

Product review | RUTUS Argo NE + Ultima Sid Perry



ARGO NE



ULTIMA



The Argo NE and Ultima are from the same stable as their flagship machine the RUTUS Alter 71. These two machines have less settings than the Alter 71, but are both still packed with features and functions.

In a **Searcher** YouTube video I did recently I air-tested the RUTUS Argo NE and RUTUS Ultima. To be honest there wasn't much difference in their performance and both had very respectable depth capabilities. I was also surprised how well they both performed.

Out in the field is where you'll get to see the most gains from the Argo NE over the Ultima as with the Argo NE you have the advantage of using the Masking and Reaction feature. **This feature alone is worth the extra money!**

I was using both machines on a heavily iron contaminated site and even though the Ultima performed really well, I was able to get more targets next to iron with the Argo NE.

It all depends what type of searcher you are; if you like to tweak settings and perform adjustments in the field to suit the land conditions, then you may prefer the Argo NE. But if you like to keep things simple, the Ultima may be the one for you.



Mode settings of both machines showing the slight differences

Motion mode settings

Argo NE

Setting	Adjustment range
Th Level	0 - 100
Th Tone	60 - 500 Hz
Tones	1, 5, Pr 1, Pr2, Pr3
Audio Gain	1 - 20
Masking	0 - 6
Reaction	1 - 3

Ultima

Setting	Adjustment range
Th Level	0 - 100
Th Tone	60 - 500 Hz
Tones	mod, 5, Pr 1
Audio Gain	1 - 60
Iron Volume	0 - 30

Non-motion mode settings

Setting Adjustment range

Th Level	0 - 100
Th Sens	60 - 500 Hz
VCO	Yes, No
Th Sat	0 - 20

Setting Adjustment range

Th Level	0 - 100
Th Sens	60 - 500 Hz
VCO	Yes, NO
Th Sat	0 - 20

Dual mode settings

Setting Adjustment range

TH Level	0 - 100
Th Tone	60 - 500 Hz
VCO	Yes, No
Th Sat	0 - 20
Tones	1, 5, Pr 1, Pr 2, Pr3
Reaction	1 - 3
Masking	0 - 6

Setting Adjustment range

Th Level	0 - 100
Th Tone	60 - 500 Hz
VCO	Yes, No
Th Sat	0 - 20
Tones	1, 5, Pr 1

Discrimination

Adjustment range

Disc -90 / +90

Adjustment range

Disc 0 / 120

Both machines have the choice of two different frequencies to choose from. The Argo NE has 6.6kHz and 16Khz and the Ultima has 8 kHz and 16kHz. The lower kHz the better depth on high conductive targets you will achieve. The higher kHz you will have more chance of the picking up smaller low conductive targets ie. hammered coinage.

Different modes

Motion Mode is the mode most machines use today. As you swing the coil over the target you get a beep, it's simple and effective. With a Non-Motion Mode you have the setting of Th Sat. This setting will help you find targets that Motion Mode may miss.

I'll try to simplify how this works. Th Sat is used to tune your Threshold Tone



and with a Th Sat of 0, it's fully open to all ground condition changes. If you are on a site with perfect ground conditions you will get maximum advantage in performance. HOWEVER, the ground is NEVER perfect and your machine will give false signals to every change in soil/ground condition your coil goes over. This means that ideally you'll need to perform continual tuning of your machine. You can re-tune your machine with a quick press of the Pinpoint facility. However, if this is needed to be done too often meaning the ground conditions are pretty bad you can raise Th Sat to suit.

With a Th Sat of 20 your machine will re-tune faster to all changes in ground conditions and result in a stable search. But you may lose some targets on the very outer fringes of detection.

In Dual Mode, both modes work together simultaneously giving your machine twice the information to help winkle out those tricky targets. I would suggest you fully understand the Non-Motion Mode and how it performs in order to get the most out of the Dual Mode. Once you fully understand how to tune the Th Sat to suit the ground conditions you are on you will be getting maximum performance out of the machine.

You can use the RUTUS machines straight out the box and as simply or straight forward as you want. For quick and easy searching which will produce finds use the Motion Mode. But if you come across an area that you know is rich in history change to the very clever Dual Mode and you'll find targets that others have missed.

Argo NE - my preferred settings Motion Mode

Sensitivity 70 (or as high as possible without falsing)
Discrimination 0
Notch, none
Th Level 5
Th Tone 250 Hz
Tones 5
Audio Gain 20
Masking 3
Reaction 2
Frequency 16kHz
Frq Shift 0, adjust if EMI present
Hot Rocks, neutral
Backlight 29
Volume 30

Dual Mode

Sensitivity 70 (or as high as possible without falsing)
Discrimination 0
Notch, none
Th Level 5
Th Tone 250 Hz
VCO, yes
Th Sat 10, adjust to suit land
Tones 5
Audio Gain 20
Masking 3
Reaction 2
Frequency 16kHz
Frq Shift 0, adjust if EMI present
Hot Rocks neutral
Backlight 29
Volume 30

Ultima - my preferred settings Motion Mode

Sensitivity 70
Discrimination 28
Notch None
Th Level 5
Th Tone 150 Hz
Tones 5
Audio Gain 45
Iron Vol 15
Frequency 16kHz
Frq Shift 0, adjust if EMI present
Hot Rock, Neutral
Backlight 3
Volume 30

Dual Mode

Sensitivity 70
Discrimination 28
Notch None
Th Level 5
Th Tone 150 Hz
VCO Yes
Th Sat 10, adjust to suit land
Tones 5
Frequency 16kHz
Frq Shift 0, adjust if EMI present
Hot Rock, Neutral
Backlight 3
Volume 30

The RUTUS detectors really do perform very well. They are deep and fast machines that will perform well in most scenarios you may come across whilst in the field.

