

PRODUCT TEST



Nokta Pointer

Spec sheet

Working Frequency :	11.6Khz
Sensitivity:	User Adjustable
Dimensions:	9.4"x1.9"x1.9"
Weight:	8.3oz (incl. battery and interchangeable hard case shell)
Working Temperature :	-4F / +122F
Power:	9V
Battery Life :	Up to 30hrs
Price:	£89.99

On test this month is a new offering, a fully waterproof pin point probe simply called, the 'Nokta Pointer'.

Back in 2014 they introduced their first pinpointing device called the 'Right Spot' or 'RS' for short. It was a decent offering (certainly for the price point, £69.99) but had some shortcomings. Now, in 2015 this new model is a vast improvement over the 'RS' especially at just £20.00 more.

Main features

- Waterproof to 1 metre (IP67 rating)
- 360 degree sensitivity tip
- Sensitivity control
- LED light
- Audio alert
- Vibration
- Lost Alarm & Shut-Off
- Coil Interference Blocking
- Warranty 2 yrs

I have to hand it to their marketing division for their superior packaging and package contents. In this instance, the Nokta Pointer comes in a very attractive coloured box and inside is a really nice presentation case that would look more at home had it contained a very expensive watch!

Included in the carry case are: a belt holster with strap, a small zipped finds bag containing two orange interchangeable hard-shell casings one of which has a scraping blade, a 9 Volt battery and the Instruction and Warranty sheets.

The 'pointer' can be set to either of three settings:

1. Audio only
2. Vibrate only
3. Audio and vibrate together



4. LED Light - press both green and grey buttons simultaneously to turn on and off the light without altering the mode currently set. Very clever (and power saving reducing the need for the light to be on all the time).

Bench test

For the bench test I stacked up a dozen magazines and placed my ruler on top away from all metal. Using a £1 coin and having installed a new battery from a packet, it was possible using audio only to get up to 4" from the coin (and more). However, having reduced the Sensitivity to 8, it was easily getting the coin at between 3" to 4".

In the real world, with ground minerals and interference it may not be possible to always run the 'Pointer' at full power but from what I've seen thus far it has never failed to locate any target for me no matter what the conditions.

How does it work?

Needless to mention I was really dying to use it at the beach to see just how waterproof it is. But I first got to use it in an iron infested test site and it performed really well. The property is due to be sold and I had promised to locate a missing ring for a family member.

I chased every signal no matter what the sound with the VLF type detector I was using. No interference was heard. Neither was the ring.

Best results were with the Sensitivity set to 5 but I could easily increase or decrease this as I wanted to which enabled some quick locating of the bigger pieces. At times, before digging I traced the pointer through the grass and 'heard' what I assumed were shallow targets. A few were, shallow foil and such. Much was the ubiquitous deep iron holed and long thin pieces of rusted metal that produced strong signals in the holes. To de-sensitise the probe is a good trick to get straight to the target especially where the pieces are circular and long thin shapes possibly buried straight down or away at an angle?

Yes, the buttons are small but are easy to find and have a good amount of 'feel' to them. When the least or maximum sensitivity is reached a long 'beep' is heard. So I used it 'dagger like' and my thumb did all the work. If I have just one criticism it is this: don't



block the speaker because it's tiny (easy to do with gloves on) as the overall volume isn't as loud as I'd like. At the beginning I blocked the speaker with my glove and probed holes for seconds before realising I couldn't hear anything so I now prefer to work in vibration mode all the time.

A good push of the gray button for 'one-second' switches between the three modes. To turn it off hold the green button until six short beeps sound. I have read criticism on detecting fora where some say it is slow to operate. It isn't.

It's a solid device and considerably larger than other models but it has a very good quality feel to it. On being slightly big just a 'word to the wise': with the belt holster provided, use it with caution as the pointer is 'top heavy' with most of it's bulk at the screw cap area. I'm advised however, the manufacturer is aware of this and is in the process of remedying it. I made a small modification to mine and wrapped a spare 'Velcro' coil cable strip around the top.

To see a short video of the Nokta Pointer at work in grass go to YouTube and type in the following: www.youtube.be/NRp7xafndWw

You can also subscribe to My Channel: [DesDunne1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDesDunne1)

Water use

This was 'the litmus test' and what was of most interest to me.

I was testing a PI detector and it was this I was most curious about.

