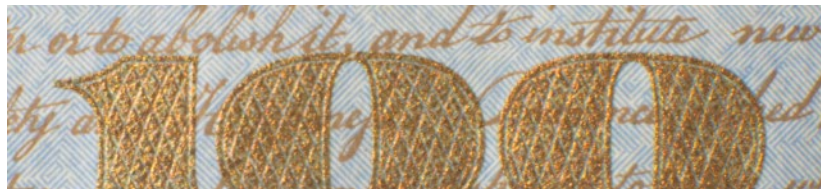
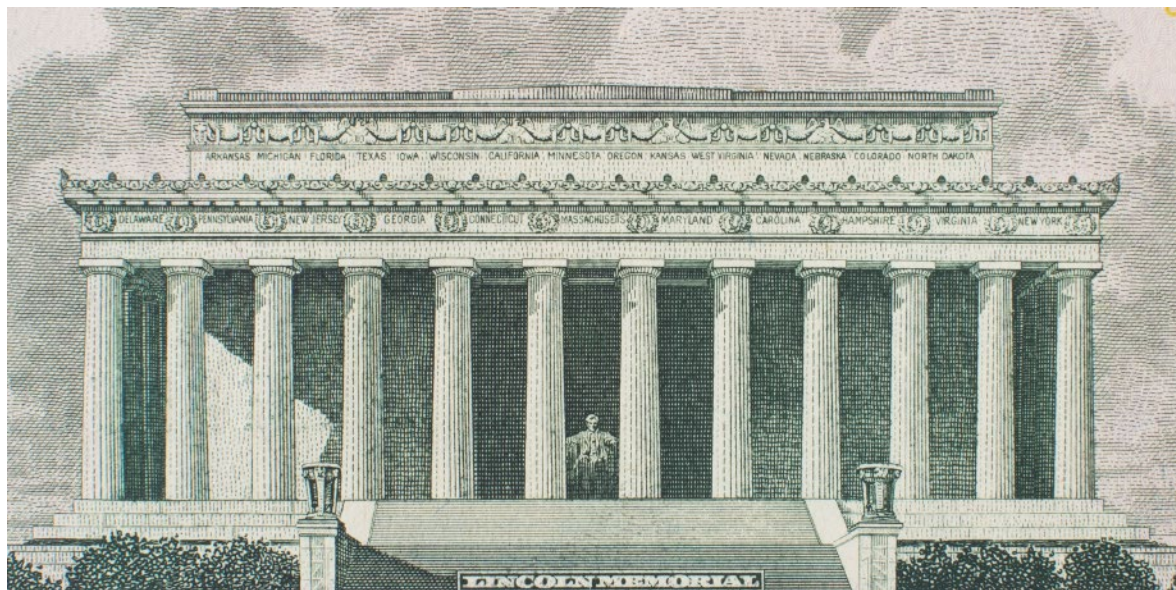




U.S. CURRENCY  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM

# DOLLARS IN DETAIL

YOUR GUIDE TO U.S. CURRENCY



[uscurrency.gov](http://uscurrency.gov)



The Federal Reserve Board issues \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 notes. The U.S. government periodically redesigns Federal Reserve notes to make them easier to use but more difficult to counterfeit. The current style of notes is shown in this brochure.

Not Featured



Featured



**How to Check U.S. Currency:**  
Open the page on this side to learn more.



# Authenticate U.S. Currency: Feel, Tilt, Check

To check the security features in U.S. currency, feel the paper, tilt the note, and check with light and with magnification.



Feel  
the paper



Move your finger across the note. It should feel slightly rough to the touch as a result of the intaglio printing process and the unique composition of the paper. U.S. currency paper is a blend of 75 percent cotton and 25 percent linen.



Tilt  
the note

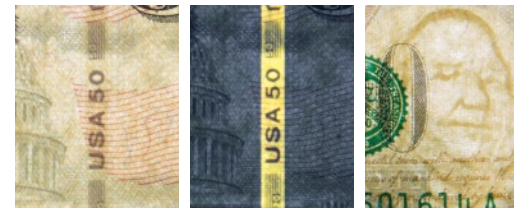


**Color-shifting ink.** Tilt the note to see the ink in the numbers on the lower right corner change color from copper to green on denominations of \$10 and higher. The Bell in the Inkwell on the \$100 note also changes from copper to green.

