



Counterfeit Products

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Introduction

Counterfeit products are becoming more and more prevalent every day, and it's not only handbags, sneakers, and watches anymore. Toys, auto parts, and consumer electronics are commonly copied, which now present new safety concerns for consumers and manufacturers.

Counterfeit Product

One Product that has the most use as a counterfeit as well as a genuine product has been the use of counterfeit currency.

It is big business to counterfeit currency and has a lot of technological advances to keep up with as it is an illegal trade and the government loses money everytime counterfeit currency is produced.

Catch counterfeits

During the Civil War, the government introduced "greenbacks," the first national paper currency. Private banknotes and gold and silver coins continued to circulate, creating a confusing plethora of monies. Individual banks issued their own currency, called banknotes, in all denominations. Banknotes were only as solid as the banks which issued them. Detecting the fraudulent money was relatively easy compared to catching the people responsible for it. The Treasury Department relied on the Marshals to pursue the counterfeiters on a national basis. Detectives were occasionally hired as "Special Agents" of the Department.

Solutions to counterfeiting

- Security Seals
- Counterfeit dection devices
- Markers that turn color with geniune bills
- Changing Bill features every couple of years such as:
 1. Bill Texture
 2. Color

There are ways to detect geniune from counterfeit currency

Portrait

The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. Details merge into the background which is often too dark or mottled.



Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals

On a genuine bill, the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are clear, distinct, and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt, or broken saw-tooth points.



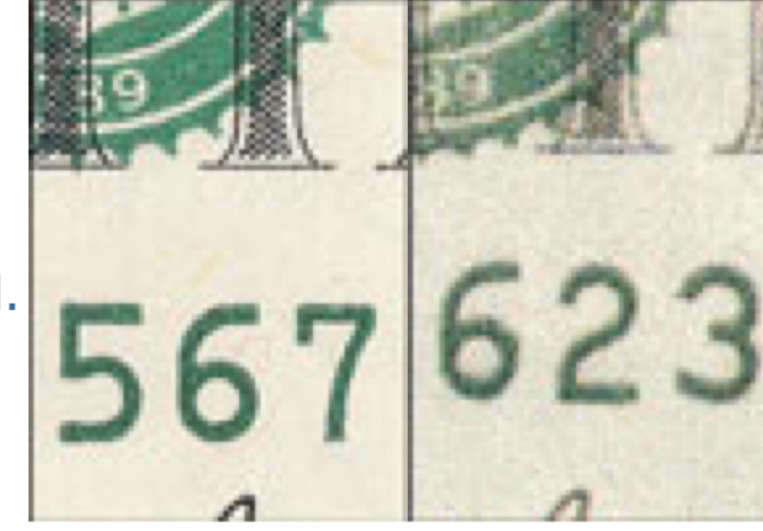
Border

The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.



Serial Numbers

Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. The serial numbers are printed in the same ink color as the Treasury Seal. On a counterfeit, the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.



Paper

Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper. It is illegal to reproduce the distinctive paper used in the manufacturing of United States currency.



History of the Counterfeit

After the U.S. Constitution was ratified, Congress passed the "Mint Act" of April 2, 1792, which established the coinage system of the United States and the dollar as the principal unit of currency. By this Act the U.S., became the first country in the world to adopt the decimal system for currency. The first U.S. coins were struck in 1793 at the Philadelphia Mint and presented to Martha Washington.

The government did not issue paper money until 1861.

During this same period (1793 - 1861), approximately 1,600 private banks were permitted to print and circulate their own paper currency under state charters.

Eventually, 7,000 varieties of these "state bank notes" were put in circulation, each carrying a different design!

n 1913, Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act, establishing this nation's Federal Reserve System. This Act authorized the Federal Reserve Banks to issue Federal Reserve Bank notes. In 1914, the Federal Reserve Banks began issuing Federal Reserve notes--the only currency still being manufactured today by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Bibliography

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- <http://www.kcmo.org/police/Crime/Forgery/CounterfeitMoney/index.htm>
- <http://www.usmarshals.gov/history/counterfeit/counterfeit3.htm>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8BwcqBR3Mw>
- <http://www.wikihow.com/Detect-Counterfeit-US-Money>

The government also wants people to be cautious and not just let fake bills pass them and for store owners to confiscate them

