Field Test Report
Minelab Go-Find 60

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The Minelab Go-Find 60.

The Minelab Go-Find 60 LCD screen.

In recent months Minelab Electronics has introduced a new series of entry-level metal detectors. This is their first approach to a more inexpensive range of models that has been lacking for beginners to this hobby from this popular – but normally expensive – brand. These all come in at under the £300 mark but include some fantastic qualities and features that you would only normally associate with more expensive detectors. They also include a feature that has never been seen before on such models.

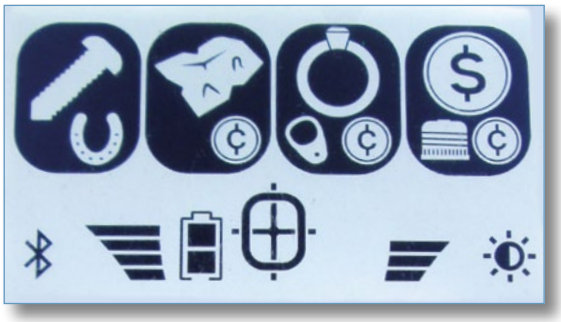
There are three models in the Go-Find series: the 20, 40, and the 60. The detector being reviewed here is the 60, which is at the top of this particular range.

Description

Minelab Go-Find models are all similar in appearance and have the ability to collapse down and fold in on themselves, making them compact enough to fit into a small holdall or rucksack. When collapsed they measure only 21.9 inches, when fully extended they are 51.4 inches. The detectors are made entirely of heavy duty durable plastic, and have a colour scheme of grey, white, and red.

The three models in the range are packed with operating features. For the first time some also add a new dimension to metal detecting with a Blue-tooth connection to the 40 and 60. This works hand in hand with mobile phones that have a GPS facility. The Go-Find Basic app or Pro app can be downloaded from Google Play.

These apps, when working with the Go-Find 40 or 60, can be set to the country of the world where you are searching and can display information such as the coinage expected. Using GPS they can monitor where you are detecting, and help plot finds. They can also be set to your preferred alert tones via Pitch or Customised tones (Ding, Woosh, Truck Horn, Siren etc.).



Back light screen shot showing Find Mode settings.

You can even set the app to listen to music while you are detecting. When a target is hit the music will be interrupted by one of the aforementioned Customised tones you have set. The app will display likely coin targets you have found (especially on beaches) and provide this information on your mobile phone as well.

Operating Functions

All the operating functions are carried out by a finger sensitive touch pad and LCD screen positioned at the end of the detector's handle. The battery housing is positioned underneath, behind a clip door, which holds the 4 AA alkaline batteries.

On the left hand side of the handle is the small black On/Off switch that turns the detector on or off. Next to this is the eighth inch headphone socket, which is used for the preferred Ear Bud type phones for the 60.

The Minelab Go-Find 60 comes with Ear Buds, an arm holster for your mobile phone and a small digging trowel. There is also a built-in speaker located under

Battery housing.

the LCD Screen, which means the detector can be used without the aid of headphones

Assembly

When you take the Go-Find 60 out of its packing case for the first time it is already in its collapsed and compact state. There is no assembly needed as everything is already assembled for you. The 10 inch waterproof search coil is hardwired to the machine and doesn't come off; all that you do is lock the handle into place by pressing the red circular locking button from either side and letting it click into place.

Next you extend the middle stem by releasing the red locking catch and pulling the stem gently out to the length you require. The bottom stem doesn't have a catch and can be pulled out manually; finally you pull out the upper arm stem, which is concealed within the upper middle stem, and then you are ready to start.

The arm cup has a Velcro fastener to help keep your arm in place and prevent dropping the detector. The upper stem has its own small detector stand, which can be used when putting the machine down.

Control Panel

The control panel for the Minelab Go-Find 60 is positioned at the end of the handle and is made up of a small LCD Screen with a number of screen touch control buttons. Above the screen to the top is a series of LED lights above the Go-Find logo.

The touch control buttons are positioned just below the screen:-

Blue-tooth
Top left hand corner which can be turned On and Off
Sensitivity
Icon symbol placed in the middle and + to the top, - to the bottom
Pinpoint
In the middle bottom, and above find mode button
Find Mode
Magnifying glass symbol button positioned above the Pinpoint button
Volume
Icon symbol with + to the top and - to the bottom
Back-light
Top right corner

Other shown Icons shown on-screen include:-

Find Icons
Top of the LCD for discrimination setting that are a series of picture driven icons that show discrimination and target content.
Battery Level
A two segment battery icon that clears as the batteries exhaust.
Depth
This is a small bar gauge consisting of three inverted bars. When you receive a target one of the

Handle lock button.

