DETECTORMODS

Detector Troubleshooting Guide

Is it the control box, or something else in your kit?

GP SERIES

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1 · Read this first

OK, so your detector is misbehaving. This guide should help you work out: is it actually the control box? Or something else in your kit?

This guide is a beta. If something in it is wrong, or doesn't match what your detector actually does, email us and we'll sort it out: david@detectormods.com. Tell us which detector and which part of the guide.

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We've had detectors go back and forth in the post multiple times because the unit came up with "Coil Overcurrent". You would think that's a coil or control box issue. Well, after numerous trips in the post, we found the problem was a curly power cable… We don't have the time for another one of those!

We also don't have time to give free phone support for 30 minutes helping you work out that you have a dodgy speaker.

So this guide should help you narrow it down. Is it the detector? Is it another piece of equipment? Is this a problem you can solve, or do you need to contact us?

What this guide will do for you

- Tell you which checks to do, and in what order, for what your detector is doing.
- Show you how to prove which part is at fault, by swapping one thing at a time.

- Point you at the part that fixes it, when it's something we make.
- Tell you when to stop and email us, and what to put in the email.

The same checks are in our free Detector Troubleshooter. Pick your detector, answer a few questions, and at the end it writes the email summary for you: detectormods.com/tools/detector-troubleshooter.

Before anything goes in the post

Every detector that comes in costs us time before we find anything: booking it in, the paperwork, and the diagnostic itself. That fee is unavoidable. If the job isn't a warranty job, or there's nothing wrong with the detector, the fee is for our time — we've been sent on a wild goose chase for a problem that isn't there. So do these checks first, and email us rather than ringing: david@detectormods.com.

2 · Which detector have you got

This guide covers the Minelab detectors we work on: the SD, GP and GPX series (including the GPX 6000), the GPZ 7000 and the GM 1000. They don't all work the same way, and the differences matter when something goes wrong.

GP SERIES

GP Extreme, GP 3000 and GP 3500. Knobs and switches only, so everything is done by ear. The GP 3500 has a ground-balance button (Quick-Trak) on the handle.

Power and sound. As on the SD: your headphones plug into the socket in the battery cap, and the power cable carries the sound back to it as well as the power. There's no headphone socket on the control box.

Speaker. A speaker needs an external amplifier, such as our LT-Booster. ("Booster" just means an amplifier: someone used the term once and it's stuck ever since.) Minelab's "Boost" switch is a sound-processing setting, not an amplifier.

Our battery goes on a GP only through the SD/GP Power Adapter. Never a Minelab GPX battery.

GPX 6000 AND GPZ 7000

Never fit a normal pulse-induction (SD/GP/GPX) coil to a 6000 or 7000 by any adapter — a mono coil in an X-coil adapter can destroy a GPZ 7000 instantly. The 6000's and 7000's front-end modules are not something we can repair.

Something else? If it's an SDC 2300, an Equinox, a Manticore or another brand, please don't send it to us or email us about it: we don't know those circuits, and learning a new detector from scratch is an enormous job. Go through Minelab (or the maker) or your dealer.

3 · The three rules

Whatever your detector is doing, these three come first. A lot of the faults we see are found by one of them.

Rule 1: connectors first

Is there anything in the connectors that shouldn't be? Check every single connector for dust, dirt and fluff: anything that is not a part of the connector should not be there. If there's something in the hole of the connector, or on the part that plugs in, clean it out.

- Every plug and socket: power, coil, headphones, and the handle button's plug where there is one.
- Look for dust, dirt, fluff, moisture, green corrosion and bent pins.
- **Switch off before you plug or unplug anything** — coil, battery, cable. Pulling a coil out while the detector is running can damage it.

Fine dust raises the resistance of the contacts, and that can make a detector noisy. Clean, dry, straight pins are what you want. Never use graphite, oil, grease or WD-40: dirt sticks to it. That's the honest reason we make DM-50 and our coil connector lubricant.