**3-D Security Ribbon.** The \$100 note features a blue 3-D Security Ribbon with images of bells and 100s. When you tilt the note back and forth, the bells and 100s in the ribbon move from side to side. When you tilt the note from side to side, the bells and 100s move up and down. The 3-D Security Ribbon is woven into the paper, not printed on it.



Check  
with light



**Security thread.** Hold the note to light to see a security thread embedded vertically on denominations \$5 and higher. The thread is embedded in a different position for each denomination and glows a different color when held to ultraviolet (UV) light. The security thread is visible from both sides of the note.

**Watermark.** Hold the note to light to see a faint image to the right of the portrait on denominations \$5 and higher. Watermarks are visible from both sides of the note. On denominations \$10 and higher, the watermark matches the portrait. The \$5 note has two watermarks, both of the numeral 5.



Check with  
magnification



**Microprinting.** Microprinting is featured in several locations on denominations \$5 and higher and can aid in authentication. These small printed words, which may require magnification to see, should be clear. Microprinting corresponds to the denomination or contains phrases such as “THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,” “USA,” or “E PLURIBUS UNUM.”

**Red and blue fibers.** The paper in genuine U.S. currency has small red and blue security fibers embedded throughout.

## Federal Reserve Note Identifiers

Each Federal Reserve note includes identifiers. Federal Reserve identifiers serve a variety of purposes, like designating when a note was printed and which plate was used to print the note.

- 1 Serial number.** Each note has a unique serial number. The first letter of the serial number corresponds to the series year.

E = 2004      L = 2009A

G = 2004A      M = 2013

I = 2006      N = 2017

J = 2009

- 2 Federal Reserve indicators.** Each note has a letter and number designation that corresponds to one of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks (such as A1 = Boston, B2 = New York). The letter of each Federal Reserve indicator matches the second letter of the serial number on the note.

- 3 Face and back plate number.** The face plate and back plate numbers identify the specific printing plates used to print the face and back of the note. The face plate number is found on the face of the note and the back plate number is found on the back of the note. (Back plate number not shown.)

- 4 Series year.** The series year indicates the year in which a new design was approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, or the year in which the signature of a new secretary was incorporated into the design.

Capital letters following the series year appear when there is a significant change in the note's appearance, change to the signatures of the Secretary of the Treasury or the Treasurer, or when there has been a significant gap in production times for a note.

- 5 Note position letter and number.** The note position letter and number indicate in which position on a plate a note was printed. It is a combination of one letter and one number and can be found on the front of the note.



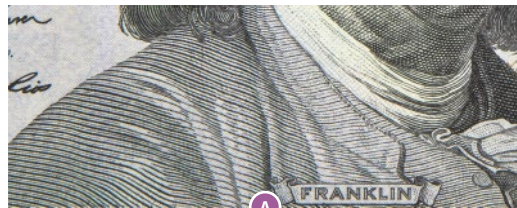
\$100 Note, Issued in 2013



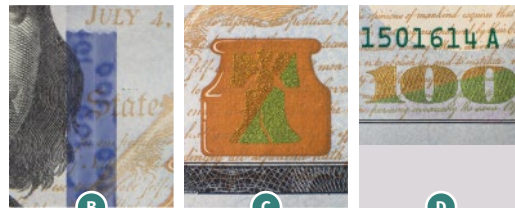
Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



3-D Security Ribbon

Color-shifting Bell in the Inkwell

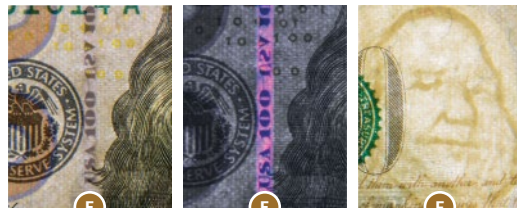
Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



