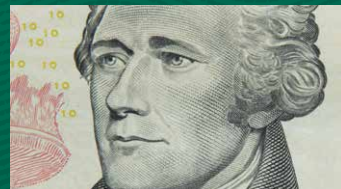
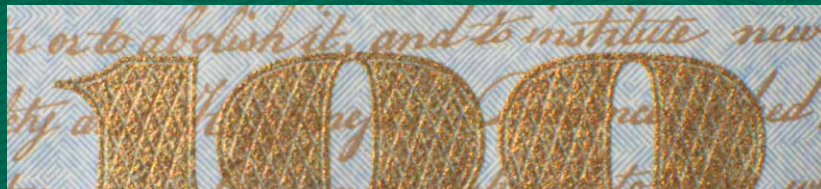
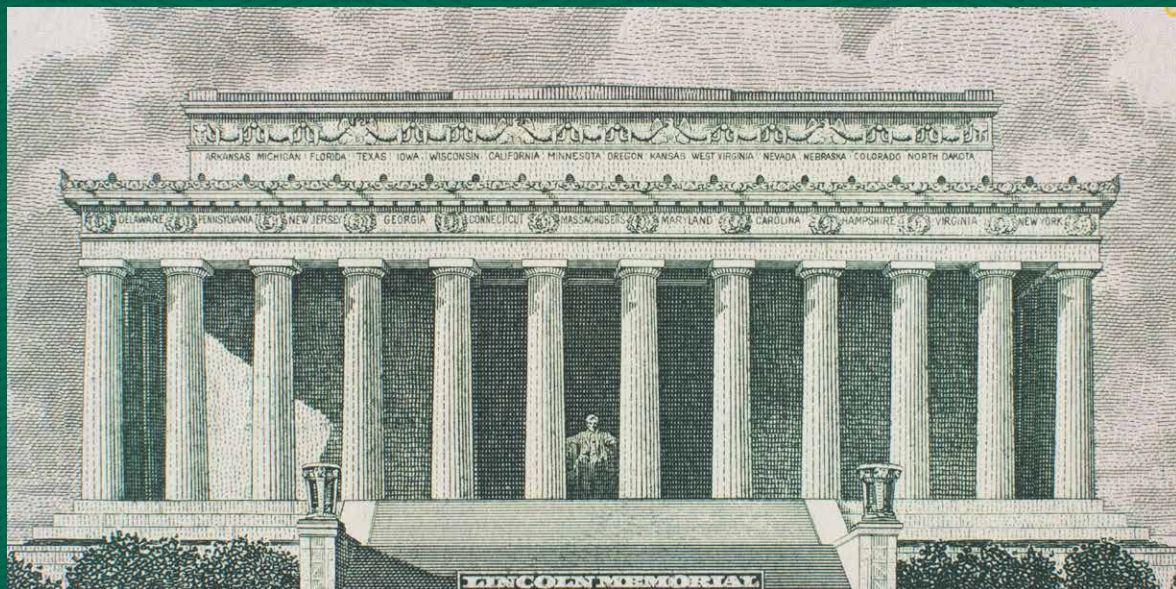




