The Discovery 1100 is an easy to use detector. The most difficult aspects of metal detecting have been automated. However, if you are new to the hobby, we strongly recommend that you:

1) Adjust the Sensitivity to a low setting in the event of false signals. Always begin use at a reduced sensitivity level; increase to full sensitivity after you have become familiar with the detector.

2) Do not use indoors. This detector is for outdoor use only. Many household appliances emit electromagnetic energy, which can interfere with the detector. If conducting an indoor demonstration, turn the sensitivity down and keep the searchcoil away from appliances such as computers, televisions and microwave ovens. If your detector beeps erratically, turn off appliances and lights (especially those with dimmer switches).

Also keep the searchcoil away from objects containing metal, such as floors and walls.

3) Read this manual. Most importantly, review the Quick-Start Demo (p.7) and Basic Operation (pp. 9-12).

4) Use 9-volt ALKALINE batteries only. Do not use Heavy Duty Batteries.
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**TERMINOLOGY**

The following terms are used throughout the manual, and are standard terminology among detectorists.

**ELIMINATION**

Reference to a metal being "eliminated" means that the detector will not emit a tone, nor light up an indicator, when a specified object passes through the coil’s detection field.

**DISCRIMINATION**

When the detector emits different tones for different types of metals, and when the detector "eliminates" certain metals, we refer to this as the detector "discriminating" among different types of metals. Discrimination is an important feature of professional metal detectors. Discrimination allows the user to ignore trash and otherwise undesirable objects.

**RELIC**

A relic is an object of interest by reason of its age or its association with the past. Many relics are made of iron, but can also be made of bronze or precious metals.

**IRON**

Iron is a common, low-grade metal that is an undesirable target in certain metal detecting applications. Examples of undesirable iron objects are old cans, pipes, bolts, and nails. Sometimes, the desired target is made of iron. Property markers, for instance, contain iron. Valuable relics can also be composed of iron; cannon balls, old armaments, and parts of old structures and vehicles can also be composed of iron.

**FERROUS**

Metals which are made of, or contain, iron.

**PINPOINTING**

Pinpointing is the process of finding the exact location of a buried object. Long-buried metals can appear exactly like the surrounding soil, and can therefore be very hard to isolate from the soil.

**PULL-TABS**

Discarded pull-tabs from beverage containers are the most bothersome trash items for treasure hunters. They come in many different shapes and sizes. Most pull-tabs can be eliminated with the Mode Control, but some other valuable objects can have a magnetic signature similar to pull-tabs, and will also be eliminated when discriminating out pull-tabs.

**GROUND BALANCE**

Ground Balancing is the ability of the detector to ignore, or "see through," the earth’s naturally occurring minerals, and only sound a tone when a metal object is detected.
Assembly is easy and requires no tools.

1. Position the lower stem (the straight tube) with the silver button toward the back. Using the bolt and knurled knob, attach the searchcoil to the plastic extension protruding from the lower stem.

2. Press the button on the upper end of the lower stem, and slide the lower stem into the upper stem.

Adjust the stem to a length that lets you maintain a comfortable upright posture, with your arm relaxed at your side, and the searchcoil parallel to the ground in front of you.

3. Wind the cable securely around the stem.

4. Insert the plug into the matching connector on the right underside of the detector body. Be sure that the key-way and pins line up correctly.

Caution: Do not force the plug in. Excess force will cause damage. To disconnect the cable, pull on the plug. Do not pull on the cable.

**Assembly**

**IN THE FIELD TECHNIQUES**

you may have encountered multiple objects. If you are new to the hobby, you may want to dig all targets at first. With practice in the field, you will learn to better discern the nature of buried objects by the nature of the detector’s response.

You may encounter some false signals as you proceed. False signals occur when the detector beeps, but no metal target is present. False signals can be induced by electromagnetic interference, oxidation, or highly mineralized ground soils. If the detector beeps once, but does not repeat the signal with several additional sweeps over the same spot, there is probably no target present.

When searching very trashy ground, it is best to scan small areas with slow, short sweeps. You will be surprised just how much trash metal and foil you will find in some areas. The trashiest areas have been frequented by the most people, and frequently hold the most promise for finding the most lost valuables. To make searching easier in very trashy areas, consider purchasing the Bounty Hunter 4-inch Searchcoil (Radio Shack item 63-3009 or 63-3014). The 4-inch coil’s narrower detection field can better distinguish between two objects in close proximity.

