

# FIELD TEST



## Viking VK40

### Spec sheet

Operating modes	Silent search discrimination with meter ID / threshold based all metal
Frequency (coil dictates frequency)	7.2KHz
Standard Search coil	9.5" Concentric
Weight	1.4kg
Battery type/life	1 X 9 volt pp3 /approx 15-20hrs
Accessory search heads	No

What's in a name? Well a lot as it turned out! Many of you will see the name Viking and flick through these couple of pages without a second thought, and to be honest I was not as excited as I can be when testing top of the range detectors. But test it I did and I have to say I enjoyed it. Read on and you will not be disappointed and may even be surprised.

After picking up the test machine I took it home and unpacked it, the first thing that was immediately evident is that the coil and control box are permanently hard wired so obviously no accessory coils will be available, however the detector comes as standard with a 9.5 inch concentric coil and cover. All the other ancillaries come in an A4 envelope i.e. instructions, product brochure and battery. The machine is simple to assemble and was done in a couple of minutes. I then stood back and had a good look, not bad for a machine that costs less than £230. However, I did find that the lower stem is a little too flexible when fully extended especially if you're tall like me (something I believe Viking have already addressed and will be launching a new three sectioned version in the new year). One really nice touch is the balance of the detector and the handle which is superb. This will be mentioned again later.

### Controls

I will start by saying this control panel would not look out of place on the detector costing twice as much as the VK40. It consists of five tactile buttons and a display screen, which gives you a bar and numbered read out for target identification. It also shows the discrimination and sensitivity setting whilst in the motion mode.

**Touch pad functions.** (Left to right)

#### On/off

One press fires the machine up into its start up procedure, press it again and it will turn the detector off.

#### Down Arrow

This button has two functions. Firstly whilst in the menu mode it will decrease the selected setting i.e. sensitivity + discrimination. Secondly when pressed out of the menu mode it will put the detector into the motion mode.

#### P

When you have motion or all metal selected keeping this button pressed will put the detector into non-motion mode i.e. pin pointing until it is released. When the detector is working in non-motion mode hold the button in and it will retune the audio threshold to its preset level.

#### Up Arrow

When the detector is working in motion mode press this button and it will change to the all metal mode, press it again and it will go into the non-motion mode. It will now flick between the two with subsequent presses. While in the menu mode it will increase the setting selected i.e. sensitivity + discrimination.

#### Menu

A press on the menu button will put you into the menu mode. First press will enable sensitivity; adjust this with the up and down arrows. A second press will enable discrimination, which again is adjusted with the up and down arrows. A third press will enable the 'ground' setting which is simply toggled between inland or beach by pressing the up and down buttons. Finally, a fourth press sets the detector into an auto power off mode. Basically this means if you leave the detector switched on or do not receive a signal for approximately five minutes it will switch itself off! (The first adjustment I made was to switch this function off!)

That's it, so simple to use and set up even you technophobes will be able to use it. Before we go out into the field I will just explain the discrimination, sensitivity and display in a little more detail.

#### Discrimination

This runs between 0 – 90, the higher we go the less targets to be accepted and lower vice versa. I must at this point start to praise this detector. I found the discrimination brilliant easily matching some very expensive detectors I have used and tested. Doing an in air test with a four inch nail (rusty) and a cut half, I could completely eliminate the nail at 45 and still get a strong signal on the coin, however there is one drawback this being there is no broken signal with this detector its either a one way signal which is iron or rubbish and a two way signal is a good target. Believe me in conjunction with the display, it works! (The first good signal that I got in the field being a worn, wafer thin hammered.)

#### Sensitivity

This again runs between 0 – 90 but to be honest I did not have to touch it. It ran at 90 on my site with no problems.

#### Display

Firstly this displays the current adjustment mode in the menu and when detecting, the mode you are currently working in. As I mentioned earlier whilst in motion mode it will continually display your discrimination + sensitivity

setting. The target ID is numbered between 0 – 95 and is backed up by a blocked graph. The better the target the higher the number and also the amount of blocks illuminated will be greater. The lower the number and the less segments filled in means iron or rubbish. Working in conjunction with the signal given the blocked graph did not let me down once. The battery indicator (9v pp3) is incorporated into the display (clever). As the blocks fill up on a target signal they will gradually reduce in size as the battery life gets lower eventually it will read low battery, by that time its too late. (Tell you later!) One final touch when you switch the detector off it scrolls 'Goodbye' So it is a polite detector too!

