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Denominations

Educational Materials

Media Life Cycle

Report a Counterfeit

Training Course

This course is designed to help you learn how to use the security features in U.S. currency. The more you know, the less likely you are to accept counterfeit notes.

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Denominations Educational Materials Media Life Cycle Report a Counterfe

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This training course takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and covers two content areas:

Overview

Security features and authentication

Following the course, you will have the opportunity to test your knowledge with a final exam.

For security purposes, all notes have the word "specimen" printed on them.

Short on time? You can download the PDF version here:



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Overview

U.S. currency circulates broadly around the world. U.S. banknotes, or Federal Reserve notes, are printed by the Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They are then issued and distributed by the Federal Reserve.









Denominations of U.S. Currency

The Federal Reserve Board currently issues \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 notes. Each denomination features a portrait of a famous American statesman on its face and an image reflective of the nation's history on the back. Let's look at the two most recent styles of notes for each denomination.

Click on the notes below to learn about each one.



President George Washington on the front Image of the Great Seal of the United States on the back

1963 - present front view

1963 - present back view









President Thomas Jefferson on the front Image of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the back

1976 - present back view

1976 - present front view

<complex-block>

Previous Bill





President Abraham Lincoln on the front Image of the Lincoln Memorial on the back

2008 - present



2000 - 2008



Previous Bill





President Abraham Lincoln on the front Image of the Lincoln Memorial on the back

2008 - present









Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton on the front Image of the Treasury building on the back

2006 - present









Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton on the front Image of the Treasury building on the back

2006 - present









President Andrew Jackson on the front Image of the White House on the back

1998 - 2003

2003 - present



Previous Bill





President Andrew Jackson on the front Image of the White House on the back

1998 - 2003

2003 - present

NOW WE TRUST SCHEMENSE WE







President Ulysses S. Grant on the front Image of the U.S. Capitol Building on the back

2004 - present

C RESERVE REIDERAL RESERVE NOTE FEDERAL NOTE TRADERINGS: STORAGES. ME 02580133 * UNHRED SHARES AF 23456789 A UNRUED STATES ORAMERICA ORAMETR CAN E5 F6 MEN SPECIME ME 02580133 # AF 23456789 A FUIT MOTT IN LEGAL TENDER. FOR ALL SENTE PUBLIC AND PRIMETE PO ALLO TE BL M. T. B. Par Sunitite lin Rolest E. Ruhi Und Sten Litter 50 DOMANIAS 6 0 54 W V O Cald his ALLO A PANIS

1997 - 2004

Previous Bill





President Ulysses S. Grant on the front Image of the U.S. Capitol Building on the back

2004 - present









Benjamin Franklin on the front Image of Independence Hall on the back

2013 - present









Benjamin Franklin on the front Image of Independence Hall on the back

2013 - present

THE CATTER STATE SOF AMERICA IN GOD WE TRUST I











Security Features

In this section, you will learn about the security features found in different denominations of U.S. currency. You will also learn simple steps to authenticate the notes you are handed when pressed for time. All you need to do is feel, tilt, and check.





Security Features



Security Features on U.S. Currency

The Federal Reserve Board currently issues \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 notes. Each denomination has several key security features, such as a 3-D Security Ribbon, a portrait watermark, color-shifting ink, and a security thread.

Click on the notes below to learn about each one.

Quick authentication



Quick Ways to Authenticate

Even when pressed for time, you can still take simple steps to authenticate the notes you are handed. All you need to do is feel, tilt, and check.





The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)















The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)



2008 - present

Watermark

SERIES 2000

The 2004 style of the \$5 note includes two watermarks. To the right of the portrait of President Lincoln, there is a large 5. To the left of the portrait, there are three smaller 5s repeated in a vertical line. You'll need to hold the note to light to see the watermarks. You should be able to see the watermarks from the front and back of the note.













The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)















The 2004 style and 1996 style \$5 note have common security features. Both include a watermark located to the right of the portrait (A) and a security thread (B)













The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)















The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

DIDIDICH 9 Watermark GK 0000000 T NN DKS A watermark of Secretary Hamilton is located to the right of the portrait. You'll need to hold the K11 note to light to see the portrait watermark, which should be visible from the front and back of the note. В CK 00000000 OTE IS L e Lundeds Cabal mover of the United State DID P PA A RAMILTON A















The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)



2006 - present













Next Bill

The \$10 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)









\$50





Next Bill

The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

THE DERMAN NOT NO IN DESIDIRAY D THE MG 04027 C MKRBID TYBY PER 5× 1 [[]4 G7 A В MG 0402251 THIS NOTE IS LEGAL TENDER los bunatetes lin uner of the Urand Stote SERIES 2003 JACKEO

2003 - present



Next Bill



The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)













The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)















The \$20 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Andrew Jackson (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)



Previous Bill













The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)



[\$20]











The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)















The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

API DI DI LAN 1-8 0-3 0-1-4 0 0 CON NO STORE OF ME 02580133 * UNHTED SHATES D BRAND D DE E5 **Color-Shifting Ink** JU If you tilt the note, the 50 in the lower right-hand corner of the note will change color. For the 2004 FOR ALL DEBTS. style, the color will change from copper to green unan Robe 2 when tilted. For the 1996 style, the color will change from green to black. FI FIG VI













The \$50 note has several key security features: a portrait watermark of President Ulysses S. Grant (A), color-shifting ink (B), and a security thread (C)

API DI DI LAN 1-8 pt - 1 ps Security Thread ME 02580133 * The security thread on the \$50 note is located to the right of the portrait of President Grant. On E5 both the 1996 style and 2004 style \$50 note, the security thread reads USA 50 and includes a small flag. To see the thread, hold it to light. The thread is visible from both the front and back of the note. SPECIVE THIS NOTE IS LEGAL FENDER ME 02580 arrow los Baratates his I the United Street Samplers of the The 0 54 4 1 IDA

2004 - present











×

The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

TO THE PART OF THE







The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

















The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)

















The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)













The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)















The current style \$100 note has several key security features: a 3-D Security Ribbon (A), a portrait watermark of Benjamin Franklin (B), color-shifting ink (C), and a security thread (D)



Previous Bill

















Exam

Now that you know about the security features in U.S. currency and what steps to take to authenticate a note, it's time to test your knowledge. Using the information you've learned, look carefully at the security features in the following notes and see if you can identify which notes may not be genuine.







Drag the backlight tool across the bill to reveal the watermark.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$100 note above for a watermark. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?







Tilt

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$20 note above for color-shifting ink. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?

AE23456789 A

IWENTY DOLLARS

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Es









Drag the UV light tool across the bill to reveal the security thread.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$50 note above for a security thread. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?







Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$10 note above for color-shifting ink. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?









Drag the backlight tool across the bill to reveal the watermark.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$50 note above for a watermark. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?









Drag the magnify tool across the bill to reveal the microprinting.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$20 note above for microprinting. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?







Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$100 note above for a security ribbon.

E

Is this note genuine U.S. currency?



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ere





ABITORS E5 Backlight Tilt ME 02580133 CRACK OFFICE ALLEY MAN LAS IDan

across the bill to reveal the microprinting.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$50 note above for microprinting. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?









Drag the backlight tool across the bill to reveal the security thread.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$100 note above for a security thread. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?









Drag the backlight tool across the bill to reveal the watermark.

Choose a tool from the left to examine the \$20 note above for a watermark. Is this note genuine U.S. currency?