Also maintain the searchcoil positioned just above the surface of the ground, without making contact with the ground. Making contact with the ground can cause false signals.
Swing the searchcoil slowly, overlapping each sweep as you move forward. It is important to sweep the coil at a consistent speed over the ground as you search. After identifying a target, your sweep technique can help in identifying both the location and the nature of the target. If you encounter a weak signal, try moving the coil in short, rapid sweeps over the target zone; such a short rapid sweep may provide a more consistent target identification.

Most worthwhile objects will respond with a repeatable tone. If the signal does not repeat after sweeping the coil directly over the suspected target a few times, it is more than likely trash metal.

Crossing the target zone with multiple intersecting sweeps at multiple angles is another way to verify the repeatability of the signal, and the potential of the buried target. To use this method, walk around the target area in a circle, sweeping the coil across the target repeatedly, every 30 to 40 degrees of the circle, about ten different angles as you walk completely around the target. If a high-tone target completely disappears from detection at a given angle, chances are that you are detecting oxidized ferrous metals, rather than a silver or copper object. If the tone changes a different angles,
IN THE FIELD TECHNIQUES

PINPOINTING

Accurate pinpointing takes practice and is best accomplished by “X-ing” the target area.

1. Once a buried target is indicated by a good tone response, continue sweeping the coil over the target in a narrowing side-to-side pattern.
2. Take visual note of the place on the ground where the “beep” sounds.
3. Stop the coil directly over this spot on the ground.
4. Now move the coil straight forward and straight back towards you a couple of times.
5. Again make visual note of the spot on the ground at which the “beep” sounds.
6. If needed, “X” the target at different angles to “zero in” on the exact spot on the ground at which the “beep” sounds.

DO NOT MIX OLD AND NEW BATTERIES

COIL MOVEMENT

When swinging the coil, be careful to keep it level with the ground about one inch from the surface. Never swing the coil like a pendulum.

BATTERIES

Use ALKALINE batteries only.

To install the batteries:

1. Remove the battery cover by disengaging the clip at the back.
2. Align the polarity of the batteries correctly, with the positive “+” toward the coil plug connection, as indicated by the + and – indicators on the housing.
3. Insert (2) 9-Volt ALKALINE batteries, with the contacts pointed inward, and press down on the back of the batteries to snap them into place.
4. Replace the battery door.

Some brands of batteries will require moderate force to clear the retaining tabs.

Most metal detector problems are due to improperly installed batteries, or the use of non-alkaline or discharged batteries. **If the detector does not turn on, please check the batteries.**
**Sensitivity Adjustment**

Upon power-up, the detector defaults to 3/4 sensitivity. To increase to full sensitivity, press the Sensitivity ▲ touch pad.

**Electromagnetic Interference**

The principle use for the Sensitivity Control is to eliminate Electromagnetic Interference (EMI). A hobby metal detector is an extremely sensitive device; the searchcoil creates its own magnetic field and acts like an antenna. If your detector beeps erratically when the searchcoil is motionless, the unit is probably detecting another magnetic field.

Common sources of EMI are electric power lines, both suspended and buried, motors, and household appliances like computers and microwave ovens. Some indoor electronic devices, such as dimmer switches used on household lighting, produce severe EMI and will cause the detector to beep erratically. Other metal detectors also produce their own electromagnetic fields, so if detecting with a friend, keep two metal detectors at least 20 feet apart.

If the detector beeps erratically, REDUCE THE SENSITIVITY by pressing the Down-Sensitivity Arrow ▼ on the left of the control panel.

**Severe Ground Conditions**

A secondary use for the Sensitivity Control is to reduce false detection signals caused by severe ground conditions. While your Discovery 1100 contains circuitry to eliminate the signals caused by most naturally occurring ground minerals, 100% of all ground conditions cannot be anticipated. Highly magnetic soils found in mountainous and gold-prospecting locations can cause the detector to emit tones when metal objects are not present. High saline content soils and sands can also cause the detector to false.

If the detector emits false, non-repeatable, signals, REDUCE THE SENSITIVITY.