FROM THE SHOP

DM-50 — a protectant and lubricant for coil, power and audio connectors. It's non-conductive, so it won't bridge pins. For after you've cleaned a plug.

detectormods.com/shop/90/dm-50

Coil connector lubricant — made for coil plugs and sockets: it cuts wear on the gold plating when you change coils, and evaporates so dirt doesn't stick.

detectormods.com/shop/62/coil-connector-lubricant

Rule 2: known settings

Do a factory reset (GPX, 6000, 7000) or set the start positions (SD, GP), and run the machine as close to standard as possible, or use known settings that have been reliable in the past. A setting someone changed and forgot about sounds exactly like a fault.

SD AND GP

Set the knobs and switches to the start positions in your Setup Guide (or, on a machine we haven't upgraded, the settings in your Minelab manual).

On an SD or GP we've upgraded, the frequency knob goes fully clockwise before you switch on; bring it down after start-up. On an SD, an MSD switch goes on S and a Normal/Deep switch on Normal before you switch on.

Rule 3: swap one thing at a time

Ideally we swap the power cable for another, then the battery, then the audio, then the coil. We need to know if one of these items alone is the culprit, so swap one at a time and see whether the fault goes with it. Borrow if you don't have a spare: a mate's battery or headphones prove just as much as your own.

- **Use a newish, healthy, charged battery,** and swap in a known-good one as part of the swap test.
- **Switch off, wait at least 30 seconds, then switch on once — don't flick it.** Flicking it off and on can cause trouble of its own.
- **Strip the audio back** to plain wired headphones: no wireless set, no booster, no speaker.
- **Take out any of our old in-line boosters** that sit between the battery and the box.

SD, GP AND GPX

On these machines the headphones plug into the battery, and the power cable carries the sound from the box to the battery as well as the power. So "plain wired headphones straight into the detector" really means wired headphones in the battery's socket, with a known-good power cable.

On an SD or GP, our lightweight battery goes on through the SD/GP Power Adapter. For the sound tests, borrow a known-good battery made for your model: it has the headphone socket in its cap.

4 · It won’t turn on at all

What “won’t turn on” looks like depends on your detector.

SD and GP: no threshold and no coil ring (chapter 5 explains the ring).

1. **Fit a charged, known-good battery.** Switch off first. Use a newish, healthy battery of your own, charged, or a borrowed one you know works. Take out any of our old in-line boosters. Wait at least 30 seconds, then switch on once — don’t flick it. If it comes on, your battery or its charger is the fault: flat, dead or not charging. Try it on another charger before you give up on it.
2. **Check the power plugs and pins.** Switch off, unplug the power cable and look into every plug and socket. Clean and dry anything that shouldn’t be there. Plug it back in firmly, wait at least 30 seconds, then switch on once — don’t flick it. Gently flex the cable just behind each plug. The first time it cuts in or out, stop and switch off: you’ve found it, and it’s the cable. Don’t keep making it cut in and out, and never twist or pull a plug while it’s on.
3. **Don’t force a bent pin.** A bent or broken pin, or a plug that won’t lock, is an email to us with photos (chapter 11).
4. **Swap the power cable.** Our lightweight battery has its cable built in, so fitting it swaps the battery and the cable in one go.
5. **Still dead?** Then it points at the control box. Email us (chapter 13).

SD AND GP

Use the battery made for it, or ours through the SD/GP Power Adapter. Never put a Minelab GPX battery on an SD or GP: its voltage is above the GP’s safety cut-out, and it can damage an SD or GP. And never a 12 V battery: Minelab’s GP 3500 and SD 2200v2 manuals both say it can damage the detector.

Coil rings, but no threshold? Then it is on. Go to chapter 5.

GP 3500: the on/off switch is part of the Threshold knob.

A wet SD that won’t turn on has usually had moisture take out a small part in the power supply. Dry it out properly first (chapter 11), then email us.

