

Module 3: Learning your detector

▶ What it is to “know” your detector

Getting started:

- Read the manual several times
- Air test: Pass a variety of good and bad targets under the coil to see and hear the detectors response.
- Create a test garden in your yard with coins ranging from 2”- 10” deep. Bury some targets with rusty nails and try to get a signal from different directions.
- Bury a silver dime at the max depth your detector can detect and study the signal.
- Experiment with different settings such as sensitivity, discrimination, and ground balance.



- ▶ Visit ahrps.org and print out the nail board test and experiment with your detector to see how it reacts to coins mixed with trash.

ahrps.org

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Welcome to AHRPS

What is AHRPS? We are dedicated to working... the recovery and preservation of artifacts. Sev... USFS 'Passport in Time' programs as far ba... on historical site projects, as well as individuals and private land owners in an effort to re...

In the field:

- When starting out pick an area with medium trash such as a residential yard.
 - Start in coin or jewelry mode and dig all repeatable signals to get acquainted with your detector. If no coin or jewelry mode is present set discrimination just below nickel.
 - Adjust the sensitivity to max and then lower it until there is only a little “chatter” or falsing when detecting.
 - A common mistake of new detectorists is to try to emulate advanced users by running max settings before they understand the machine.
 - After several hours of hunting you should start to be able to recognize coin signals.
 - Don't forget to log your good finds! (wheat pennies, silver coins, anything old).
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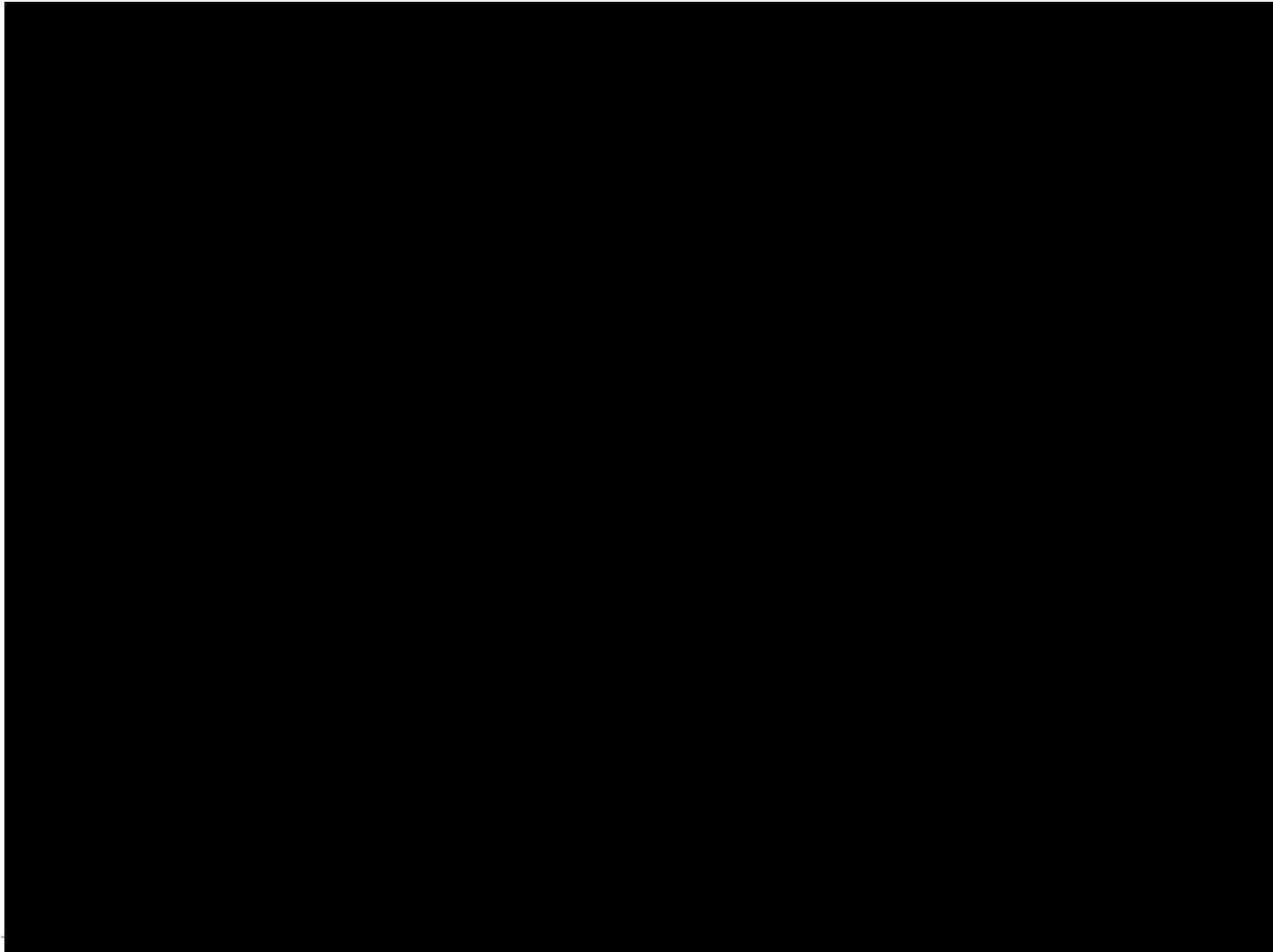
Moving forward:

