

FIELD TEST REPORT ON THE Pulsar/Grifon "TRUEPOWER"

I was recently asked to test the new Grifon MD3030 by Pulsar Electronics and this is the result.

The detector was delivered very promptly and on opening the box was pleasantly surprised by how good the 3030 looked (Figure 1) because the price tag is only £265 including *all* the accessories you'll need to get right out and start detecting like a pro!

I was expecting something that would bend at the sight of a stubble field, but *no*, not so. Unlike many other "budget" makes, this machine looks like it can take some serious use, and still come out of the other side with flying colours. Still, to the really test the 3030's mettle, I needed to get it out "in the field" so as to speak.



Fig 1: The new MD3030 From Pulsar Electronics

The detector has a centre stem that you slot the bottom stem and coil in and the business end to the other end. Wrap the coil cable around the stem add 2 x 9 volt batteries (provided free) and bingo, off you go!

The bronze stem extends to ample length. I had adjustment left and am six foot tall. The front panel (Figure 2) a sensitivity dial, discrimination, volume control and even a pinpoint button and a red light for your low battery indicator, 5 year warranty (WHAT??) unbelievable for this price I thought.

The coil is again more than you would expect, a *ten inch spider coil* (look below, I measured it myself Figure 3) nice for covering lots of ground in one sweep.



Fig 2: The MD3030 front panel - Simplicity itself.

As with most modern Metal detectors, the 3030 is a full auto-tune motion type machine, which means no pressing re-tune buttons to know you are getting the best performance at all times.



Fig 3: Yes, that REALLY is a 10" coil!

Now for the real test. So off we went, my mate and I, him with his 700 quid detector, which I won't name, and me with mine which needs a name so I've called her Doris.

The first field we went to was a stubble field just to see if the 3030 would handle a bit of strain on the stem. I turned the volume to about 3 o'clock; the volume is also the on/off control. I left the discriminate switched off (well, turned to minimum as there is an 'auto' position in the extreme anticlockwise position) and the sensitivity to 3 o'clock also and started sweeping.

Within minutes I got a signal, yep a large bolt then I got a part horseshoe that was enough for me so I set the discriminate to the end of the first white segment but still I was getting pieces of iron so I set it to the end of the yellow segment, This I found to be the best setting now the 3030 was spitting at the iron nails, to reassure myself I dug at a spit signal a sure enough it was a nail. Being as we were now finding something I put on some headphones (not supplied) plugged into the quarter inch jack and continued, A big signal rang in my ears so I dropped the volume to 12 o'clock much better. This was my first coin a Victorian penny and at 7 inches.



The MD3030 hits it's first target!

I got my mate to measure the hole then we did an air test, it still detected the penny at 9 inches on full sensitivity, we were well impressed! This was all there was to find in this field. My mate had faired no better so, off to the hot spot we went.

The next field is one myself and said friend know about and every year we have 4 or 5 days at it so I was taking a big risk (or so I thought) using a machine which was an "unknown quantity". I put on the phones volume at 12 o'clock, sensitivity up to the red segment, and discriminate to my best spot end of the yellow segment because this field is very trashy. I got a good signal which I thought was a coin but I was still messing with the detector so I used the pinpoint, well this is spot on but we were laughing, memories of sooty and sweep came flooding back. Because of the pinpoint noise, you have to buy the machine just for that! I dug down again around 7 to 8 inches and it was an old oval saint Christopher.



The St. Christopher, after a gentle cleaning

The 3030 was spitting quite regularly but if I'd turned the discrim up to maximum I'm sure smaller coins would be ignored. The spitting was very reassuring because it was doing a very good job. I then found a lovely condition Henry 3rd long cross penny at about 6 inches, a sharp signal yet again!



A nice hammered silver. WOW!!

I also found 3 small roman Constantine but these were only shallow and an air test showed the detector to be out of range for definite on small low metal value coins like these at 4 to 5 inches but hey, a lot dearer detectors would be in the same boat.

The next weekend we had the chance to detect the grass field where the lions bonfire display had been in on the condition that what we found went to the local charities supported by the lions oh well, I was testing the machine... £38.54 pence later another test passed with flying colours, nothing very deep but detected accurately and sharply.

Summary: **A superb detector with excellent high performance** and a *MUST BUY* at the price. I can't see ANY other combo available from ANY other dealer that gives you this much power for the same money. I think [this is Christmas 2005's best bet for entry into the metal detecting hobby](#). Good depth and discrimination and with the quarter jack you can use proper earphones. Made for the *beginner, hobbyist and professional as a backup machine*. Needs coloured marker lines on the control knobs for more accuracy in dim light, although Pulsar now assure me this has been addressed by using some excellent soft touch non slip rubber, colour coded knobs!

There you go best I can do 'cos I'm a farm boy, better at getting me hands dirty than typing
It really is a good machine, get HIGHT QUALITY spelt right on the sticker and it's a cracker.

The Grifon MD3030 is available exclusively from Pulsar Electronics (see advert in back of magazine for



Available ONLY from;

**Pulsar Electronics
9 Alston Close
Galmington
Taunton
Somerset
United Kindom
TA1 4LR**