



The Garrett Pro-Pointer Probe By Brian Cross

It is a few months now since Mo' surprised me with a Garrett pro-pointer as a present. Wow, my initial thoughts were, "What a fantastically made piece of kit" It appeared to be perfect for the task it was designed to do and looked to be very functional into the bargain.

The probe weighs in at 190 grams, is nine inches long or 230 mm approx. Its maximum width is one and a half inches or 40 mm approx and at its narrowest, by the tip, the width goes down to seven-eighths of an inch or 22 mm approx.

My first opportunity to get to use the probe would be on a short trip to Angelsey in our motorhome. We were taking our seven year old grandson Luke with us and hoping to get a bit of detecting in as well. I call Luke the "Duracell Bunny" because he doesn't stop all day and I wondered how he would cope if I was going to do five hours detecting on a beach.

I needn't have worried for I had the brainwave of giving him the Garrett pro-pointer to use as his own mini metal detector. He loved it !! When I got a signal, I removed the wet sand from the hole with my shovel and shouted Luke to go through it with the probe and I would carry on. I wondered how the probe would cope with this but almost every time he'd catch me up having found a one pence, two pence, twenty or something else.

Luke would also use it to test his belt buckle was still made of metal as well as the studs on Mo's three quarter jeans and numerous bits we had on the beach with us. At first I was conscious that this was an expensive present and that he might break it but as the day progressed and this probe was poked around in salt water puddles, big piles of sloppy sand mixed with pebbles and bricks I soon relaxed knowing that this sort of

environment was exactly what the probe was designed for.

The only time we heard it falsing was when Luke pushed it deep into rock pools insisting that something was there. It was only the probe reacting to being immersed in salt water.

Battery life was obviously great because this probe hardly left Luke's hand for three solid days. I had been impressed with its performance during that short trip to the beach.

My next opportunity to use and test the probe was in September when myself and Mo' went detecting with some friends. We went to the east coast of Yorkshire, detecting inland not far from Scarborough. We would be there for about five days.

I have been detecting since 1977, thirty-four years and never once have I owned or used a probe but I will honestly admit that after the first day of using the Garrett Pro-pointer I was hooked. The probe comes with a very useful, well-designed holster that fits on to your belt and I found it so easy to reach to the belt take the probe out and prod the ground with it to quickly find your signal.

I can honestly say that I felt my detecting style was being changed. Here I was, a long-time experienced detectorist, suddenly finding my finds rate increasing. Instead of getting a signal and squatting for five minutes or so looking for the piece of metal that had created the signal my new method was to get the signal with the detector, use my trowel to remove a divot or clump of soil, run detector over to ensure the signal has been removed and then finally, if the signal was out, run the pro-pointer over the spoil until the signal showed itself by the loud crisp signal and strong vibration. Very quickly

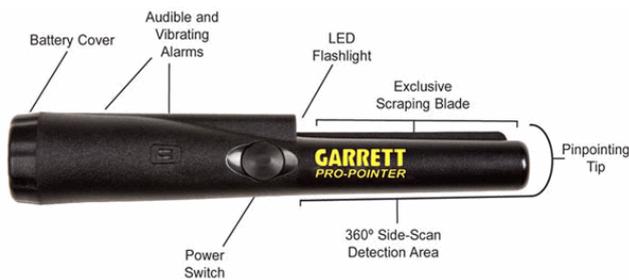


Fig 1

I found I was standing up again and off detecting, much, much faster than I ever had in the past.

This unit has such a good design. The signal does not just come from the probe end but from four inches up from the tip (see Fig 1) and from completely around the probe. It has a sharp, crisp signal and has a vibrate as well. Looking for an object is easy, move the probe around until you feel it vibrate or sound off. Careful movement will have the unit vibrating strongly and sounding loudly once you are virtually on the target.

A very useful LED light is fitted to the unit. It would be useful in low light conditions but I found it a very useful indicator as to whether the unit was switched on or off.

Finally the other useful function on this superb probe was the on/off switch which was just a simple push button covered to make it totally waterproof. So cleverly designed is this probe that it became almost second nature to reach into the holster to take the probe out, switch it on by pushing this on/off button and then use the probe to find your target. It really was simple to use and very functional.

