

XP MI-6 Pinpoint Probe Review

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At a first glance the XP MI-6 looks like any normal pinpointer, it's only when you start to dig deeper (pardon the pun) that you begin to realise that this is something rather special. The MI-6 should perhaps have been called the '007 probe' as it is rather like something from James Bond's box of tricks.

Let's skip the part about looking sexy and cut to the chase, as I am sure you want to hear about the important points rather than waffle, and as I am sure you will agree the photos say it all.

What's in the Box?

With the MI-6 probe comes a charging lead, a lanyard with stainless steel rings, a manual and a rotating probe pouch, which is a very good idea. As we all know when a probe is on your belt it can be very uncomfortable especially when bending down to retrieve a target. The MI-6 probe holster can be rotated through 360 degrees on a ratchet system until a suitable position is found. During testing I also found this system to be a big advantage when mounted onto a rucksack or webbing as the probe can be positioned perfectly to suit.

The probe is charged via a micro USB plug and takes about three hours to reach full capacity. It's okay to use the XP Deus charger if you wish, but you may want to consider an independent plug if you intend charging four items at once: Deus RC, headphones, coil, and probe, at this moment in time the Deus charging lead only has three outlets. A USB phone charge plug will work fine. Once charged the LED will turn from flashing to solid. At the end of the MI-6 is a rubber sealed water proof cap which when unscrewed reveals the USB charging socket.

Switching On and Usage

The quality of this probe is second to none, and it is plain to see a lot of research and development has gone into this product. The push button has a reassuring click when pressed and is moulded into the rubber grip, which is a part of the overall structure. The MI-6 has seven built in programs that are accessed by a sequence of button presses. Non Deus owners can still use the MI-6 as a conventional probe by selecting



Fig.1. The MI-6 with moulded grip and integrated push button.

programs 1 to 6 from the factory settings; Program 7 unlocks the Deus radio link and when combined with version 4, the witchcraft really starts to happen. I will cover more of this later.

When you turn on the MI-6, the LED will flash between one and three times this is a battery level indicator: one flash is a low battery, three flashes indicate a fully charged battery; the flashes have a very fast sequence.

The overall battery life will increase or decrease depending on which features are selected. For example, the LED and vibrate mode will shorten the battery life considerably. Ten hours does not sound that long, but you need to be aware that 10 hours of continuous use is a long time for a probe.

The LED will flash lightly when the probe is switched off so there will be a

Function	Battery life
VIBRATE	30 H
AUDIO	30 H
AUDIO + VIBRATE	20 H
LED + VIBRATE	10 H
LED + AUDIO + VIBRATE	10 H
PROGRAM 7	90 H

Fig.2. MI-6 expected battery life.

small amount of battery consumption over a period of time.

At this stage I feel it is worth mentioning two very important MI-6 button functions, they both sound similar, but have very different roles.

1. Turn on and hold With the probe switched OFF, press button down to turn on and keep the button pressed.

2. Press and hold With the probe turned ON, press and hold while the probe is already switched on.

Programs 1 to 7

Access the program menu by turning the probe on, then press and hold the button until you hear a melody, then quickly press the button again; you will hear a tone raising in pitch as you continue to press the button.

For example Program 1 will require one press and have a low tone, Program 6 will require six presses and have a higher tone. Once you have selected your desired program wait a few seconds and the probe will bleep telling you it has reverted back to the search mode.

Fig.3. MI-6 program choices 1 to 7 (number 7 is the Deus radio link).

Programs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 (DEUS)
Vibrate	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF
Buzzer	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
Sensitivity	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	ADJUSTABLE VIA DEUS
Pitch	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF

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Factory Programs

Basically the six factory programs have the option of three power levels, low (P1) medium (P2), high (P3).

Programs 4-5 and 6, have the same three power levels with no audio, low (P4) medium (P5) high (P6).

When the MI-6 is turned on for the first time it will default to Program 2 (Audio + power level 2).

This is the suggested power level for general use, any adjustments made after this point will be stored when turned off.

LED/Sound/Vibration On or Off – Programs 1-6

With the probe switched off, turn on press and hold for three seconds until you hear a melody, then quickly press once for Pitch/Pulse, twice for LED on/off and three times for Vibration on/off.

Note: You need to be fast as the probe very quickly returns to the search mode.

Pairing Your Probe with the Deus

This is a very simple task, but first of all you must download Version 4. Make sure you have made a note of your saved programs because they will be lost during the update!

Make sure all items are fully charged, you have a good Internet connection and also that your headphones are turned off.

Pairing part 1

From your Deus select – Configuration – Option – Pin pointers – Pairing.

Pairing part 2

I found the easiest way is to select Program 7 and then turn the probe off.

Now turn on and hold the probe button for 8 seconds, after a short while the screen will show your serial number and indicate the probe is now paired to your device.

Turn the probe off and then on and you will see it now communicates seamlessly with the Deus.