**Multiple Targets**

If you suspect the presence of deeper targets beneath a shallower target, reduce the sensitivity to eliminate the detection of the deeper targets, in order to properly locate and identify the shallower target.

---

**Quick-Start Demonstration**

**I. Supplies Needed**

- A Nail
- A Quarter
- A Pull-Tab from a beverage can
- A Zinc Penny (dated after 1982)

**II. Position the Detector**

a. Place the detector on a table, with the searchcoil hanging over the edge. (or better, have a friend hold the detector, with the coil off the ground)

b. Keep the searchcoil away from walls, floors, and metal objects.

c. Remove watches, rings and other jewelry or metal objects from hands and wrists.

d. Turn off appliances or lights that cause electromagnetic interference.

e. Pivot searchcoil back toward the detector body.

**III. Power Up**

Press the ON touchpad. The detector will beep twice and the full sensitivity setting will be indicated on the left of the display.

**IV. Wave each Object over the Searchcoil**

a. Notice a different tone for each object.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Tone</td>
<td>Nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Tone</td>
<td>Pull-tab &amp; Zinc Penny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Tone</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Motion is required. Objects must be in motion over the searchcoil to be detected.

**V. Press the MODE touchpad(*)**

The detector will beep twice and the sensitivity setting will flash on the left side of the display.

Quick-Start Demo continued on next page
VI. Press the MODE touchpad again. (*
   a. A flashing indicator will point toward IRON.
   b. The flashing indicator tells us that Iron has been eliminated from detection.

VII. Wave the Nail over the Searchcoil
   a. The Nail will not be detected.
   b. The Nail has been “Discriminated Out.”

VIII. Wave the Quarter, Penny, and Pull-Tab over the Searchcoil
   These non-ferrous objects will be detected with their own distinctive tones.

IX. Press the MODE touchpad again. (*
   a. The detector will beep twice and the sensitivity setting will flash on the left side of the display.
   b. Notice the flashing arrow pointing toward Iron.
   The flashing arrow indicates that this target category is currently "Discriminated Out.”

X. Press the MODE touchpad again. (*
   The flashing arrow will now point toward MID-RANGE.

XI. Wave all objects over the Searchcoil
   The Pull-Tab and Zinc Penny will not be detected.
   The other objects will be detected with their own distinctive tones.

XII. Toggle modes by pressing the MODE touchpad again. (*
   a. Press once to see the current discrimination status of the detector (Mid-Range Eliminated).
   b. Then press again to toggle to the third discrimination setting.
      i. Iron is eliminated.
      ii. Mid-Range Metals are eliminated.
      iii. Only high-tone metals like silver and copper will be detected.

(*Note: The mode status will flash for 10 seconds. After 10 seconds, mode status will time-out and stop flashing.

---

**Audio Target Identification (ATI)**

While the LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) is very accurate in identifying buried objects, the user in the field does not always maintain the display screen in his field of vision. Therefore, we have incorporated an audio feedback mechanism to alert the user to the nature of buried objects. This audio feedback system first alerts the user to the presence and classification of objects, whose nature and location can be confirmed using the LCD display.

The detector will sound three different tones. These three tones correspond to the three target categories depicted on the LCD display.

**LOW TONE**
Ferrous objects, such as iron and steel, will induce a low tone. Small gold objects can also induce a low tone.

**MEDIUM TONE**
Pull-tabs, newer pennies (post-1982), larger gold objects, zinc, small brass objects, and most bottle screw caps will induce medium tones. Many recent vintage foreign currencies will induce medium tones, including loonies & toonies.

**HIGH TONE**
Silver and copper coins, larger brass objects, older pennies (pre-1982), and highly oxidized metals will induce high tones. Quarters, dimes and other precious coins fall into this category.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOW TONE</th>
<th>MEDIUM TONE</th>
<th>HIGH TONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Audio Target Identification (ATI) classifies metals into three categories.
**BASIC OPERATION**

**POWERING UP**

Press the ON touchpad.

All display indicators will illuminate momentarily.

The 4-segment pyramid-shaped Sensitivity Indicator will illuminate on the left side of the display. The 4-segment pyramid indicates that the detector is at full sensitivity.

When an object is detected, the object will be identified by a tone, a display indicator, and a depth indication.

