display had not even dropped a single bar. More importantly, the machine still felt very comfortable to swing.

As I worked my way around the edge of the field, the ground became heavily iron infested, no doubt from old farming machinery or signs of earlier settlement. Pulling off my Nokta backpack, I decided it was time to switch over to the smaller LD21 DD coil, hoping it would improve target separation in the iron. The backpack itself deserves a quick mention. I could easily fit the collapsed Legend 2, two coils, my jacket, pinpointer and even my collapsible spade and lunch inside it. It has so many pockets that if you lost a Roman coin in there you probably wouldn't find it again until Christmas. It even comes with a small 'DetectoBag', which I used for my phone, keys and odds and ends. If you can get hold of one of the current deals offering the free backpack with the Legend 2, I'd highly recommend it.

Changing coils on the Legend 2 is refreshingly simple and not fiddly at all. It took less than two minutes to swap over thanks to the well-engineered screw connector, and overall everything felt robust and well designed. On this heavily contaminated ground, after switching between Park and Field modes in M3, I found myself favouring Field Mode. The machine felt noticeably sharper through the iron, pulling non-ferrous targets from amongst the junk with impressive separation and recovery speed.

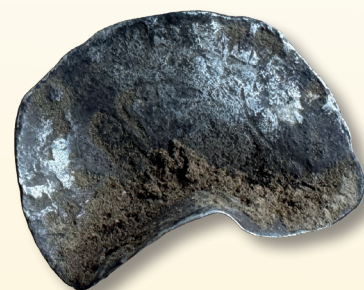
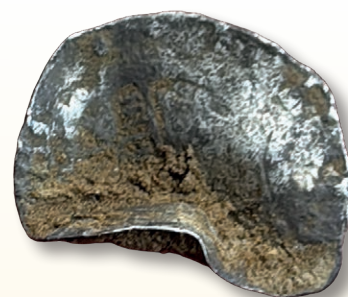
I compared it directly against the orig-

inal Legend and although they are not a million miles apart, the Legend 2 was definitely the stronger performer. This was proven by the first of two silver coins I found within the hour. The target gave a VDI reading of 43–45 on the Legend 2, while fluctuating between 34–45 on the original Legend fitted with its smaller LG24 coil. The tone on the Legend 2 was a much stronger and cleaner two-way hit, whereas the original Legend struggled slightly.

About eight inches down, sitting neatly in the centre of the hole, was a lovely, welcome, but rather battered silver hammered coin (Figs.13a & b). I continued thrashing my way through the iron-infested edge of the field and, after an hour or so learning the faint grunt of lead and digging plenty of it, I received another very clear two-way tone reading 48–49 on the Legend 2. Only four inches down was a lovely dark-patinated Long Cross hammered coin, most likely dating to the reigns of Edward I–III (Figs.14a & b). At that point, I was more than happy and extremely impressed with the audio quality through the Bluetooth headphones, which had remained completely stable over the previous two days without a single dropout or reconnection issue.

Software Updates in the Field

After two full days using the Legend 2 both on the beach and inland, I honestly struggled to find anything that the average detectorist would seriously complain about. While retaining the core strengths of the original Legend, the Legend 2 feels less like a simple replacement and more like a faster, more refined evolution. It offers noticeably improved ferrous discrimination, superior Beach Mode stability and a more rugged yet lighter overall feel thanks to the carbon fibre shaft. In a strange way, I almost hoped Nokta would release an update while I was out detecting. Why? Because this is the first Nokta machine that allows software updates directly via your mobile phone while out in the field. It's not an entirely new idea, Rutus already offer this on some of their newer machines, but it's still a fantastic feature and far easier than messing around with cables back at home. At the time of writing, no field update had become available yet, but once it does, I can see it being genuinely useful.



Figs.13a & b. Obverse and reverse of an unidentified hammered coin.



Figs.14a & b. Obverse and reverse of an Edward (I–III), hammered Long Cross penny.



Figs. 15a & b. Obverses and reverses of four Roman coins. Clockwise from bottom left, antoninianus of Claudius II Gothicus, antoninianus of Postumus, nummus of Constantine, and a commemorative winged victory type nummus of Constantinopolis.



Fig. 16. A much improved, compact, and lighter machine.

One thing worth noting is that, like most detectors now, you no longer receive a printed manual in the box. I found this out the hard way whilst trying to download the manual on my phone at the beach with barely any signal. It took nearly ten minutes to download the rather chunky 12MB file. So before heading out, I'd strongly recommend downloading it at home first, because there will always be one button or setting you suddenly need to look up halfway through a muddy field.

At Home with Romans

One thing, and it may just be luck, is that I found the Legend 2 particularly impressive on my Roman sites, which are typically packed with iron contamination, lead fragments, and centuries of occupation debris. Using the LD21 coil especially, the machine performed exceptionally well and has pulled out some really nice Roman coins over the past couple of months (Figs. 15a & b). I did still dig some very deep iron in places, but that is mostly me experimenting with target IDs and tones. Like most detectors, it can still fool you occasionally.

Nokta have come a long way in the last five years and, from what I hear, they are not stopping there, with new

single-frequency machines and further developments already underway. Plus, with the recent launch of their Pulse Induction machine, they certainly seem to be keeping themselves busy. I found the Simultaneous Multi-Frequency stable and reliable but I also found the single-frequency options, which are often forgotten, had benefits on certain targets in the right conditions.

The Legend 2 is a funny one because I genuinely expected it to be an improvement over the original Legend, but it actually goes beyond that. It's still very much part of the original Legend family, yet out in the field it genuinely feels like a different machine altogether. Advertised as being more powerful than the original Legend, with improved target separation, an expanded 0–99 ID scale and steadier performance in iron-infested ground, I found it helped sniff out the better targets amongst the rubbish with far more confidence. Depth gains are only slightly improved, but the cleaner audio, more stable deep target IDs and smoother overall feel make it a noticeable step forward from the original machine.