- ▶ Learn to detect primarily by the audio signal and not the screen.
- ▶ After about 100 hours of hunting start to experiment with adjusting your sensitivity higher and discrimination lower. This will cause more falsing and chatter but will allow you to get better depth. Less discrimination will also give you a better chance to hear good targets mixed in with trash.
- ▶ You could hear audio signals like chirps, spikes, blurps, choppy and smooth signals, signals that stop abruptly, short small signals, long signals from larger targets, and signals that move around on you. These are all normal and eventually your mind will be able to distinguish the difference between a good target and a trash target.

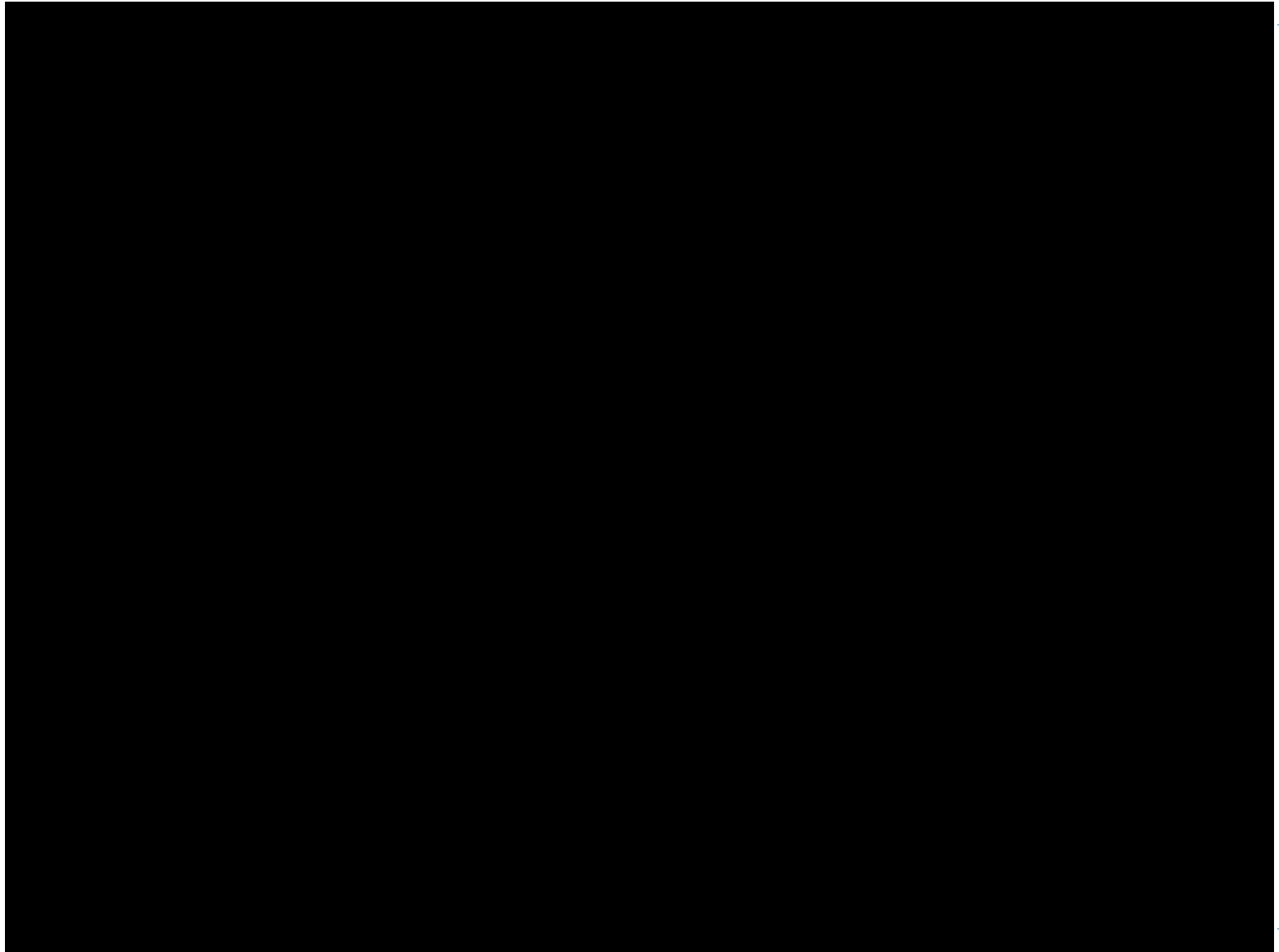


Seek out smooth repeatable signals. Experiment with “iffy” signals too, especially on deep targets.

