

First Canadian Vista X Hunt
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Sven Stau

Today would be my first hunt with the Vista X, which was originally planned for Saturday, the day before. Due to stormy weather and errands that had to be done, never got the chance to get out and detect. Took advantage of getting to know the X by bench testing and worked out some trial settings to use, the night before. Bench testing is not real world testing and came across something I posted previously in error. On the bench, in the high rise we live the Iron Volume control was giving me 3 options depending upon the setting. Near max—two tone volume reduction at about 3/4, then changing to single tone then near min setting, silent operation. It did not change to single tone, during the actual hunt, you can still hear 2 tones but, the low iron tone is very faint until the setting is dropped to min. Then you hear silence or a fast tic, burp or whatever you would like to call it.

Early this morning at around 5am, awoke without the alarm clock. Still looked pretty nasty out, howling wind and 50 F degree temperature. Looked iffy, maybe another rain period. By 8am, didn't look much better. Took the chance it would clear up as the weatherman predicted and headed out the door, gear in tow.

Headed for a huge schoolyard in back of a middle school, popular spot for many to still hunt for treasures. My wife at one point found a half dime there and another club member found a huge gold chain there. When I arrived, was hoping it would not be a swamp. Usually this place is dry and the ground is pretty tough to dig. Scouted out the place and found that some sections were very damp and other spots with water on the surface. Hunted the dry islands in that field.

Turned on the Vista X, then proceeded to ground balance to the soil. Piece of cake took about 30 seconds. This place is going to be a real good test ground, no doubt would encounter lots of trash. Doesn't matter, planned on digging just about every signal to learn the audio sounds of good and bad targets. Was not disappointed, the trash giving off a low tone. Started off great, the first target, within the first 5 minutes, I dug was a nickel at 6". Then started digging, lots of canslaw of all shapes and sizes, foil, pulltabs, parts of pulltabs, tiny wire, small nails, some small iron pieces. In between those targets, were coins. Mostly Canadian clad coins, a few US coins that came from the 6" deep range. Remember the first penny at 7" deep. Was getting tired digging small foil at 6-7" in hopes of finding some gold, found some gold but, it was gold foil. After 3 hours of detecting, packed up and drove to another schoolyard, I did pretty good at last year.

The settings I was starting off with were as follows:

Disc 1----- set at 30.3

Alt Disc----set at 25.6

Iron volume ---set at 45

Threshold---set at 45

Gain--- set at 45

I set my disc up so a good target in Disc 1 would give a high tone, Alt Disc was set lower. How this would work is when hunting in Disc 1 mode if you got a low tone it would be at the point Canadian clad would give hopefully a mixed tone, which is also the range of acceptance of a women's thin 10kt gold ring. Alt Disc was set at the point where foil gives off a high tone, small nails and such gives off a low tone. This would give a high tone on smaller gold and coins falling in that range. So when a high tone target was found in Disc 1, time to dig. If a low tone target was found, switch to Alt Disc. If again it was a low tone, don't dig, it would be trash, iron. Now if the target gave off a high tone, worth investigating, it could be gold or another desirable conductor taking home. This makes for a good alternative to thumbing a single disc control trying to ID a target. With the two disc controls, you can pretty well customize the way you want to

use discrimination. With a DD coil there is always a concern how well you are able to pinpoint. Some detector brands, that use DD coils pinpoint better than others. DeepTech with the Vista X, did a super job building the 9x11 search

coil. Pinpoints like a charm, the detector's recovery re-tune speed is just right for effortless pinpointing. For the most part, 3" diameter plug holes are possible. Did have my electronic pinpointer handy at all times to help locate the deeper targets in the hole or those sideways targets located closer to the sides of the holes. Interference between the pinpointer and Vista X was zero unless it was in detection range of the X's search coil. Didn't have to move the coil off to the side, when setting the X down etc.

Here's a carry over trick I used when detecting with a Tesoro with a true all metal based threshold mode. It helps classify and ID a target. When locating a target while hunting in disc mode, I would switch to all metal to see if the target audio volume remained the same, grew louder or quieter. Since the Vista X has on a 3 position toggle: All Metal/ Disc 1/ Alt Disc, fell back into my old habit. Keep in mind, if I recall, DeepTechs have similar depth while hunting in All Metal or Disc mode. Since AM mode is just a single tone mode, might as well run in Disc mode which is two tone. AM mode came in handy to check a target and to make pinpointing easier. AM mode uses the high tone for all targets. High tones are easy to pinpoint. Get a mixed tone in Disc mode, pinpointing is just a tad wishy washy. Just pull back the toggle switch to AM mode, the single tone is tight and crisp for precise pinpointing.

