

Anfibio Multi Field Test

by Stephen Grey



Figs.1 & 2. Control box display of the Anfibio Multi detector.



Introduction

Well, I must say that quite a lot has happened since I last did a field test for Nokta or Makro products. One big change for the company is that the two names have now been merged and from now on the company will be known as Nokta/Makro. The Anfibio Multi detector which I will be taking a look at here is the first detector they have launched under the new company name.

Upon delving into the box, I was struck by two things initially: it looks to be a sturdy, quality built machine and I really liked the appearance of the new coil design – a very capable looking 11-inch DD coil. I also noticed that the stem is now triangular in shape and I wrongly presumed initially that the coil wire would fit inside it, as is the case with the Nokta Impact. The assembly was very easy to perform and once done it became obvious that the coil wire would not in fact be hidden inside the stem. It would perhaps look neater if this was the case, although having the coil wire conventionally on the outside of the stem enables this new coil to be retro fitted to the already very capable Makro Multi Kruzer.

The Display Screen

One of my favourite things about using Nokta/Makro machines is the easy to use menu screens and the Anfibio maintains this tradition (Fig.1). All the modes and settings are immediately

available at a glance on start up. I think this is a crucial factor for anyone new to their machines. It can be rather daunting using a new machine and being unsure of all the settings. I know in the past, with some detectors, I've been very nervous to start pressing too many buttons and flipping through endless menu screens. The modes and settings on the Anfibio Multi are plentiful, yet not hard to find.

The Mode banner appears far left on the screen and they are as follows:

- Gen (all metal mode) • 2 tone • 3 tone • 4 tone • 5 tone • 99 tone • Beach • Deep • Cache (non-motion mode).

Next to the modes you have the following settings:

- Gain • Disc • Notch • Notch V (Notch Volume) • Tone • Tone V (Tone Volume) • T Break (Tone Break) • Threshold • iSAT

On the right of the screen you have the following options:

- Frequency • Volume • Bright • Vibrate • ID Depth • Tracking • Frequency Shift • FD/Save • Wireless

Bottom centre of the screen you have Battery, Depth and Mineralisation indicators.

Where to Conduct the Field Test?

I was lucky enough to be asked by Nokta/Makro to do some testing on the

Anfibio Multi (Fig.2) sometime before its actual release. I was, of course, sworn to secrecy, so I couldn't take it on a rally. I also work full-time and I've seriously neglected acquiring new permissions upon which to search. That left me only one option: a large farm permission that I have near Stratford-upon-Avon. The land has produced some decent finds, but they are now much harder to come by. Basically it's the type of site that you go to when you have nowhere else to go – even my buddies don't want to come there with me these days!

The fields I chose on this particular day were all stubble – a fairly tough stubble too, about five inches high. I bashed away at it, wondering as I went, "How much of a bond will I develop with this new machine in these conditions?"

One hour in and all I had to show for my stubble-bashing venture was a rather worn livery button and a couple of those very basic, blank Georgian farm worker type buttons. The signals certainly were few and far between, perhaps not the best conditions in which to get to know a new machine. Two hours in and I had a minor disaster – these can come in many shapes and forms out in the field. My spade, which is some 18 years old, had developed a loose pin where the metal joins the wooden shaft. On this occasion the pin stuck out and cut right through the side of my leather boot!



Figs.3a & b. Elt's Shoes token.



Fig.5. Medieval purse bar.



Fig.4. Barrel tap.

It was all worth it though, when I got my next find. Not because it was Treasure, but because it was a classic example of just how strange detecting can be. I had made my way to the bottom of the field, where in the past I'd had a lot of coins and relics relating to the Second World War. I got a big banging signal with numbers reading well into the eighties and I uncovered a large round disc at about six inches down. I was hoping that maybe it was a military medal but sadly it wasn't – it turned out to be a large token promoting a local shoe company on one side and Clark's shoes on the other. Here I was, a guy who occasionally likes to think he is a pirate, with a large gash in my leather boot, looking at a token for Elt's shoes that said TREASURE YOUR FOOT HEALTH – and it even had a pirate on it too! The irony eh? The token can be seen in Figs.3a & b.

With this cool find safely tucked away in my finds pouch and the harsh stubble poking its way into my boot, I soldiered on, slowly developing that all-important bond with the Anfibio Multi. I was running the machine in 3 tones, 92 gain, 0 discrimination on the 20 KHz Frequency. I didn't bother going into the finer settings that I could have changed, like the Tone breaks or Tone volume as it was my first time out and I think these subtle changes should be developed over time. I'm not a great fan of getting settings from other people and only do so if I can't be bothered to get my old head around complex menu systems. The joy of the Nokta/Makro machines is that their menu systems are very easy to understand. This

gives the user great confidence in their own ability to make decisions and subtle changes themselves, once they've put the all-important hours in.