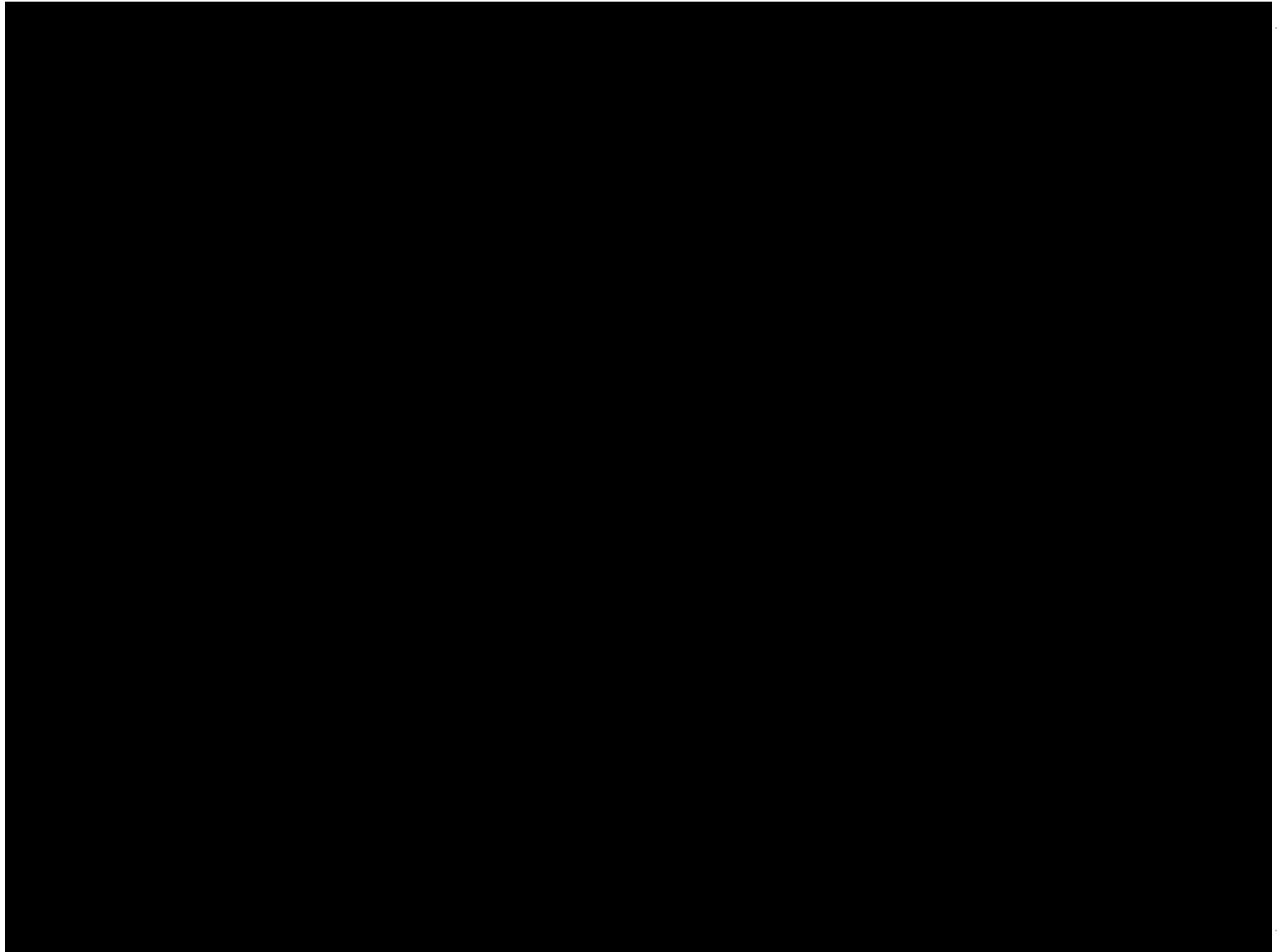
Example of smooth repeatable signal:



Example of one directional signal:



Example of deep choppy signal:



Getting to really know your detector

- ▶ Only practice will make you better.
- ▶ Try to get out and hunt a few hours several times a week to keep your mind fresh.
- ▶ Investigate targets before digging and try to guess what they are, then make a mental note of each target you dig and the signal it gave.
- ▶ Hunt with others and compare signals.
- ▶ The best detector is the one you've taken the time to master.
- ▶ If you feel you've outgrown your detector consider upgrading.