**U.S. CURRENCY**  
EDUCATION PROGRAM

# Dollars in Detail

**YOUR GUIDE TO U.S. CURRENCY**



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

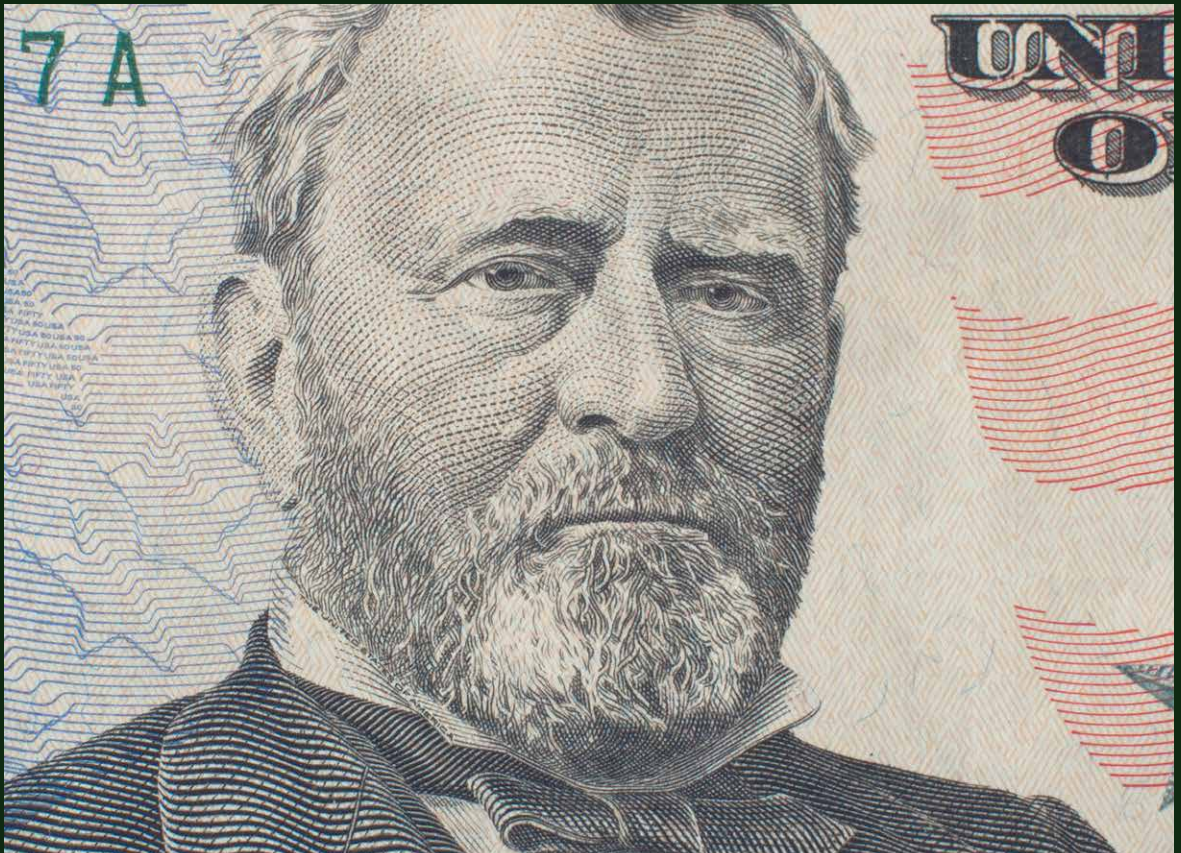


# Your comprehensive guide for in-depth information on U.S. Currency

## The Latest in Currency Design

The Federal Reserve Board issues \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 banknotes. 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 guide.

## FEATURED



## 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 because 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 turn to 100s and move from side to side. When you tilt the note from side to side, the bells turn to 100s and 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 up 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 up 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 featuring 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 used in genuine U.S. currency contains small red and blue security fibers embedded throughout.

# Know Its Features. Trust It's Real.

Every Federal Reserve bill includes identifiers that give details about the note, including when it 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                      M = 2013

G = 2004A                    N = 2017

I = 2006                      P = 2017A

J = 2009                      Q = 2021

L = 2009A

- 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 when a signature of a new secretary was incorporated into the design.

When there is a significant change in the note's appearance, capital letters are added following the series year. This also happens when there are changes to the signatures of the Secretary of the Treasury or the Treasurer, or when there are significant gaps 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.