A pointer capable of taking a wetting was required and in this regard, it didn't disappoint. There wasn't any interference even with both probe and coil quite close together and facing the same direction. At times with pin pointers it might be necessary to turn the coil away from the operator at a 45 degree angle to reduce interference. I didn't experience that with any of the detectors used with the Nokta Pointer which included single and multi frequency models.



With the PI, I was digging tiny items from all over the beach, from stony to dry sand to shingle and on to the full wet stuff the Nokta didn't miss a beat! At times it was even possible to run with full power but if any 'stray bleeping' happened, I'd drop it down by one or two increments to where it stopped.

Occasionally when the PI signaled 'a target', once dug out the halo effect vanished particularly with very tiny rusted nails even though I couldn't detect them anymore with the pulse induction. The Nokta always found them. The side scraper and side detection can make for rapid recoveries.

After a few days I finally plucked up the nerve to plunge the probe into cold saltwater and waited with bated breath to see if it would cut out? To see a video of the Nokta Pointer working underwater type in the following: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SHprsCdXD4

During underwater filming of the Nokta Pointer on two consecutive days both it and my waterproof camera were submerged for 30 minutes at a time. My camera leaked ever so slightly and it had to be thoroughly cleaned afterwards.

Nothing happened the Nokta! Straight after taking it out of the water it powered up with full sound.

The next day too and for weeks after that and it's still going. When submerged the vibration aspect is crucial and the 'engine' in it is strong enough even while wearing gloves. It has a 'cool party trick': it stands upright while submerged.

After immersion in saltwater and if used around wet sand be sure to rinse it under freshwater back at the car and dry with a towel. Allow to air dry for a few hours and then remove the screw cap and clean any loose debris from the removable 'control centre' using a razor cleaning brush or an old toothbrush. A portion of the circuitry comes out to allow the battery to be inserted (near which is additional circuitry) and then the button circuitry fits on top followed by the orange screw cap that should be tightened to slightly beyond 'hand tight!'

Conclusion

So, is this the 'ultimate' pin pointer? It is a very good one.

It's heavy and 'chunky' perhaps too large for some but, I can fling it around and it takes my demanding requirements.

Performance and overall use of the Nokta Pointer is one of the better models used to date and a bonus point has to be awarded for it's waterproofing. It's the first pin pointer I have used that consistently located some bigger targets ever before digging them simply by probing the surface.

Battery life is good which surprised me having checked the remaining voltage with a multi-meter after using the pointer for several weeks (with the supplied Varta as I never had time for that brand, preferring 'the copper top').

It could be the answer to your pin pointer requirements in and around water and underwater also to a depth of one metre. Speaking of which, I'm looking forward to snorkeling rocky cove inlets during the summer and scanning crevices that are out beyond the low-tide line. No doubt there are coins and other treasures to be had stuck there for centuries.

TEST RESULTS	Test Results Nokta Pointer (Scores out of ten based on price category)	
	Ergonomics (weight/balance):	8
	Simplicity/User Friendliness:	9
	Build quality:	9
	Weather resistance:	10
	Overall detection Performance:	9
SEARCHER RATING		

Competition: A Nokta Pointer worth £89.99

Our thanks go to Nokta for giving us one to give away worth £89.99 as a prize. For your chance to win just answer the following question: **How long did Desi leave the Pointer submerged?** Fill in the coupon below (no photocopies allowed unless you are a current subscriber and your number is required) with your answer and send it to us at the Nokta Pointer Competition, *The Searcher*, 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2PX. Closing date for all entries by 1 July together with your name, address and contact number. Good luck!

Please enter me in the draw for the Nokta Pointer Competition:

How long did Desi leave the Pointer submerged?

.....

Name

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel number.....

Subscriber no. (if required).....

App subscribers ONLY simply either do a 'screen grab' of the page, print it out and post the coupon OR attach the screen grab to an email and send it to info@thesearcher.co.uk.

Competition Rules:

This competition is open to all readers except employees of *The Searcher* (which includes all regular contributors and their families) and our printers and distributors: Warners Group PLC. Only one entry is permitted per person. Entries will be accepted by POST only addressed to: Nokta Pointer Competition, *The Searcher*, 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 2PX. **App subscribers ONLY** by email or post. To be valid, entries need to be received on or before 1 July. The draw will take place soon after and the winners will be notified by telephone (if possible).

There is no cash or other alternative to the prizes stated and the prizes is not transferable and no part or parts of the prize may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions. The judges decision is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post.