Note: When Program 7 is selected the probe will have no speaker sound or vibration.

Once paired, the Deus will remember the MI-6, if at any point you wish to revert back to using Programs 1 to 6 and your pairing (7) will not be lost.

Once your MI-6 is paired it will open up a whole new experience, and something never achieved before in the metal detecting world.

MI-6 + Program Number 7 + Deus Probe Screen

The probe screen is only activated when the probe is switched on; apart from showing a target zoom screen it also allows the operator to access a custom menu and further fast adjustments can be made such as: 50 levels of sensitivity, pitch or pulse, tone adjustments (pulse mode), three pre-set programs plus one user program and a battery level indicator.



Fig.4. Select pinpointers from the menu.

Fig.5. Then select pairing.



Fig.6. Wait for the on screen instructions.

Fig.7. Press and hold pressure pad for around 8 seconds to finalise the pairing procedure.



The XP Anti-Interference System

When you turn on the MI-6 the Deus coil turns off and when the MI-6 is off the Deus coil wakes up; this is a fantastic idea and completely eliminates EMI from the two devices.

The MI-6 in the Field

Let's be sensible here: we all know a probe only has one job to do: switch on, locate a target, switch off. Job done until the next time.

A question many will ask is, "How deep is it?" I can honestly say it is deep enough, and sure you can make it jump through hoops when air testing by turning the sensitivity levels right up; but then there is no soil in the equation. As with all metal detectors you can only use as much power as the soil and electrical conditions will allow.

What Does the MI-6 Offer in the Field?

Going back to the soil scenario, the MI-6



Fig.8. The Deus MI-6 target zoom screen, additional menu and battery display.

can be re-tuned or de-tuned by quickly pressing the button while in contact with the soil, in the air or directly on the target. This method of de-tuning will make target location quick and easy.

For example a large target will signal on every edge of the hole due to its size; by quickly pressing the button once the target sound will be shrunk (de-tuned).

This process can be carried out several times in succession to make target location more precise, which in turn leads to much less soil disturbance and reduces the risk of damage to what may be a very important find.

Target Audio

There are two audio options available – Pitch or Pulse. Pulse is the conventional series of bleeps found on most probes and ideal for noisy environments. Pitch is the real feather in the MI-6 cap. It is a little quieter than Pulse because it has a VCO response. The intensity of the sound and audio pitch increase as you get closer to the target – it's fast and simple and a real pleasure to use. You won't appreciate how efficient Pitch mode is until you try it. Like me, I am sure you will quickly be converted. It may be worth noting that both modes have exactly the same depth performance.

If you leave the MI-6 switched on, it will power down after 5 minutes and this brings me to another jewel in the XP crown Research Mode.

If you lose your MI-6 in the field, or even in the house, you can whistle it up by using the research mode, Option – Pin pointers – Research on your Deus controller. Simply hit Research and your probe will switch itself on and start beeping up to 25 metres away. The research mode will last as long as the probe has battery power, so it can potentially still be found after several weeks.

In the Water With the MI-6

I have been told the MI-6 will work up to a depth of 6 metres and it also floats; this is something that will appeal to both divers and river hunters. TH



Fig.9. The Mi-6 will work with any Deus coil providing Version 4 is downloaded.

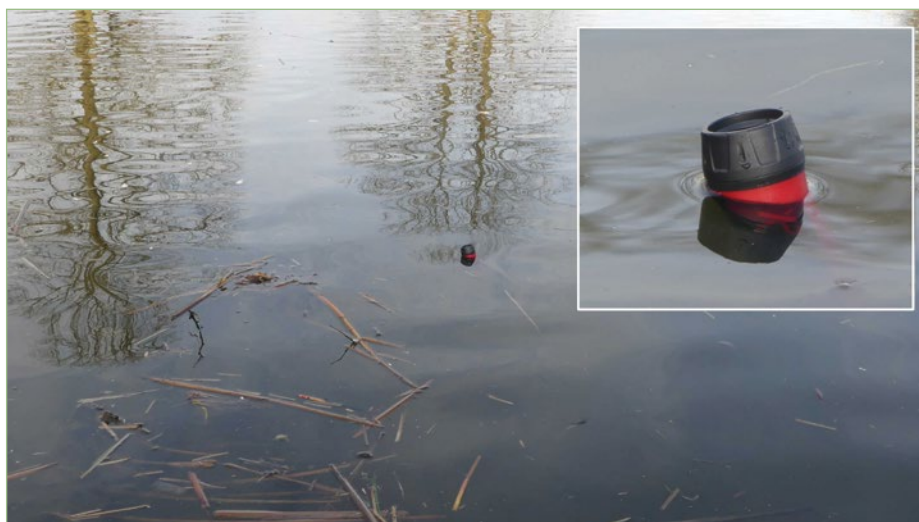


Fig.10. The MI-6 floats top up, it has a waterproof seal inside the cap, which can be unscrewed for charging.