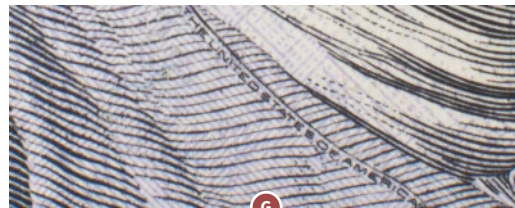
Check with magnification



Security thread

UV security thread

Watermark of Benjamin Franklin



Microprinting

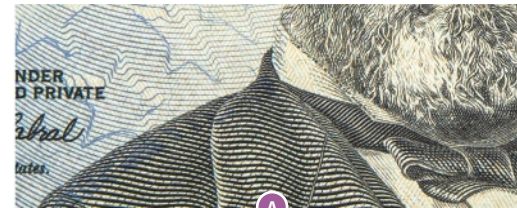
\$50 Note, Issued in 2004



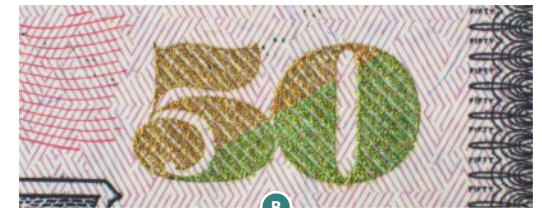
Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



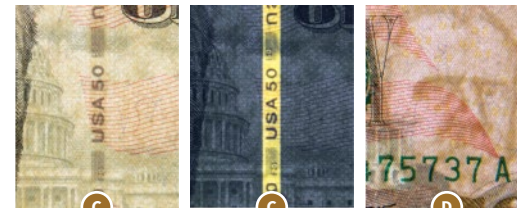
Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



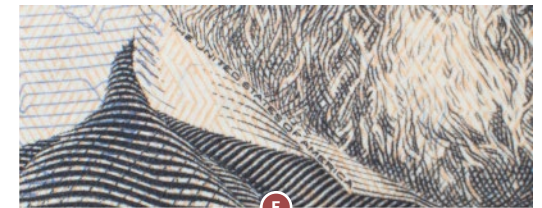
Check with magnification



Security thread

UV security thread

Watermark of Ulysses S. Grant



Microprinting



\$20 Note, Issued in 2003



Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



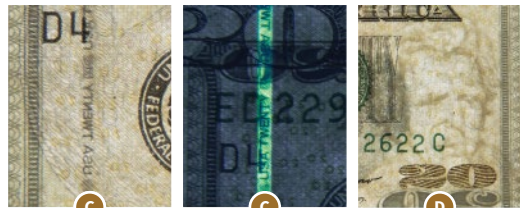
Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



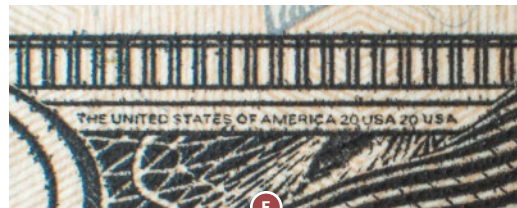
Check with magnification



Security thread

UV security thread

Watermark of Andrew Jackson



Microprinting

\$10 Note, Issued in 2006



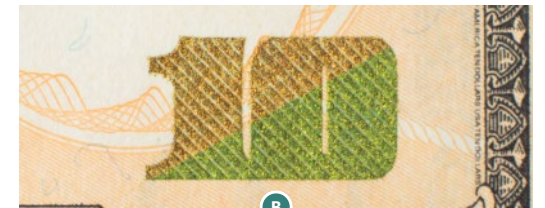
Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



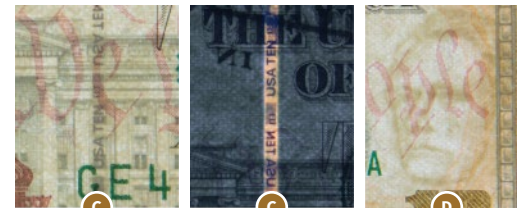
Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



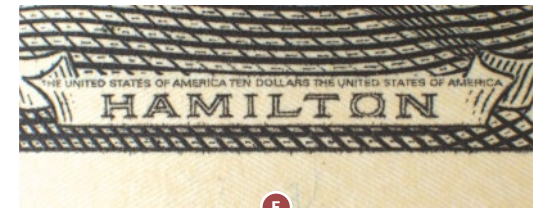
Check with magnification



Security thread

UV security thread

Watermark of Alexander Hamilton



Microprinting







# Counterfeit Reporting

## **Do you know what to do with suspect counterfeits?**

Become familiar with your organization's counterfeit-reporting procedures and learn what to do if you suspect you have a counterfeit note. This may include notifying your manager, contacting local law enforcement, or contacting the appropriate office of the United States Secret Service.

[uscurrency.gov](https://uscurrency.gov)