I've never changed the battery yet despite the fact that Luke wore the thing to death when we were away in Angelsey and I used it over four or five days detecting.

Owning the UK DETECTOR NET Forum I took the opportunity to ask some of the forum members what they thought of the probe and their comments are below.

Barbados_Rum wrote: Overall, I found the Garret Pro-pointer (GPP) to be an invaluable tool saving precious time when locating elusive targets.

It's one of those things, you don't need one..... until you've used one. Although very expensive, I couldn't do without a Pro-pointer. The GPP is robust and has a good battery life.

The downside is that they are easily lost.

Everyone I've spoken to say that it wasn't the first time that they ended up looking at an empty holster!!! Luckily for them, they back-tracked and were re-united again with their beloved GPP's

Sidnallie47 wrote: The Garrett pro-pointer is worth every penny when I went to Regtons they showed me three other brands, one fell apart in his hands the other was way to big and the 3rd you had to hold a button constantly while tuning before you could even use it.

Nigel then showed me the Garrett which felt like quality straight away, it was the perfect size and all you had to do was push a button and you were away. I went out detecting the other day and forgot my Garrett pro- pointer. I couldn't believe how much I relied on it and felt lost without it. In my opinion the Garrett pro-pointer is a must for any serious detectorist...money well spent

Harry UP wrote: The Pro pointer saves so much time it's unbelievable. Since I purchased one I reckon my finds, per days digging, have gone up about 30%. It's also robust enough to do the following. Once I get a signal with the detector I run the Pro pointer across the ground to see if the find is near the surface. If the ground is soft enough, and the find is only shallow, I actually use it to dig the find out of the ground.

Sic odiggin wrote: It is the best detecting accessory I have ever purchased! It is very easy to use. It saves a lot of time when looking for the target and also stops you damaging the item being recovered as you know exactly where it is in the ground. Very well built and great battery life from the 9v battery. Waterproof and supplied with holder. A little more expensive than most probes but then quality costs! Worth every penny.

JBM wrote: I have had some thoughts about the Garrett probe as requested. The Garrett probe is a quality product in its design, build and performance.

Its shape and size are just what is needed by many detectorists which also saves time and effort when locating the find even if its out of sight in the wall of a hole.

The Audio is loud and clear but the vibrator is an additional help for those with a hearing problem.

The bright small very bright warning light will remind the user when the probe is switched on and will help conserve the battery life.

When using a "alkaline" battery the unit will run for 25-30 hours but if the 9 volt battery falls below 8 volts it should be changed to retain maximum performance.

The belt pouch is a nice tight fit but its a good idea to attach a flexible cord as it is possible to leave the probe at the side of the hole in the excitement of the moment when looking at the find and back filling the hole.

I hope some of this personal experience will be of help.

Mal Asterley wrote: A brilliant well made time saver !! , however well you have learnt to use your detector to pinpoint items you are searching for you often lose a lot of time searching the spoil for that little signal that you just can't locate and that's were the Garrett Pro Pointer comes into its own.

Its a robust well thought about little tool ideal for all the different conditions you detect in wet or dry , its smooth shape prevents it clogging up with mud and what might stick to it is easily rubbed off or you can just run it under a tap , it does what the name says and "points" inside the hole or at the spoil and as you get near to what you are looking for the crisp signal gets louder and the pointer vibrates more , you cant mistake your find because it guides you to the item.

You only have one battery in The Pointer and that has a long shelf life so carrying a spare battery takes up no space at all , it comes with a very well designed Holster that fits onto your belt and its very easy to remove and replace it as you need it .

The time that you save using The Pro Pointer is invaluable and you are really carrying with you an extra detector but one that is simple to use that once used you will not be without.

The Garrett Pro-pointer would make an ideal Christmas present for the detector user and can be bought at the link below

[Link to Pro-pointer](#)

Lastly the 10% UKDN discount is still available from Regton's BUT not in conjunction with other offers. Regton have free post on orders over £50 from now to end Jan so your best option is to take the discount & pay the £5 post. By doing that you will save £5 !!



Luke with Pro-Pointer