For more information on note identifiers, visit [uscurrency.gov](https://www.uscurrency.gov)



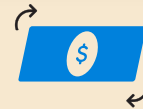
## SERIES YEAR 2009-2021



Feel



Raised printing



Tilt



3-D security ribbon



Color-shifting bell in the inkwell



Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



Security thread



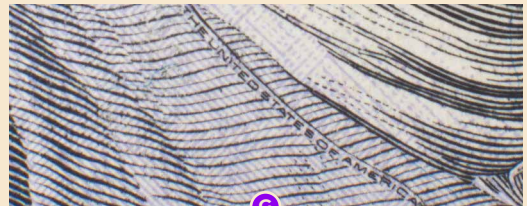
UV security thread



Watermark of Benjamin Franklin



Check with magnification



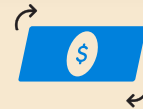
Microprinting



## SERIES YEAR 2004-2021



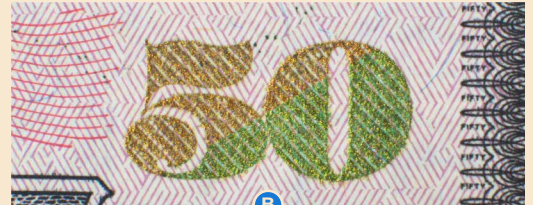
Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



Check with magnification



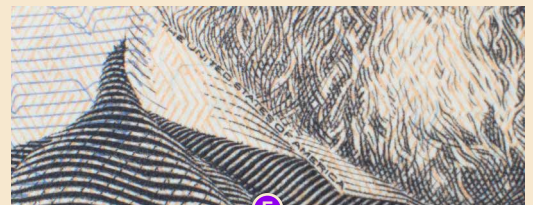
Security thread



UV security thread



Watermark of Ulysses S. Grant



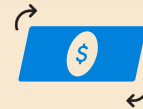
Microprinting



## SERIES YEAR 2004-2021



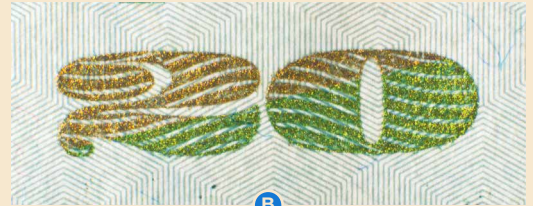
Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



Color-shifting numeral



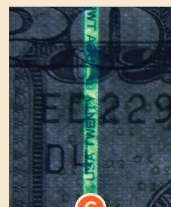
Check with light



Check with magnification



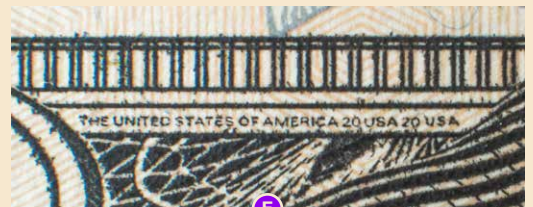
Security thread



UV security thread



Watermark of Andrew Jackson

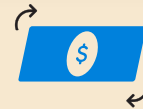


Microprinting

SERIES YEAR 2004A-2021



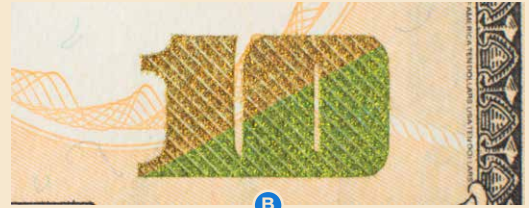
Feel



Tilt



Raised printing



Color-shifting numeral



Check with light



Check with magnification



Security thread



UV security thread



Watermark of  
Alexander  
Hamilton



Microprinting



SERIES YEAR 2006-2021



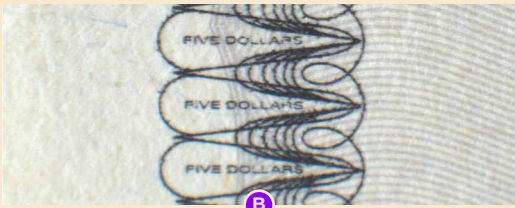
Feel



Raised printing



Check with magnification



Microprinting



Check with light



Security thread



UV security thread



Watermark of large numeral 5



Watermark of three stacked numeral 5s



**U.S. CURRENCY**  
EDUCATION PROGRAM

# Counterfeit Reporting

## **Do you know how to report a bill that you suspect is counterfeit?**

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)**