FROM THE SHOP

Lightweight battery kit — our battery with its cable built in, plus a car and mains charger. It has no amplifier, so a speaker needs a booster.

detectormods.com/shop/63/lightweight-battery-kit

Battery charger — a spare charger for our lightweight batteries, with car and mains leads. If one of ours won't charge, the charger may be the fault.

detectormods.com/shop/69/battery-charger

FROM THE SHOP

SD/GP Power Adapter — connects an SD or GP to our lightweight battery: the only way to run one on ours.

detectormods.com/shop/88/sd-gp-power-adapter

5 · It's on, but there's no sound

Your detector is on, but nothing is coming out of the headphones or the speaker.

First: listen for the coil ring

If your detector is on and no audio is coming out, you should still be able to hear a high-pitched ringing if you're close to the coil. If you have some hearing damage this may be too hard to hear, but the coil will make an audible ringing sound: check it with your ear, or borrow someone's who has good hearing. Most children will be able to hear this easily.

If there is a ringing, the detector is on to some degree.

If there isn't, power isn't getting to the machine: go to chapter 4.

Then the swaps, one at a time

1. **The simple checks.** Threshold turned fully clockwise. Headphones pushed fully into the socket on the battery, because that's where the sound comes out. Volume up on the headphones, if they have a knob. Our headphones go silent if their noise-cancelling switch is on and the AAA cell inside is dead, and a half-seated curly cord can cut out one side.
2. **Strip it back.** If you have other external audio gear, strip everything back to plain wired headphones in the battery's socket: no wireless set, no booster, no speaker. If it works now, the fault is in what you took out (see the speaker notes below).
3. **Known-good headphones** in the same socket. Borrow a pair if you have to. If the sound comes back, it was your headphones.

4. **Swap the power cable.** It carries the sound from the box to the battery as well as the power. Power cables can be tricky when you end up with an intermittent fault, but for now, if replacing it gets you audio back, then that was the problem.
5. **Swap the battery.** If you swap batteries and the detector starts working, then obviously it's the battery. It could be a "not holding charge" situation or, on a GPX, a "the amp is really stuffed" situation.
6. **Still nothing?** If after all of this you can't find any way to get the machine to put audio out, then we need to look at the control box: the issue must be in there. Email us (chapter 13).

But if you send us the control box without troubleshooting all of the above, you'll get the bill for booking it in and the diagnostic whatever we find — and if there's nothing wrong with it, that bill is for our time chasing a problem that isn't there.

SD AND GP

The headphone socket is in the battery cap, and the power cable carries the sound back to it. There's no headphone socket on the control box.

A speaker needs an amplifier, and on an SD or GP that's an external booster, such as our LT-Booster. (Minelab's "Boost" switch on the SD 2200v2 and GP 3500 is a sound-processing setting, not an amplifier.) If headphones work in the battery but the speaker doesn't, it's the booster or the speaker. Fit fresh AA cells, check the booster is switched on, and check its leads: its plug goes into the battery's headphone socket and the speaker into the booster, never the booster into itself. Then try headphones in the booster: if they work there, it's the speaker.

For the battery swap, borrow a known-good battery made for your model, with its own headphone socket in the cap. If that brings the sound back, it's your battery's cap socket or its wiring: have it repaired or replace it.

GP 3500: Minelab's list also says to turn the Volume control clockwise.

Booster checks, any detector. Turn the booster off when you're not using it, or it drains its AA cells. Fresh cells fix a lot of "dead boosters".

FROM THE SHOP

LT-Booster Series 3 — an audio amplifier on two AA cells, made to drive a speaker from a ¼″ headphone socket. On a GPX, pair it with our battery rather than a Minelab one.

detectormods.com/shop/75/lt-booster-series-3-asc

6 · It’s noisy, won’t settle, or gives false signals

If your detector is making unreasonable noise, won’t ground balance and is just being a pain to work with, these are the things to look at.