Harsh Stubble and a Barrel of Cider

The harsh stubble still crunched underfoot and the signals remained persistently elusive. Eventually I got another great signal with the numbers in the eighties. Now this search was conducted during the hot weather period we had this year and the signal was on the edge of a deep crack that scarred the parched ground. "Careful does it," I thought, "I don't fancy losing the target down into the bowels of the earth." Once recovered it turned out to be a half-decent example of a barrel tap (Fig.4). I looked at my find and tried to picture the scene on the day it was lost. Farmer David jumped down off his brand new tractor (which would now be a very old tractor), went to the trailer and pulled out a barrel of local cider. The young men and women working his land looked on appreciatively. They like working for farmer David, and as the crisp cider slakes their thirst, they drink a toast to his health and a successful harvest. Maybe it happened like that and maybe it didn't. This was my find though, so I get to decide!

More stubble-bashing, more strenuous effort based grunts and I start thinking it's about time for a nice hammered coin to appear. Unfortunately, on this day there were no 'iffy' signals that reinforce one's own belief that you are 'God's gift' to detecting. I did eventually get another strong signal, again

with numbers in the eighties. Seven inches down I revealed something that looked as though it could possibly be a medieval purse bar (Fig.5), but as I hadn't previously found one before, I wasn't certain. Having taken it home and showed a picture to Jules, my first thoughts were confirmed – it was indeed a very nice example of a medieval purse bar.

I was pleased with the finds I had made so far on the Anfibio Multi's first outing. I was just thinking "A gold hammered or my first Commonwealth coin would be nice," when that darn stubble poked me in the side of my foot again! "Come on" I thought "Keep your mind on the task in hand." Ten minutes later I got a little tickle of a signal. "It's a bit unsure of itself is this one," I said out loud, putting my coil across it many times, whilst slowly circling the target. This helped to clear up the audio and the numbers were coming in at about 45. I teased the find out from about five inches down and it turned out to be an almost complete medieval casket key (Fig.6) with a nice patina on it. I was now thinking, "A medieval purse bar and a key of a similar period. I am touching base with history here – surely my next find will be a hammered."

A Late Anglo-Saxon Brooch

Eventually it was time to head home – I was at the bottom of a large field and so decided to detect up to the top gate. My advice here is to always detect your way off the field – never, ever turn your machine off and walk to the gate. Half-way up the field I got another signal that was also rather unsure of itself. The



Fig.6.
Medieval
casket
key.



Fig.7.
Late
Anglo-
Saxon
turreted
brooch.



Figs.8a & b. National
Transport token.



audio was fairly weak, and the numbers were coming in at about 36. I dug down only about four inches to reveal a strange little loop of a thing. I made my way over to a cow trough to give it a good wash. Carefully avoiding the thick green slime on the surface, I washed it, but was none the wiser as to its identification. I took a photograph (Fig.7) and once again showed it to Jules who reckoned it was a Late Anglo-Saxon turreted brooch with a zoomorphic terminal. A nice find to end what had been a testing day, for both me and the machine. I was happy with the results though and did think I was beginning to get to know the Anfibio Multi.

Getting to Grips

I was impressed with the machine, but I must be honest here and say that on the first outing with the machine, I did experience some discomfort from holding the handle. It wasn't the weight or the balance of the machine, but my hand just seemed a little over extended on the grip. I gave Nokta/Makro my feedback on this and I'm sure they will consider it. Personally, I think pistol grips are best suited to pistols not detectors. On the plus side, I can honestly hold that same hand on my heart and tell you that I have not felt that discomfort ever again after quite a few trips out with the machine. I think in this case it was six of one and half a dozen of the other. A case of my hand having to adjust to a new machine as much as anything.

Further Testing

I decided to phone a friend at this point

and see if I could get some time with the Anfibio Multi on some half-decent land. I explained to him that I was doing a field test and that the subject matter was confidential – this was all fine, so I set off to Lincolnshire. The first field we went on was harrowed to a moderate depth. I set the machine up and ground balanced it. Some detectors will struggle in these conditions as the ground hasn't quite settled. After about an hour I was very impressed with how the Anfibio Multi was coping, especially as the ground was highly mineralised too. I'd picked out half a small tombac button and possibly part of a clothes fastener, plus a few other small bits. Nothing exciting, but certainly enough to tell me as a field tester that this machine was doing a good and thorough job.

I worked my way to the edge of the field, hoping nobody had detected this area, seeing as a few people had been on it the day before. I got a strong signal coming in at about ninety on the screen. I dug down around eight inches to reveal a glint of silver. "Happy days, my first silver with the Anfibio" I thought. Then I saw what looked like a tram car on one side and 'National Transport Token' on the other (Figs.8a & b). I realised it wasn't silver, it was just aluminium, but I was still very pleased as this was a first for me.

My friend wasn't too impressed with this field after a couple of hours, so we decided to drive about sixteen miles down the road to another location. On the way we passed some of the best fields I've ever detected on, which brought back many fond memories for

me. The new field was pasture and my friend had found some nice hammered on it as well as a fair few Roman coins. However, it was showing signs that it had been quite heavily detected and finds were a bit slow in coming forward, although I got plenty in the way of blank buttons and tiny bits of metal. We were also treated to quite a few fighter jets flying low overhead, which is one of the joys of detecting in Lincolnshire.