On/Off button and headphone socket.

Coin from the pea field.

The pea field.

bars showing on screen will mean the target is shallow, two bars medium depth, and three means deep.

Other information on screen will be the Sensitivity you set (between 1 and 5) bars, and Volume.

The LEDs positioned above the LCD Screen are called the Treasure View LEDs. The function of these are to act as additional guides to what you are finding before you dig; for instance, they will light up when a metal target is detected in a series of colours.

Red: indicates an iron object (or possibly trash)
Green: indicates a non-iron object (possibly treasure)
Orange: indicates Pinpoint for all metal objects

The LEDs illuminate from left to right with the Pinpoint turned off.

The LEDs illuminate towards the centre as the search is in motion and closer to the metal target, with the Pinpoint on.

Turning the detector on is very straightforward and even the younger member of the family will have no problem setting the detector up ready for searching in a matter of seconds.

The On/Off switch is on the side of the LCD Screen, on the left of the headphone socket. You just push the button to turn the detector on; it will temporarily beep when you do so. You can then set Find Mode by pressing the magnifying glass icon button. This will, via each press, turn off any of the given Find Mode icons. For instance, the first one shows a nail and horseshoe; this when turned off will reject Nails and Iron.

Leave all the Find Mode Icons on and you are working in All-Metal; however, because you have Tone Identification as well (four different ones for the Go-Find 60), you can still operate and know whether to dig a likely target.

Field & Beach Appraisal

I first saw the Go-Find models on the Internet and watched a lot of YouTube videos before one arrived for me to have a look at. I was very surprised at watching some of the American users getting results time and time again. This included one detectorist who went over one of his sites that had been well searched before and, using the Go-Find 60, ended up digging quite a bit of missed material including a lot of coins.

The model arrived in July, which in my area was this year's worst month so far for rain, causing lots of localised flooding; on top of that most fields were still under crop, with only a number of silage and pea fields available to search.

The silage fields that we had a look at proved to be fairly barren of any real history, but the Go-Find 60 did find the odd coin at very good depths exceeding the 5 inch mark. However, it was on the pea field that the Go-Find seemed most at home. It was easy to search the field, having set the stems to the right size for me. The lightweight nature of the machine was perfect and even though the detector is plastic based, this didn't cause any problems.

Using the Go-Find with all Find Icons left On, I could still easily differentiate good targets from the bad through the tone identification and the LED lights; sensitivity was put on to the fourth bar and targets were easily found using the superb quality of the Pinpoint function. This squeals in a high pitched tone the closer you are over a target.

It should be pointed out that the Go-Find is a motion-based detector. This means that the search coil has to be in constant movement to register a target, and the signal will cease when the coil is held stationary over it.

My initial search, lasting for a couple of hours, produced some old coins and three lead flax seals; these came through as High Tones and Mid Tones. Some larger pieces of iron sounded on the edge of Mid Tone, but this generally appeared to be down to the shape and nature of the iron, some pieces being ring shaped with holes.

During a Monday evening in July I met up with a friend Dominique and her husband Alan on a local beach. The aim was to show Dominique the correct way to use a metal detector and what all the functions did on the Go-Find's control panel.

Finds from the pea field.

Clod shot of seal in the pea field.

After a brief demonstration Dominique was off; no sooner had she taken a few steps when she received a good high-toned signal. The depth gauge showed the object to be quite shallow, and by pressing the Pinpoint button and going over the target she easily located it.