First, hold the coil dead still for a few seconds and listen. Noise that carries on with the coil still is usually interference from outside (EMI); the checks below rule out the rest. False signals that only come as you swing are usually the coil, its cable or the ground.

Noise that comes and goes is usually a plug or a cable, and the wiggle test below finds it.

SD AND GP: CHIRPING

On an SD or GP we’ve upgraded with the variable frequency control, the frequency knob must be fully clockwise when you switch on; you can turn it down after start-up. On an SD, an MSD switch goes on S and a Normal/Deep switch on Normal before you switch on.

If it ever starts chirping or going “bwarp-bwarp” after a frequency change: switch off, turn the frequency knob fully clockwise, wait at least 30 seconds, and start again.

Noisy even with the coil still

1. **Swap the coil, like for like.** If you’re using a mono, swap for another mono if you have one, and see if that fixes it. If so, that was an easy diagnosis. If one of our mono interference filters is fitted, take it out for this test.
2. **Is it outside interference?** See the box for your detector below.
3. **Swap the power cable.** If that’s the fix, again that’s an easy solution.
4. **Swap the battery.** It’s part of the swap test.
5. **Strip the audio back.** If you’re using wireless gear or boosters, strip it away down to bare basics: plain wired headphones straight into the battery’s socket. If you only have one set of headphones, borrow someone else’s, or a speaker — but the speaker will need a working booster or amp.
6. **Still noisy?** Email us (chapter 13).

Signs it’s the coil, not the box. It gives a signal from wet grass or green vegetation (the shielding inside the coil is breaking down, or the lead has broken strands in its shielding). The noise has crept up slowly over months and keeps getting worse. Or it screams when you touch the cable near the plug.

GP ONLY

Cancel, if your GP has it. The GP 3500's coil switch has Double-D, M (Mono) and Cancel. Fit a DD coil, switch to Cancel and re-balance (you need to after any coil-switch change). Cancel only works with a DD coil and limits depth a little, and it's on Minelab's own list for a very noisy threshold. Noisy on monos but quiet on a DD in Cancel means outside interference. No Cancel, or no DD coil? Walk well away from power lines, fences, buildings and other detectors, and try again.

GP 3000: use the coil-switch position that matches your coil (Double-D or Mono), as in your manual.

GP Extreme: Normal is the position for DD coils and Enhance is for mono coils. Run a DD coil in Enhance and only half of the coil is working, as a mono. Don't mix that up with "Enhance" on a GPX.

Then step around it on a GP we've upgraded: re-balance, a small nudge of the frequency knob either way, then ease the gain down a touch.

If you think, "but my detector has always run quiet in this location", maybe someone has installed something? If you're in a location with an electric fence and it's off, it's not going to do anything; if they turn it on, it's going to make a racket. Same goes for any and all other powered human creations.

And interference can steal depth without sounding bad at all: see chapter 9.

False signals as you swing

- **Coil cable loose or slapping the shaft.** A cable that can move about, especially near the coil, gets "seen" by the detector and makes random noises. Hold it down firmly.
- **Coil bolt loose.** Snug it up.
- **Dirt packed under the coil cover.** Clean it out.
- **A crack in the coil, or damage where the cable goes in.** That's the coil (chapter 11).
- **Dry grass.** Static off the grass is a classic cause of false signals.
- **A big coil can detect the battery.** Move the battery as high up your back as is comfortable.

FROM THE SHOP

Coil clips — six clips to keep the coil cable organised and tight to the shaft.

detectormods.com/shop/76/coil-clips

Anti-static coil spray — anti-static treatment for the coil cover: static from dry grass is a classic cause of false signals.

detectormods.com/shop/80/anti-static-coil-spray

It comes and goes: the wiggle test

With the detector switched on and the coil still, gently flex each joint in turn and listen: the power plug at the box and at the battery, the coil plug, where the cable goes into the coil, and the headphone plug. A crackle, or a scream, when you flex one points at that plug or its cable. We've had one where just touching the coil cable near the plug sent the detector into a high-pitched scream.

