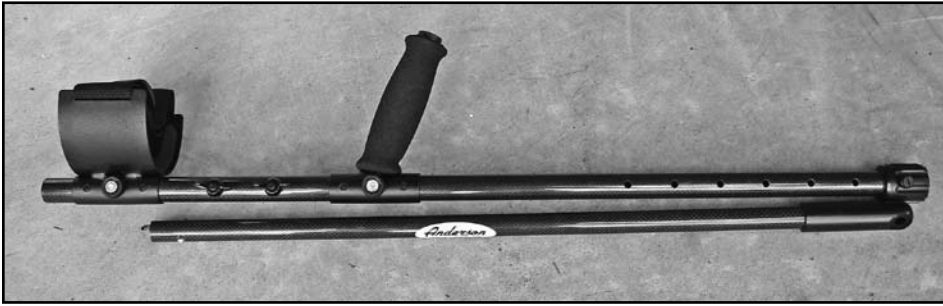


Product Reviews



Anderson Carbon Fiber Shaft Model 0821CF (Fits Garrett Infinium and Sea Hunter Mark 2)

MSRP- \$199.99 (USD)

Available from selected dealers. For information, contact
www.andersondetectorshafts.com or call 1-905-346-2688

It seems that today there is a huge aftermarket of detector products. Special search coils, high performance headphones, and more are available. While a few items address comfort, most concentrate on increased depth and sensitivity in any given situation. It seems forgotten that the better balanced and more comfortable a detector is to use, the longer and more efficiently the operator can search. Just ask any old-timer who used the heavy weights of the 1960s.

Anderson Detector Shafts has not ignored the importance of ergonomics and comfort. By manufacturing high quality aftermarket shafts to fit most major brands, they have created a product that is both more comfortable and lighter weight than the detector factory stock items.

The Anderson company was founded in 2000 with the goal of offering high quality metal detecting accessories coupled with fair pricing and excellent customer service. Anderson now boasts a dealer network that includes the USA, Canada, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, as well as other countries.

The unit I was sent fits both the Garrett Infinium and Sea Hunter Mark 2 machines. It is made of extremely light weight, but tough, state of the art 3K weave carbon fibre, a material once reserved for the aircraft and space industry.

The upper shaft of the Model 0821CF is 30 inches long, which accommodates the average size user, and offers a mounting location underslung between the handle and armcuff for the electronics. The handle and cuff are adjustable both up and down the shaft. The carbon shafts also feature new lock nuts which prevent the fasteners from coming loose. A “sure grip” at the end of the shaft uses a small screw to firmly hold the lower rod and eliminate the wobble sometimes found in metal detector shafts from the factory.

The lower rod is also carbon fibre and is 26 inches long. It features a spring pin in the top and a machined clevis to accept the Garrett coil. Also included is a pair of washers and a new coil bolt. According to Anderson, “Our goal was to make a great detector just a little bit better and there is no doubt that Garrett ranks as one of the great metal detector manufacturers.”

Replacing the stock assembly with the Anderson shaft was a breeze, although since it is precision made, care must be made to line up the holes properly. There is no slop nor oversized holes, which is a good thing.

Our unit was shipped exactly as shown in the photo, so other than attaching the box, coil, and lower rod, there was no assembly required. The only snag I encountered was the wing nuts for the control box screws, which

gave no clearance to turn them once the metal Infinium box was in position. That was not a major problem but only a minor hassle, and quickly solved with a wrench (the other end is hex shaped). If anything, the oversize wings will help prevent the nylon bolts from loosening during operation. The shaft incorporates anti crush spacers inside at the handle/cuff/electronics mounting locations to offer protection to the carbon fibre tube should the bolts be over tightened.

In operation, I found the completed unit to be well balanced, light weight, and tough. At first, I feared flex in a shaft so light, but its rigidity was excellent, at least as good if not better than the stock rod. The product really shines after a day of detecting, with fewer arm cramps and less overall fatigue. It performs equally well with a large or small search coil.

The arm cuff includes a forearm strap. While I like this feature, it would appear that the strap is removable if it is not wanted. I did find it a bit hard to adjust without help, and wonder if Velcro might make it easier to fasten and unfasten. I can also see a negative to Velcro, though: In rough surf or thick undergrowth, Velcro would not hold as well as the nylon buckle.

The shaft is sold as a complete kit, that is, upper shaft and lower rod. This allows Anderson to offer a rock solid setup not possible when using the factory stock shafts and lower rods. By the same token, the Garrett stock lower rod will not interchange with the Anderson upper rod.

Do I like this rod in conjunction with my Garrett Infinium? Absolutely, and I can only think that the other models are equally impressive. Although many of their rod units are also offered in high quality aluminum, I can only speak of the carbon fibre model that I used and would highly recommend it to both land and water hunters.

Review by Butch Holcombe