We had a pleasant day, but I hadn't



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Fig.9. Roman *dupondius*.



Fig.10. Two Roman coins.



Fig.12. Decorated spindle-whorl.



Fig.13. Medieval buckle.

found anything of note on this field. By now it was getting a little dark – that time of day when you have a little word with yourself and say “It’s still not too late to find something.” For once, I was right! Making my way off the field I got a very strong signal reading 86 on the screen. Four inches down I revealed a fairly large Roman bronze coin (Fig.9). It was quite worn but you could just make out the ghost of an emperor. It was a Roman *dupondius* and I was very happy with it.

Marriage and Detectival

By now, a few big days were looming on my calendar. On 8 September I got married to my beloved Rachael at Pershore Abbey and a lovely day it was for all who came. Just one week later it was time to head off to Detectival again. Karen and Mark Becher put on a great event – Nokta/Makro were the main sponsors and would finally unveil the Anfibio Multi to the public. This meant

Fig.11. Me with Cedric at Detectival.



I could now take my machine along and see if I could get lucky. Rachael and I headed up to Field 5 where there was some Roman action reportedly happening. After only half an hour I was delighted to have bagged two Roman bronzes (Fig.10).

The next day I came across a gaggle of Frenchmen sitting on the side of one field. I noticed one of them was using the Anfibio Multi. Like two old gun slingers from the Wild West we eyed each other. Then I smiled and in my best Scouse-French accent, I said, “You a French Tester?” He gave me a wry smile back and a nod. Cedric didn’t speak much English, but fortunately his friend did. We took a picture and I was invited to go and visit them in France (Fig.11). Ah, the joys of Detectival.

Multi Frequency

In tests against other machines the Anfibio Multi performed very well, but it’s not just the machines that need to

be considered – it’s very much the users themselves. Put the hours in with this many featured detector and you will find and identify those small targets at decent depths and in difficult ground. Let’s look at some of these features.

Operating Frequencies

There are three to choose from: 5 KHz, 14 KHz and 20 KHz. You can flick between these depending on what type of hunt you are going on. 5 KHz is best used for when you want to look for deep targets especially on clean ground. 14 KHz is your everyday frequency for average field conditions. 20 KHz is best suited to more mineralised ground conditions, but you will lose a bit of depth with this option.

Tones

Where do I begin with tones? There are so many tone options on the Anfibio Multi. You have 2 tone setting which is deeper than 3 tone but with not quite as much audio feedback. You then have 3 tones which I use myself a lot. Then you have 4 tones and even a 5 tone setting. If that isn’t enough, you also have a 99-tone option that lays it all out there for your ear to learn. Not only that, but remember that you can set your tone breaks on this machine and there’s also a brand-new option of tone volume.

Notch Features

The Anfibio Multi comes with a notch feature that is useful for notching out targets you may not want to dig on certain sites. For instance, if you have a Roman hotspot and are after small bronzes, but keep digging ring pulls because of the public footpath nearby, simply notch out the ring pull numbers for the duration. It also has a notch volume feature that is brand new to this machine. You can notch out certain numbers but set the notch volume, so you hear them slightly in the background. Nokta/Makro keep adding



Fig.14. Another example of a barrel tap.

features to their machines that enable the user to adjust them and tweak them in a wide variety of ways to suit any conditions.

Modes

Along with the main tone settings mentioned above, the Anfibio Multi has a general mode which is all metal. This is a deep seeking option which I prefer

to use only on fields that have already been detected extensively. It has the ever-popular beach mode which is good for both wet and dry sand. With the detector being waterproof to five metres I'm sure people will get a lot of good use out of it on the beach, just like they have been doing with the Makro Multi Kruzer. I did take my test machine along to the seaside and spent a couple of hours digging modern coins in beach mode and got it a little wet, just to see how it coped. I'm not actually into beach detecting myself but the Anfibio Multi performed well, as I expected it to.

It also has a deep mode. I did get a target I was unsure of while in 3 tones and checking it with deep mode helped me to make up my mind whether to dig or not. Brand new to this detector is also a Cache Mode. This is a non-motion mode that some older users will be familiar with. It may be old technology, but it is proven technology and in

the right hands no doubt will produce some great finds.

Final Testing and Thoughts

For my next outing I went back alone to my farm near Stratford-upon-Avon. I decided to try 99 tones this time just to see how I got on. I must say, I do like a lot of audio feedback and this mode certainly provides it. I got a target after about half an hour that sounded strong and gave a reading of 87. I dug down about nine inches and pulled out a lovely example of a medieval spindle whorl (Fig.12). Immediately the old adage of 'where there are whorls there must be hammered coins' sprung to mind. However, for the time being it was only a medieval buckle (Fig.13) and yet another barrel tap (Fig.14) that went into my finds pouch.

Overall I think the Anfibio Multi is a great addition to our hobby, another real thoroughbred from the Nokta/Makro stable.

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