Stop at the first one. The first time it cuts out, crackles or screams, stop and switch off: you've found it. Don't keep making it cut in and out. At the coil plug, keep the retaining ring done up and flex the cable just behind it; never twist or pull the plug while it's on.

At the coil plug: switch off, clean the plug and socket, dry them, check the pins are straight, and do the retaining ring up firmly. Wait at least 30 seconds, then switch on once — don't flick it — and flex the cable again. Still noisy when you flex it? It's the coil. At the headphone plug: chapter 7.

7 · The sound is crackly, distorted, or cuts in and out

Crackles, distortion and cut-outs are nearly always in the sound path: the headphones, their plug and lead, a wireless link, or a socket. Start there.

1. **Strip it back to known-good wired headphones,** straight into the battery's socket: no wireless set, no booster, no speaker. Wiggle the plug and run the lead through your fingers as you listen. Clear now? Then it was your headphones, or what you took out.
2. **Wireless dropouts.** A wireless set that's low on charge drops out and crackles, so charge both parts fully before you blame anything else. (Our wireless set runs about 5 hours on the transmitter and 7 on the headphones.)
3. **Wiggle the socket, flex the cable.** With known-good headphones in, wiggle the plug in the battery's socket, then gently flex the power cable just behind each of its plugs. The first time it crackles or cuts out, stop and switch off: you've found it. Don't keep making it cut in and out, and never twist or pull a plug while it's on.
4. **Swap the power cable, then the battery.**
5. **Still crackly?** Vibration can break wires and joints inside the box: internal wires fall off the board, solder joints crack, and on the GPX 4500 and 5000 the switch connections can break away. Email us (chapter 13).

SD AND GP

The headphone socket is in the battery cap, so that's where to wiggle the plug. For the battery swap, borrow a known-good battery made for your model, with its own socket in the cap.

8 · It won’t ground balance

Whichever way your detector balances:

- Balance over clean ground, never over a target or a hot rock.
- Keep the coil moving while it balances.
- Re-balance after any switch change, and whenever the ground changes.
- Start from your Setup Guide’s start positions.

The handle button and the “bloop”

If your detector won’t ground balance, make sure the handle is working first, then use the switch, then look at your technique and the ground. When you push the button on the handle you get what we call a “bloop” and Minelab calls a short beep. With the Fixed/Tracking switch on Tracking, pump the coil up and down over clean ground and press and release the handle button: you should hear a short beep as a fast balance runs (three seconds on a GPX). That tells you the button reached the box.

Then you can initiate a fast track with the switch: set Fixed, pump the coil, and flick the switch to Tracking. Keep the coil moving before you flick it, because the very fast balance only lasts a short time. Rinse and repeat until it’s stable.

If the switch works every time but the button never does, the handle button is the fault, not the balance. The button reaches the box through its own cable and a small plug in the Smart Point socket on the control box. Switch off, reseat that plug (clean, pins straight, pushed fully home), and tape a loose cable to the shaft. Still dead: email us, and we’ll say whether to send the handle, the box or both.

GP ONLY

GP 3500. The Quick-Trak button is on the handle. With the switch on Tracking, press and release it while you pump the coil 20–100 mm above the ground: you’ll hear a short beep as a quick balance runs. With the switch on Fixed, hold the button down while you pump: it starts with a 5-second very fast balance.

GP 3000 and GP Extreme. Use your handle button if your model has one. Otherwise flick the Fixed/Tracking switch to Tracking while pumping the coil.

Salty ground (GP 3500). Try the Salt position on the Soil switch. Re-balance after any coil-switch change.

Still won’t balance from known settings, with good technique on clean ground? Email us (chapter 13), and tell us the ground and the coil you were using.

9 · It won’t find gold, or seems to have lost depth

If the detector picks up metal, it’s going to pick up gold. Gold in the ground can be in numerous different states, and we have videos about nuggets that are harder to hear even though, given the

weight, you'd expect them to be glaringly obvious. For example, "California undetectable nugget now easy to hear" and "The undetectable gold is now detectable part 1", both on our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@DetectorMods.