Made it to the second schoolyard, parked, had a snack and a drink, while deciding which portion of the field to hunt. Decided to start on the left half, then headed off to that area. Once again ground balanced the Vista X, kept my settings the same as before. This school is still pretty junky, not as bad as the first one. More coins at this school along with similar junk as the last.....Silver coins at this school are pretty well gone, found by others years ago. It does give up some silver jewelry now and then. Today was a "then day", a small 9.25 Sterling earring reflected sunlight off its shiny surface when it just popped out of the hole. A small silver religious medallion was also dug, haven't looked at it closely yet, might be just silver plated. Overall this field was a better place today.

Now and then, experimented with different settings to see how the X would react. One change was moving the Disc settings back a few points. This helped in keying in on those pesky Canadian clad dimes, which I started finding with more accuracy. Played around with Gain set at 0 and Threshold at Max, could be useful when coins and other similar sized treasure are shallow to about 5". Ran those settings maxed out to full, just a tad chattery, not annoying and deeper, too.

To sum it up, a great hunt, good learning experience, this detector goes deep and is easy to set up and use. An superb detector for anyone who has been using a beep and dig type machine. Or for some one who wants to try an alternative type detector than one of the many screened target ID machine with all the fancy bells and whistles.

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Some detectorists had some questions about the Vista X, that I will answer that are of my opinion.

Cosmetics, mechanically: Build quality is superb, parts fit nicely. Long middle shaft and long lower rod than usually found, extending the search coil out for a longer reach for tall people is not a problem. I am 6'1" and the lower rod fully inserted into the middle tube extends the coil out in front of my feet at 8".

Control layout: Easy to manipulate. The control pots have a tighter rotational feel than many detectors. Will be very hard to knock out of adjustment settings.

Toggle switches for either left or right handed use.

Weight and balance: With the 9x11 search coil makes it just a bit coil heavy. Should balance perfect when DeepTech produces the 7" coil for the Vista X. Or even with the 5" coil. When the detector is set down on the ground, it does not have a tendency to fall over due to the battery compartment weight and the squared

off ends of the search coil. On/Off Switch: It's in the back, some concern that it may be easily turned off by accident climbing, detecting thru brush areas. Maybe if you bump into something moving backwards. I accidentally turned the detector on when putting it into the cars truck, the switch bumped the side well bump. Speaker position: It is under the battery compartment, like some other brands. Could moisture or dirt get into the speaker grill cut outs? Always possible in that position when setting the detector down in wet, dirty, muddy areas. Today ran into that situation. Before I left home I put a small plastic patch cover over the speaker grill. Garrett used to supply little clear plastic covers to place over the speaker grills on their detectors. And they were on top of the control box. DeepTech uses speakers with plastic mylar cones unlike the paper grills that were used by other manufacturers which are somewhat water resistant.

Target signal clarity, intensity, and width: The Vista X audio is crisp and clear. Coin and small target width is tight, about the width of the search coils center support. Trash iron targets will give a wider report according to the type, size of junk and composition. Target report intensity will increase, decrease depending upon size and depth.

Squared off search coil ends: Doesn't seem to have any unusual effects. Overall the coil acts more like a round DD coil than an elliptical one.

Threshold audio: Not super smooth like on older VLF machines like many in the USA are used to.

Headphone jack: on the back of the of the battery box. A good spot for it, since it allows the headphone cord to naturally come up the side of your body under your armpit. Less chance of being entangled in the brush. Doesn't hamper the ability to place the detector off to the side when setting in on the ground and doesn't stretch the headphone cord pulling the headphones off your head.

S-Handle and middle and lower rods: s-handle is still aluminum, middle and lower rods are of lightweight carbon fiber. A set of spring clips are sent with the X. So they can be inserted in the tapered tube on the s-handle and on the lower rod. This will now allow you to use a DeepTech aluminum middle shaft if you ever desired that option. The camlocks sure do beat twist and lock couplers.

Battery compartment: No battery door hinges to break, snap off from weakening caused by opening and closing. An easy to twist to open and close cover.

Detection performance: It is deep, if I need to compare it to another detector with similar size coil, the Tesoro Tejon/ Vaquero and the Nokta Anfibio-Multi metered machine. The Vista X and the Anfibio-Multi are my two current machines to cover my meter less knobs and switches machine and metered target ID machine needs. Just waiting on the smaller DeepTech coils.

EMI: None encountered while detecting the two school yards.

Discrimination: Excellent range from accepting tiny iron to rejecting zincs, more in line what USA/Canadian detectorists prefer. Good for relic hunters and for those that hunt coins and jewelry.

Canadian coins: For those detectorists in Canada wondering how it does detecting Canadian clad coins. Not a problem finding them. The Vista X gets them just as Tesoro detectors love them.