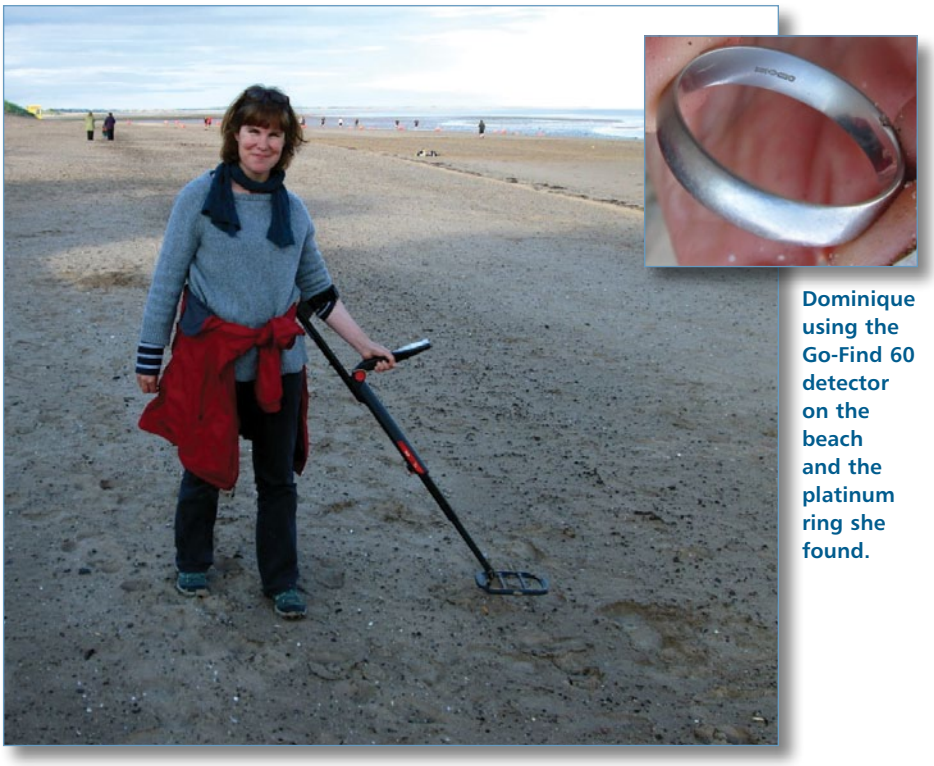
Sifting the sand with her fingers she retrieved a ring. She brought it over to show me, and it appeared to be a silver or white gold gent's wedding band. Using my compact camera I took some photos of Dominique, and some close ups of the ring itself.

On the inside, I thought the marking was 925, which would have made the ring silver. It wasn't until I returned home and was reviewing the photos I had taken on my computer that I noticed the marking was in actual fact 950. This meant that rather than being made of silver or white gold, the ring was platinum – one of the most expensive and precious metals known.

The value of the ring would buy at least three Go-Find detectors, and Dominique had recovered it with her first ever signal! She has handed the ring in to the local police, and if it's not claimed she may get it back.

A few days later I went back to the same beach on my own to test out the Go-Find's performance. It found 15 coins quite easily, and worked well on the dry and damp sand. It did suffer some interference on the soaking wet sand right at the water's edge. However, the sensitivity can be turned down to three bars and the detector will still work well.

The Go-Find 60 was only on loan to me, and on the final Sunday before I needed to return it, I took it along to a local dig with some other detectorists. We were again searching on one of the first stubble fields to become available this season. The detector worked well in these conditions, finding both buttons and coins. The latter included my first silver coin found with the Go-Find 60, a silver sixpence of William III recovered at a depth of 5 inches.



Dominique using the Go-Find 60 detector on the beach and the platinum ring she found.

William III sixpence unearthed in the stubble fields.

Summing Up

Although this detector is intended as an inexpensive entry level model – and some have said for the younger detectorists – I have no qualms in saying that veteran older users (such as myself) will like the handling and performance of the Go-Find 60 as well.

It offers ease of use, good discrimination, great depth, and a fantastic pinpoint facility. It is a machine that I think will be talked about for some time to come.

As mentioned earlier, this particular model was only on loan to me for testing and I didn't get the opportunity to try out the Go-Find Smart phone app. However, I intend to buy a Go-Find 60 for myself in the near future. I will then try the Go-Find Smart app and carry out a continuation report for fellow readers.

The only faults I came across with this detector were few. One was using the 'ear buds' that come supplied, where the cable can get snagged in bad, windy weather and be pulled from the ears. I prefer my own specialist headphone but the adapter (quarter to eighth inch) that I have didn't want to go all the way into the detector's headphone socket. Finally, the lower stem doesn't have a lock catch as is the case with the upper one, and sometimes when searching it can slide back in on itself.

Battery life during testing was very good. On six outings, and around 30 hours of detecting, I was still going strong on the original set of batteries supplied. TH