Weight isn't depth

If you're using multiple pieces of gold and you think "this weighs one gram, I should get one gram of depth", that's wrong. The detector doesn't detect cumulative pieces of gold well: it will see the largest piece that is exposed to it. That's true for all the pulse induction machines, and not as true for the VLF units.

If you want a demo, take a tiny loop necklace, loose in your hand, and detect it. Then try again with it squeezed together tight, and watch the depth increase!

And don't test with lead: its weight doesn't tell you anything useful about how it behaves electrically.

The proof test

Test the machine before you blame it.

1. Hold the coil off the ground, away from metal, power lines and buildings.
2. Pass a known target across the coil at a measured distance: one of our test targets, or a nugget you know.
3. Compare with what this detector did before, or with a mate's detector of the same model.

We don't print distances: every machine, coil and setting is different. What matters is the comparison.

> **FROM THE SHOP**
>
> **Test targets** — gold-plated spheres sized against real gold, from 0.1 g to 2 g — a known target to test with.
>
> detectormods.com/shop/82/test-targets-01-to-2g

It hears it like it should? Then the machine is fine. Look at how it's set up and used:

- Known settings: a factory reset, or your Setup Guide's start positions, then set up from the Setup Guide.
- The timing or mode to suit the ground.
- Coil size to suit the gold: small coils for small gold.
- Coil low and level, and a slow, steady swing.
- Some nuggets are hard to hear, whatever they weigh.

Weaker than before? Interference can steal depth without sounding bad at all. In some cases it can swamp the front of the detector while it seems to run fine, and cost up to 70% of its depth. So before

you blame the machine, repeat the test somewhere else, well away from power lines, fences and buildings. Test where you actually intend to detect, not in the shed at home.

On a GPX, or a GP with a Cancel position, run the comparison with a DD coil in Cancel as well (chapter 6).

Only hears big metal, very close? If your machine won't pick up anything at all, and maybe it will only detect your car bonnet from a foot away, this is most likely the coil or the detector control box. You can swap coils, but if you get no joy, then it's probably the front end of the machine. The tell-tale sign of that: the detector has a threshold tone, very smooth, and won't hear anything unless it's huge and very, very close to the coil. Email us (chapter 13).

10 · The screen says something

SD AND GP

Your SD or GP works entirely by ear, so there's nothing in this chapter for your detector. Go back to the chapter for what it's doing: won't turn on (chapter 4), no sound (chapter 5), noisy (chapter 6), crackly (chapter 7), won't ground balance (chapter 8), won't find gold (chapter 9), or wet and damaged (chapter 11).

11 · It got wet, dropped, or damaged

It got wet

- Switch it off and disconnect the battery now.
- Don't switch it on again until it's completely dry: days, not minutes. Unplug the coil and the power cable so every plug and socket can dry too.
- Don't open the control box.
- When it's dry, check every plug and socket for water, grit and green corrosion before anything goes back together. Then switch on once, and if something's still wrong, go to the chapter for that symptom.

DO NOT POWER IT ON

If it's still wet, or it went right under, don't switch it on: not to check, not for a second.

If it went under water, email us before you switch it on.

The control boxes are water resistant, not waterproof, and the coils are only meant for light rain, not a dunking. Keep every connector clean and dry.

Dropped or knocked

Switch off and look it over before you switch on again (and when you do, wait at least 30 seconds, then on once — don’t flick it): the coil for cracks, the cable where it goes into the coil, the coil bolt and the shaft, and every plug for bent pins or a cracked body. Knocks and vibration can also break wires inside the box, but check everything outside first.

A bent pin, or a plug that won’t lock

Don’t force it. Don’t force a bent pin straight, and don’t force a plug that won’t lock: you can break the socket inside the box, and that’s a much bigger job. Switch off, leave it unplugged, and email us with clear photos of the plug and the socket.