### In The Field

I wanted to take the VK40 somewhere totally new and unknown. My mate had invited me to a Roman site in Lincolnshire where he has recently gained permission so I deemed this an ideal chance to give the VK40 a good and fair test.

First job was to let the farmer know we had arrived which took the best part of an hour due to him being such a nice bloke, even got a cup of tea and biscuits. (Wish they were all like that.) He even pointed us to a field where he had found a pottery scatter, so it was looking good.

We planned to run my mates detector and the VK40 together and see what happened, his machine was twice the price of the Viking, I shall say no more. So off we set on a newly drilled field. (Farmers exact words were "If it ain't growing you cannot hurt it".) The field was nice and dry and fairly firm, ideal detecting. First thing I wanted to check was the depth as previous Vikings have not been fantastic in that department, however as mentioned earlier the VK40 comes fitted with a 9.5 inch concentric coil so expectations were high. I set the detector with the discrimination at 35 and sensitivity to 90 and set off. In a short space of time I realised that the discrimination was set too low and increased to 50 this made the one way signals on iron reduce to an acceptable level.

First good signal within ten minutes went to me so I called my mate over he passed his machine over the find spot and he also received a nice clear signal. Digging down about 10cm revealed one of the thinnest hammered coins I have ever seen, most of the detail was worn off but the VK40 gave a good clean two way signal, and showed 55 on the display. Within another ten minutes my mate shouted me over and asked me to go over a patch of ground he had marked with an X, "iron I told him", the display showed me 15 and one segment was lit he dug it and sure enough half of horse shoe came out.

For the next two hours we continually checked each others targets and not once did the other detector out do the Viking.



Two Georgian pennies

At this stage of the day the tally was six Roman bronzes, one hammered and various other bits and pieces to me. My mate had nine Roman bronzes and various bits of bronze dross and lead. I had still not dug up one piece of iron without wanting to.



The worn hammered

At this point we decided to have lunch and then carry on separately, for me the VK40 was now starting to prove itself and my confidence in it was growing.

Two hours later we met up again I had increased my tally to eight Roman, two Georgian pennies, a piece of bronze that looked to be part of a brooch and loads of buttons and bits of lead, but still no iron. The bronzes all gave good signals and ranged in depth from just under the surface to about 10cm. One of the Georgian pennies was some 20cm down.

The other detector had produced another Roman bronze and the obligatory pile of lead and buttons.

I had now been swinging this detector for close on five hours and still felt fresh as a daisy. It's perfectly balanced and the rubber handle is really comfortable, not to mention more hygienic than the rubber spongy things that adorn most detectors. Oh! And don't use cheap batteries as they don't last!

The one supplied with the detector (thanks Craig!) only lasted one hour and cost me a one mile walk to the car. Once a quality battery was fitted I had no further problems.

At this point we called it day as we had a good distance to drive home.

### Summary

Well what can I say? Would I take the VK40 out again? A resounding YES!! I approached this field test with some anticipation but have been pleasantly surprised. The VK40 is a sub £230 detector but in my eyes it has performed brilliantly. This is a British designed and built detector that has really gone up a notch. Well done Viking keep it up!

The VK40 is available from all UK Viking dealers priced at £229 or visit [www.metaldetectors.co.uk](http://www.metaldetectors.co.uk)

**WIN a brand new Viking VK40 by answering this simple question: What diameter is the search coil on the Viking VK40 detector?**

Answer this simple question and send your answer on a postcard to: *The Searcher*, Viking Competition, 17 Down Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 2PX and your name, address and telephone number will be entered into the prize draw.

All entries need to be received by 5th January 2007. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post. One entry person. Competition open to residents within UK mainland only. The draw will take place shortly after the 8th January 2007. The winner will be notified as soon as possible. No correspondence will be entered into. There is no cash or other alternative to the prizes stated and the prize is not transferable and no part or parts of the prize may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions.

**GOOD LUCK!**

User Features – (Scores out of ten based on price category)	
Ergonomics (weight/balance)	9
Simplicity/user friendly	7
Build quality	6
Accessory search coil compatibility	0
Arable land use	8
Pasture land use	7
Park land use	7
Dry beach use	6
Wet salt beach use	6
Value for money (£229)	9
<b>SEARCHER RATING</b>	

TEST RESULTS