

# Product Report



## Deteknix Xpointer

Up to a few years ago pinpointers were a rarity and not many detector enthusiasts were lucky enough to own one. Now, almost every detector user I meet has at least one pinpointer in their arsenal.

The newest addition to the market is the Deteknix Xpointer, being distributed in the UK and throughout the Republic of Ireland by Detectorbits. This business is run by the well known Dorset personality Tony Hunt who is one of the founding members of one of the best known detecting forums in the world: Minelabowners.com

The above is not to be confused with the long-established Detecnicks from W. Sussex; this new product is in no way connected with them.

So, what does this new Xpointer offer over several other look-alike pinpointing devices already being offered for sale?

For starters, it operates on the Pulse Induction (PI) system and is therefore impervious to false signalling from the ground and wet sand. This in itself stands it apart from the competition.

The pricing of the Xpointer is fairly competitive at £64.95 including a 9 volt PP3 battery and Freepost to anywhere in the UK. For the Republic of Ireland it is an additional £4.50

Shipped in a solid box, it is offered in standard black, yellow, grey, orange and camo. So be sure to specify which colour is required.

Build quality is good, par

for the course really, but don't expect the lanyard to last more than kissing time! It's cheap. So, if you do use the probe tethered to you make sure it is secured with something stronger than the supplied one.

I found the screw cap to be troublesome and it would not form a perfect fit instead leaving a small gap on one half of the seal. I eventually removed the glued in stopper inside the cap, re-positioned it and then it closed properly.

I would also recommend using a new alkaline battery to begin with and not one taken from another device.

The instruction leaflet (a single page) is illustrated and concise, and explains the levels of sensitivity and vibration modes.

### How Well Does It Work?

My answer to that is "Very nicely, thank you!"

I received the probe around the same time as two new detector models for testing, so it was a fairly thorough process that I apply to trialling anything new. After a few outings I dispensed with the use of two other main brand pinpointers that I had always used before.

It's always interesting to note if any interference occurs between both a detector and a pinpointer. To date, in the case of five main brands of detectors used with the Xpointer, none has been noted.

The first testing of the Xpointer was at a new site with a new detector model.

It was a well shaded wooded area and popular with walkers, runners, dog owners and all of that. So I was using headphones with the detector and the Xpointer was set to vibrate only. I was a bit hesitant in trying this at first but after several targets that were located quickly and, I could feel the vibration through my glove, any doubts were banished. It was a winning combination because it meant I could work away in silence and not bother anyone with annoying beeping from either device. One of my other pinpointers won't allow that as it beeps and vibrates at the same time. So a bonus point goes to Xpointer. I also tested it with thicker leather working gloves and had no concerns about the "engine" as I could feel the vibrations quite well.

The vibrations are stronger when holding the device mid-way along the shaft with fingers on the search probe, but holding it by the handle is perfectly adequate. Just don't

block the speaker as the overall volume isn't very loud.

One signal gave me a bit of concern and after poking around in the hole and the loose pile of dirt on the surface I still couldn't locate the find. Using the detector it beeped at the outer edge of the loose dirt and then using the tip of the Xpointer a weak signal eventually revealed a small nut. The bright LED was really useful here.

The Xpointer comes with four rubber tip protectors and these are simply pushed on. They save unnecessary wear and tear on the tip as many of us are inclined to use the tip as a digger!

Testing at home on some very small items such as cut quarters, cut halves and other tiny coins, I found that the tip of the Xpointer has to be right up close to these tiny items (a distance of less than an inch at full sensitivity). I therefore would recommend that full sensitivity should be selected if you after very small items. Fear

### The functions of the Xpointer mirror those of the other devices and have the usual features including:-

- Audio and/or vibrate alert
- Proportional response
- Four adjustable sensitivity levels
- Water resistant housing with inch increments on the tip
- Battery saver alarm
- LED flashlight
- Ribbed anti-slip design
- Includes belt holster and lanyard
- Four rubber tip protectors (a nifty addition)
- Two-year warranty
- RAIT – Ratio Alarm Indication Technology meaning the audio or vibration alert will increase as the tip gets closer to the target
- GORILLA Tough Coil Wiring Technology (explained as, "Our optimised coil wiring technology allows you to scrape the dirt while searching without any falsing")



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not though because air testing showed a £1 coin to signal very decently at 3 inches (and then some) at full sensitivity.

In use on a pasture field depths were much improved on larger items, and it was especially helpful in determining target size in the case of large iron that perhaps fooled the detector.

Don't forget that the probe can be reduced in sensitivity to locate the exact centre of a target. This is another bonus to the Xpointer.

It was on the beach where the Xpointer really impressed me! To my mind it appeared to work even better over this wet sandy environment than inland.

There wasn't any falsing while probing around an exposed hole or when the tip of the device sensed it was about to meet damp sand. Other devices have often frustrated me for that very reason. On another leading brand model as soon as the tip was plunged in it overloaded and kept signalling even when removed! Time was wasted then switching the device off and back on again, and at times it might still signal loudly even away from the hole! Not so with the Xpointer.

So yet another bonus point

to it is for being really good at the beach.

If you're looking for a probe for foreshore use could this be the one? Be sensible with it as the Instructions state, "Do not submerge in water."

A few anomalies were experienced, especially when it came to locating foil.

Foil as we know can be a scourge on the beach and comes in all varieties. So don't expect the Xpointer to beep on all foil. It might be a bit of a time-wasting exercise probing through the sand for it when the detector clearly announced a target. So watch out for foil, especially of the thin and paper-like material.

However, on the overall score of things I'd give the Xpointer an 8 from 10. It does a very good job and for the price has to be the bargain of the year!

Would I buy one myself? Yes, I would.

**Just to clarify:-** the Deteknix Xpointer probe has no connection with Detecnicks Ltd, the South Coast's leading detector retailer – all enquiries for sales and support to: [www.detectorbits.co.uk](http://www.detectorbits.co.uk)  
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