A cracked coil

A cracked or split coil needs replacing. The coil cable is wired into the coil, so it isn’t a cable swap. Not sure? Email us first.

12 · GPX 6000 and GPZ 7000 owners: the careful path

SD, GP AND GPX 4000 TO 5000 OWNERS

This chapter is for the GPX 6000 and GPZ 7000 only, and nothing in it applies to your detector. If you also own one of those, read the warning in chapter 2 before you lend it a coil.

13 · Before you send anything to us

Every detector that comes in costs us time before we find anything: booking it in, the paperwork, and the diagnostic itself. That fee is unavoidable. If the job isn't a warranty job, or there's nothing wrong with the detector, the fee is for our time — we've been sent on a wild goose chase for a problem that isn't there. So do these checks first, and email us rather than ringing: david@detectormods.com.

Email first. We'll tell you where to send it and what to include. Please don't post anything until we've replied.

BEFORE YOU SEND ANYTHING

- [ ] I've done the checks in the chapter for what it's doing.
- [ ] I've cleaned and checked every connector.
- [ ] I've run it from known settings: a factory reset, or my Setup Guide's start positions.
- [ ] I've swapped one thing at a time, and written down what happened after each swap.
- [ ] I've stripped the audio back to plain wired headphones.
- [ ] I've taken photos of the connectors.
- [ ] GPX 6000 or GPZ 7000: I've checked the warranty (chapter 12).

What to write in the email

- **Your detector:** the model and the exact variant (GPX 4500, not just "GPX"), and whether we've upgraded it.
- **What it's doing:** the symptom, in your own words.
- **When it started,** and what you were doing at the time.
- **What you swapped, and what happened** each time.
- **What else is in the kit:** battery, power cable, coils, headphones, wireless set, booster, speaker.
- **Whether it has been wet** or knocked.
- **Photos of the connectors.**
- **Your postcode.**

The Detector Troubleshooter writes most of this for you: at the end it gives you a summary to copy, and an Email us button. detectormods.com/tools/detector-troubleshooter

If you've been thinking about an upgrade, you can join the list for your model at detectormods.com/waitlist.

14 · The parts that fix most of this

We only point you at a part where it can genuinely be the fix, or the spare that proves the fault.

Power and batteries

- **Lightweight battery kit** — our battery with its cable built in, plus a car and mains charger. No amplifier, so a speaker needs a booster. detectormods.com/shop/63/lightweight-battery-kit
- **Double lightweight battery kit** — two of our batteries in one kit. With two pairs of headphones, the fastest way to test the whole power and audio side. detectormods.com/shop/67/double-lightweight-battery-kit
- **Single battery** — a second battery for our kit, so a flat or failed one doesn't end the day. The charger comes with the kit. detectormods.com/shop/68/single-battery
- **Battery charger** — a spare charger for our lightweight batteries, with car and mains leads. detectormods.com/shop/69/battery-charger
- **SD/GP Power Adapter** — connects an SD or GP to our lightweight battery: the only way to run one on ours. detectormods.com/shop/88/sd-gp-power-adapter

Sound

- **LT-Booster Series 3** — an audio amplifier on two AA cells, made to drive a speaker from a ¼″ headphone socket. On a GPX, pair it with our battery rather than a Minelab one. detectormods.com/shop/75/lt-booster-series-3-asc

Connectors and the coil end

- **DM-50** — a protectant and lubricant for coil, power and audio connectors; non-conductive, so it won't bridge pins. detectormods.com/shop/90/dm-50
- **Coil connector lubricant** — made for coil plugs and sockets: cuts wear on the gold plating when you change coils. detectormods.com/shop/62/coil-connector-lubricant
- **Coil clips** — six clips to keep the coil cable organised and tight to the shaft. detectormods.com/shop/76/coil-clips
- **Anti-static coil spray** — anti-static treatment for the coil cover: static from dry grass is a classic cause of false signals. detectormods.com/shop/80/anti-static-coil-spray

Testing

- **Test targets** — gold-plated spheres sized against real gold, from 0.1 g to 2 g — a known target to test with. detectormods.com/shop/82/test-targets-01-to-2g

Settings

- **Your Setup Guide** — the start positions and settings this guide keeps sending you to, on the Manuals page. detectormods.com/manuals

15 · Quick paths

The main lines of each chapter, in order. Stop as soon as one fixes it.

