

Abagnale Fraud Tips

The \$50 Bill

Note: Issue Date 10/97

Current Security Features: To prevent counterfeiting, the government has included a number of security features in U.S. currency.

Portrait

Since most people focus on the portrait to verify a note's authenticity, the enlargement of the portrait of Ulysses S. Grant makes it easier to recognize, while the added detail in the design makes it harder to duplicate. The portrait is now off center, providing room for the watermark and security thread. Also, this modification reduces the wear and tear on the portrait caused by folding bank notes in half.

Federal Reserve Indicators

Instead of designating the Federal Reserve district from which a note was issued, the new universal seal now represents the entire Federal Reserve System. A letter and number near the serial number identify the issuing Federal Reserve Bank.

Microprinting

Because they're so small, microprinted words are extremely hard to replicate without blurring. Originally located around the portrait of 1990 Series Notes, micro-printing has been modified for the new design. Examples of microprinting, which can be read under magnification, now can be found in two places on the front. "The United States of America" appears in Grant's collar and "Fifty" is repeated within the side borders.

Concentric Fine-Line Printing

This series of fine lines is very difficult to reproduce with color copiers, computer scanners and other traditional printing technologies. It is used on both sides, for the background behind both Ulysses S. Grant's portrait on the front and the U.S. Capitol building on the reverse.

Color-Shifting Ink

Color-shifting ink changes color when viewed from different angles. This ink is used to print the number in the lower right-hand corner on the front of the currency. The ink looks green when viewed straight on, but changes to black when the paper is held at an angle.

Security Thread

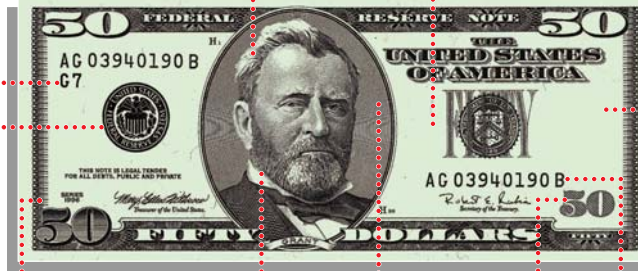
This polymer thread is embedded vertically in the paper and indicates each bill's denomination. The words "USA FIFTY" and a flag can be seen from both sides of the note when held up to a bright light but cannot be duplicated by photocopiers or computer scanners. The number 50 appears in the star field of the flag. In the 1990 Series Notes, the security thread appeared only on the left side of a bank note. Now, to improve authentication, the thread is in a unique position in each denomination in which it is used. As an additional enhancement to currency authentication, the new security thread will glow yellow when held under an ultraviolet light.

Watermark

A watermark has been added on the right front side of the note depicting the same historical figure as the portrait. This watermark portrait is only visible when held up to a light source and does not reproduce on color copiers or computer scanners.

Serial Numbers

The serial number is a combination of eleven numbers and letters on the front of the note in the upper left and lower right. An additional letter has been added so that no two bank notes of the same denomination have the same 11-character serial number.



The \$20 Bill

Note: Issue Date Fall/98

Current Security Features: To prevent counterfeiting, the government has included a number of security features in U.S. currency.

Security Thread

This polymer thread is embedded vertically in the paper and indicates each bill's denomination. The words on the thread can be seen only when held up to a bright light but cannot be duplicated by photocopiers or computer scanners. Now, a vertically embedded thread to the far left of the portrait indicates the \$20 denomination. The words "USA TWENTY" and a flag can be seen from both sides against the light. The number "20" appears in the star field of the flag. The thread glows green under an ultraviolet light.

Federal Reserve Indicators

Instead of designating the Federal Reserve district from which a note was issued, the new universal seal now represents the entire Federal Reserve System. A letter and number near the serial number identify the issuing Federal Reserve Bank.

Microprinting

Because they're so small, microprinted words are extremely hard to replicate without blurring. Originally located around the portrait of 1990 Series Notes, microprinting has been modified for the new design. Examples of microprinting, which can be read under magnification, now can be found in two places on the front. "The United States of America" is on the lower edge ornamentation of the oval framing the portrait. On the front of the note, "USA 20" is repeated within the number in the lower left corner.

Fine-Line Printing Patterns

This series of fine lines is very difficult to reproduce with color copiers, computer scanners and other traditional printing technologies. It is used on both sides, for the background behind both Andrew Jackson's portrait on the front and The White House on the reverse.

Color-Shifting Ink

Color-shifting ink changes color when viewed from different angles. This ink is used to print the number in the lower right-hand corner on the front of the currency. The ink looks green when viewed straight on, but changes to black when the paper is held at an angle.

Portrait

Since most people focus on the portrait to verify a note's authenticity, the enlargement of the portrait of Andrew Jackson makes it easier to recognize, while the added detail in the design makes it harder to duplicate. The portrait is now off center, providing room for the watermark. Also, this modification reduces the wear and tear on the portrait caused by folding bank notes in half.

Watermark

A watermark has been added on the right front side of the note identical to the historical figure in the portrait. This watermark portrait is visible from both sides when held up to a light source and does not reproduce on color copiers or computer scanners.

Serial Numbers

The serial number is a combination of eleven numbers and letters on the front of the note in the upper left and lower right. An additional letter has been added so that no two bank notes of the same denomination have the same 11-character serial number.



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