

## Tracking

All right we covered the correct way to ground balance the V3i. Now that the detector has filtered out the ground signal we need to maintain that balance using the tracking options. Those two options would be Autotrak or LockTrac. A proper GB should really be done before the AutoTrac is used to maintain that GB. AutoTrac does this by keeping pace with the changes in the ground and then adjusting the set point. The V3i AutoTrac system will eventually get you to that point if you don't ground balance. However, the further off you are, the longer it will take.

There are some settings to consider. I would make sure you have Inhibit - ON, so you won't track out a weak target when you make multiple passes over it. It is defaulted on so that the machine doesn't track when it sees a target. You don't want the tracking to think your target is a change in ground and track it out. Another setting is Report. This isn't a track adjustment. Whether Report is set on or off is a personal preference. If it is on you will see a set of arrows that point left or right to indicate the detector is tracking and if it is tracking up or down. One reason to have it on is the arrows are a good indicator of when you have achieving a GOOD ground balance. You'll see the tracking arrows changing direction as you pump the coil. Also while hunting, if you see tracking come up too often you're alerted that you've wandered into a bad patch of ground, and that a filter change or even a "Track Lock" might be in order. If you don't want to be bothered with the tracking arrows turn Report off.

OK, our only adjustment is tracking speed. This determines how close or fast the tracking follows the ground. You can go too far either way with your tracking. A good tracking speed is one that keeps your threshold steady while you're swing the coil. If you set it too slow your machine may go silent and can cause a loss of sensitivity and lost targets. The tracking is trying to accommodate the mineralization changes in the ground, so too slow will allow the mineralization to generate excess noise. If you set it too fast your machine will try to match every little change in the ground and you'll get overshoot which can also result in noise and lost targets. The optimum tracking speed is the lowest speed that keeps your threshold constant as you're swinging.

Don't worry so much about tracking speed numbers, worry about results. If 20 keeps your machine tracking smooth with your swing speed, then you should use that. You can try dropping the number and if it gets jumpy, go back up. The correct number is the one that works best for you. If you have to err, a little higher number would be better than to err on the low side. Correlate mode seems to need a faster tracking speed than the best data.

Seeing your detector track intermittently is good. If you see excessive tracking your AutoTrac is too fast. Try various settings until you see your tracking arrows reduce to a reasonable number. What's that number? I really can't say.

Rob (IL) Finds Treasure Forum