It won’t turn on at all

SD and GP

1. Switch off. Fit a charged, known-good battery (the battery made for it, or ours through the SD/GP Power Adapter). Wait 30 seconds; switch on once.
2. Listen for the threshold and the coil ring. Coil rings but no sound? Go to “no sound”.
3. Clean the power plugs and pins; flex the cable near each plug.
4. Swap the power cable.
5. Still dead: email us.

It’s on, but there’s no sound

SD and GP

1. Listen for the coil ring. No ring: go to “won’t turn on”.
2. Threshold fully clockwise; headphones fully into the battery cap.
3. Strip back to plain wired headphones: no wireless set, booster or speaker.
4. Known-good headphones.
5. Swap the power cable: it carries the sound.
6. Swap the battery (a borrowed one made for your model).
7. Still silent: email us.
8. Only the speaker is silent? It’s the booster or the speaker: fresh AA cells, switch, leads, then headphones in the booster.

It’s noisy, won’t settle, or gives false signals

SD and GP

1. Chirping or “bwarp-bwarp”? Switch off, frequency knob fully clockwise (SD: MSD on S, Normal/Deep on Normal), wait 30 seconds, start again.
2. Hold the coil still. Still noisy? Swap the coil, like for like.
3. Outside interference: a DD coil in Cancel if your GP has it; otherwise move well away and try again.
4. Swap the power cable, then the battery.
5. Strip the audio back.
6. Still noisy: email us.
7. False signals as you swing: cable, bolt, cover, cracks, static, battery height.
8. Comes and goes: the wiggle test.

The sound is crackly, distorted, or cuts in and out

SD, GP and GPX 4000 to 5000

1. Known-good wired headphones in the battery’s socket, nothing else in the chain.
2. Charge any wireless set fully.
3. Wiggle the battery’s socket; flex the power cable near each plug.
4. Swap the power cable, then the battery.
5. Still crackly: email us.

It won’t ground balance

GP series

1. GP 3500: switch on Tracking, press and release the handle button while pumping. You’ll hear a short beep.
2. Set Fixed, pump, flick to Tracking.
3. Switch works, button doesn’t: reseat the button’s plug at the Smart Point socket, then email us.
4. Technique, ground, start positions.
5. Still won’t balance: email us.

It won’t find gold, or seems to have lost depth

SD, GP and GPX 4000 to 5000

1. If it finds metal, it finds gold; weight isn’t depth.
2. The proof test: a known target at a measured distance, in air; compare.
3. Hears it: settings, ground, coil size, swing.
4. Weaker: rule out interference, then known settings.
5. Only big metal, very close: swap the coil. Same again: email us.

It got wet, dropped, or damaged

SD, GP and GPX 4000 to 5000

1. Wet: switch off, battery off, dry it for days. Still wet: don’t power it on.
2. Dropped: look over the coil, cable, bolt, shaft and plugs.
3. Bent pin, or a plug that won’t lock: don’t force it; email us.
4. Cracked coil: it needs replacing.
5. Dry and checked: switch on once, then go to the chapter for what it’s doing.

Appendix · Your Setup Guide, and how to reach us

Your Setup Guide has the start positions and settings this guide keeps sending you to. Every edition is on the Manuals page: detectormods.com/manuals.

- **GP series:** the GP edition of the Setup Guide.

Questions about a detector in this guide, or ready to send something? Email david@detectormods.com first, please, rather than ringing, and we’ll tell you what to do next.