**A two-minute “warm-up” is required before the detector reaches full sensitivity.**

**UNDERSTANDING THE DISPLAY**

The LEFT SIDE of the display has a dual purpose:

1. **SENSITIVITY LEVEL**
   Upon power-up, and after pressing either the up- or down-sensitivity pads, the pyramid-shaped display indicates the detector’s sensitivity level.

   The sensitivity level can be changed using the up- and down-pads.

   At maximum sensitivity, the unit can detect a coin-sized metal object buried about 6” beneath the surface; larger objects can be detected much deeper.

2. **DEPTH INDICATION**
   After detecting an object, the pyramid-shaped display indicates the approximate depth of buried, coin-sized objects.

   Objects at or near the surface will illuminate the single segment at the top of the scale.

   More deeply buried objects will illuminate more segments, indicating depths of 2, 4, or 6 inches, as identified to the left of the display.

   The depth indicator is not accurate for large, or irregularly shaped, objects. However, the scale will provide relative depth indications for larger objects; a given object will induce deeper readings the farther it is from the searchcoil.

**USING HEADPHONES**

Using headphones (not included) improves battery life, and prevents the sounds from annoying bystanders. It also allows you to hear subtle changes in the sound more clearly, particularly if searching in a noisy location. For safety reasons, do not use headphones near traffic or where other dangers are present. This device is to be used with interconnecting cables/headphone cables shorter than three meters.

---

**Discrimination Settings are as follows:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Metals Eliminated</th>
<th>Status Tones</th>
<th>Display (During discrimination selection)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All-Metal</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>No Target Indicators Flashing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Discrimination</td>
<td>Ferrous only</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Iron Indicator Flashing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Range Discrimination</td>
<td>Pull-tabs, Screw Caps, some Foil, medium Gold, Zinc, Nickels</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Mid-Range Indicator Flashing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Discrimination</td>
<td>Ferrous and Mid-Range metals</td>
<td>Low &amp; Medium</td>
<td>Iron and Mid-Range Indicators Flashing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BASIC OPERATION

The RIGHT SIDE of the display classifies objects into three categories.

Silver/Copper:  
Objects composed of silver and cooper will illuminate this arrow. Buried and heavily oxidized metal objects, such as old tin cans, can also fall into this category. Larger aluminum objects, like beverage cans, will sometimes fall into this category.

Mid-Range:  
Mid-range objects cover a large variety of metals. Among them are: pull-tabs from beverage containers, nickels, medium-sized gold objects, some types of aluminum, and zinc.

Iron:  
All ferrous objects, and some smaller aluminum objects, fall into the iron category. Small gold objects can also fall into this range.

The BOTTOM RIGHT SIDE of the display will illuminate a Low Battery Indicator symbol if the batteries are discharged. The indicator illuminates, and remains illuminated, when the 9-volt batteries have discharged to a level of 7.35 volts.

Reading the Display IN THE FIELD  
With the detector in use in the field, the display will indicate both the DEPTH and the TARGET IDENTIFICATION of each object detected. After a target is detected, these indicators will remain illuminated with this information until the next target has been detected. If uncertain about the target’s identification, try sweeping the coil at a faster speed. A more rapid sweep over a target will generally provide a more accurate target identification.

The MODE CONTROL  
The MODE touchpad allows for the elimination from detection of unwanted metal objects. By pressing MODE, the user toggles among four different discrimination settings.

During MODE (or discrimination) selection, the SENSITIVITY INDICATOR on the left of the display will flash continually. The detector will remain in this discrimination selection mode for 10 seconds until a metal object has been detected.

If an object is detected during mode selection, the detector will exit mode selection. If this happens, you will need to press MODE again and begin mode selection over again. To avoid this, keep the detector stationary and reduce sensitivity before pressing MODE.

The MODE touchpad has two functions:
Each first press of MODE will be followed by.
1 A distinctive tone or tones, indication the detector’s stored discriminating setting.
   HIGH TONE - no object eliminated.
   LOW TONE - iron eliminated.
   MEDIUM TONE - mid-range metals eliminated.
   LOW & MEDIUM TONE - irons and mid-range metals both eliminated.
2 Flashing target and sensitivity indicators. The flashing target indicators point to the targets eliminated.

Each subsequent press of MODE will toggle between discrimination settings. The flashing arrow indicates the target category eliminated.

The detector will store the current discrimination setting until the power is turned off.