

# Stamp Basics Overview

# Flat Plate vs. Rotary Press Printing



# FP vs. RP Identification

Create "templates" to identify RP or FP.



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Match "template" against stamp or cover.



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# FP vs. RP Identification

Other "templates" can be used.





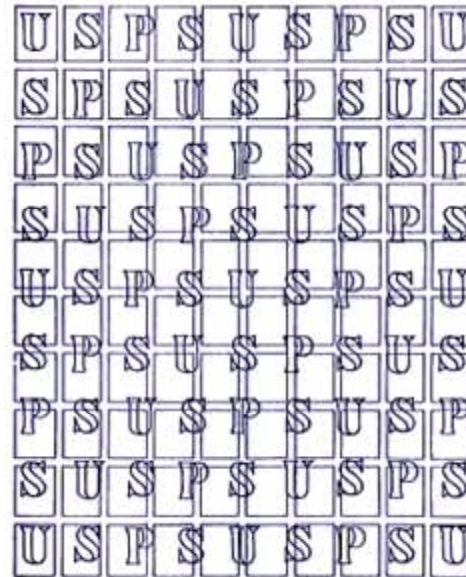
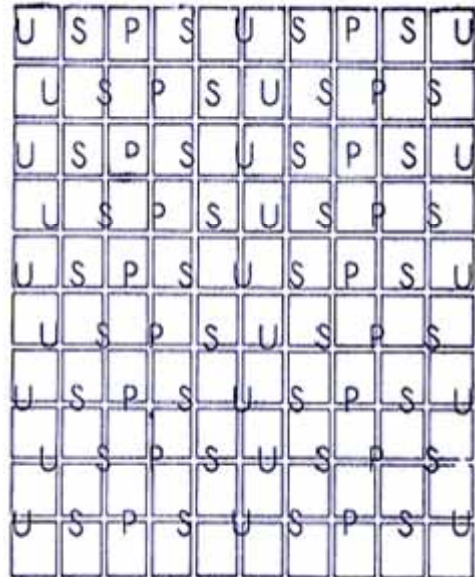
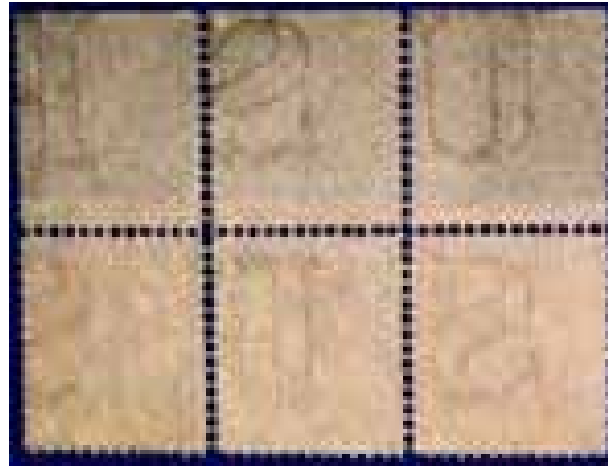
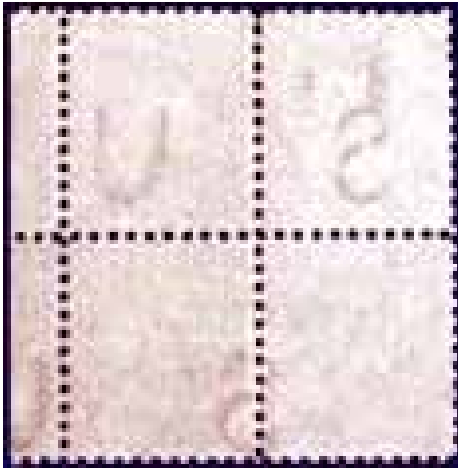
# FP vs. RP Identification

Other "templates" can be used.





