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## DETECH Desert Gold 3

# DETECH Desert Gold 3 VLF Metal Detector User Manual

Model: Desert Gold 3

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The DETECH Desert Gold 3 is a powerful and adaptable analog Very Low Frequency (VLF) metal detector designed for various metal detecting applications. It offers exceptional performance across diverse terrains, making it suitable for relic hunting, coin shooting, and general treasure hunting. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your detector.



Image 1.1: The DETECH Desert Gold 3 metal detector fully assembled, ready for use.

**Key Features:**

- **Operating Frequency:** 13.83 kHz - 13.89 kHz
- **Operating Modes:** Motion with discrimination, and Quasi-No Motion.
- **Ground Balance:** Automatic and Manual adjustment.
- **Discrimination:** Adjustable for target identification.
- **Search Coil:** Equipped with the 11.5" Ultimate DD search coil.
- **Battery Life:** Over 20 hours of continuous operation.
- **Weight:** Approximately 1.6 kg (3.5 lbs) for extended use without fatigue.

## 2. SETUP AND ASSEMBLY

Proper assembly ensures optimal performance and comfortable use of your DETECH Desert Gold 3 metal detector. Follow these steps to assemble the unit.

1. **Attach the Search Coil:** Secure the 11.5" Ultimate DD search coil to the lower stem using the provided non-metallic bolt and nut. Ensure it is firmly attached but not overtightened.
2. **Connect the Stems:** Connect the lower stem to the middle stem, and then the middle stem to the upper stem. Adjust the length of the stem to a comfortable height that allows the search coil to be parallel to the ground when sweeping.
3. **Mount the Control Box:** Attach the control box to the upper stem. Ensure it is securely fastened.
4. **Wrap the Cable:** Carefully wrap the search coil cable around the stem, leaving enough slack near the coil for movement, and plug the connector into the designated port on the control box. Ensure the connection is secure.
5. **Adjust Armrest:** Adjust the armrest for a comfortable fit, providing support during prolonged use.



Image 2.1: The detector assembled and positioned in a natural environment, showing its full structure.

The detector is powered by batteries, providing over 20 hours of continuous operation. Ensure batteries are properly installed and charged before use.

### 3. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The DETECH Desert Gold 3 offers various controls to optimize your metal detecting experience. Familiarize yourself with the control panel before operation.



Image 3.1: Close-up view of the DETECH Desert Gold 3 control panel, showing various knobs and switches.

#### 3.1. Power On/Off and Sensitivity

- The **ON/OFF/SENS** knob controls the power and sensitivity. Turn clockwise to power on and increase sensitivity. Start with moderate sensitivity and adjust as needed to minimize false signals.

#### 3.2. Operating Modes

The detector features two primary operating modes:

- **MOTION with Discrimination:** This mode requires the search coil to be in motion to detect targets. It allows for adjustable discrimination to filter out unwanted metals.
- **QUASI-NO MOTION (All Metal):** This mode is highly sensitive to all metals and does not require constant coil motion. It is ideal for maximum depth and finding all types of metal targets.

#### 3.3. Ground Balance

Ground balance is crucial for stable operation and depth, especially in mineralized soils.

- **Automatic Ground Balance (Tracking):** The detector features an automatic ground balance system that continuously adjusts to changing ground conditions.
- **Manual Ground Balance:** For precise tuning, use the **GND ADJUST** knob. In a clean area, pump the coil up and down while adjusting the knob until the threshold sound is stable.

#### 3.4. Discrimination

The **DISC** control allows you to reject unwanted metallic objects, such as iron. Turning the knob clockwise increases the level of discrimination.

- **Target Identification:** The detector provides a dual-tone identification system: a low tone for ferrous targets (iron) and a high tone for non-ferrous targets (coins, jewelry, gold).

## 4. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance extends the life and performance of your DETECH Desert Gold 3 metal detector.

- **Cleaning:** After each use, wipe down the detector, especially the search coil, with a damp cloth to remove dirt, dust, and moisture. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Storage:** Store the detector in a dry, cool place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for an extended period, remove batteries to prevent leakage.
- **Battery Care:** The detector uses rechargeable batteries. Ensure they are fully charged before each use. Avoid overcharging or completely draining the batteries frequently to prolong their lifespan. The detector offers over 20 hours of continuous operation on a full charge.
- **Cable Inspection:** Periodically inspect all cables and connections for any signs of wear or damage. Ensure connections are clean and secure.

## 5. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your DETECH Desert Gold 3 metal detector.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No power or intermittent power.	Low or dead batteries; loose battery connection; faulty power switch.	Ensure batteries are fully charged and correctly inserted. Check all cable connections. If issues persist, contact customer support.
Excessive false signals or chatter.	High sensitivity setting; poor ground balance; electromagnetic interference (EMI); damaged coil cable.	Reduce sensitivity. Perform a manual ground balance. Move away from power lines, cell phones, or other electronic devices. Inspect coil cable for damage.
Poor depth detection.	Incorrect ground balance; low sensitivity; highly mineralized soil; incorrect operating mode.	Ensure proper ground balance. Increase sensitivity if stable. Consider using All Metal (Quasi-No Motion) mode for maximum depth.
Inaccurate target identification.	High discrimination setting; target too deep or small; multiple targets.	Lower discrimination setting. Sweep slowly and overlap passes. Dig questionable signals.

For advanced troubleshooting or issues not covered here, please refer to the official DETECH website or contact their customer support.

## 6. SPECIFICATIONS

Technical specifications for the DETECH Desert Gold 3 metal detector.

Feature	Detail
Type	Very Low Frequency (VLF) Metal Detector
Operating Frequency	13.83 kHz - 13.89 kHz
Operating Modes	Motion with Discrimination, Quasi-No Motion (All Metal)
Search Coil	11.5" Ultimate DD Search Coil
Ground Balance	Automatic (Tracking) and Manual
Discrimination	Adjustable, Dual-Tone Identification
Power Source	Rechargeable Battery Powered
Battery Life	Approximately 20 hours
Weight	1.6 Kilograms (3.5 lbs)
Adjustable Length	Yes
Material	Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer
International Protection Rating	IP55
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	1500 x 40 x 15 cm (approximate assembled)

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

**Warranty:** The DETECH Desert Gold 3 metal detector comes with a 2-year warranty from the date of purchase. This warranty covers manufacturing defects and ensures the product meets its specified performance standards under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

**Support:** For technical assistance, warranty claims, or general inquiries, please visit the official DETECH website or contact their customer service department. Contact details can typically be found on the manufacturer's website or included documentation.