# Single vs. Double Line Watermark



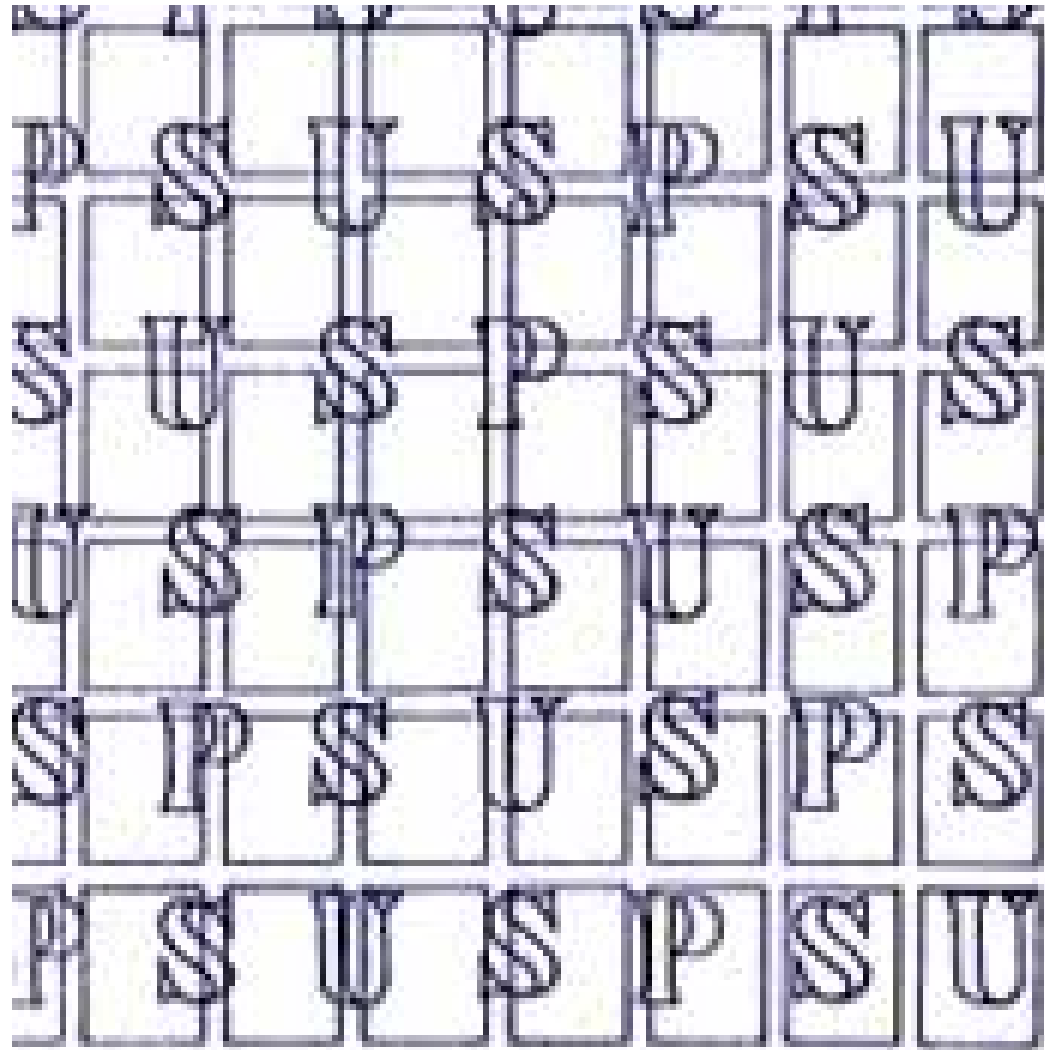
Note the larger size of the double line watermark.

Pairs are easier to identify.



# Double Line Watermark

Pair watermarks  
can usually be  
identified.



# Engraved vs. Offset Printing



**Engraved (Recess / Intaglio)** – Ink is applied to plates. Paper is pressed onto the plate picking up the ink resulting in a stamp with a raised image. Sometimes a depression (debossing) exists on back of stamp.



**Offset (Lithography)** – Greasy ink is spread on a litho stone or metal plate. Acid is applied to the plate repelling the ink except at the greasy lines of the design. Resembles engraving though with a duller appearance.

# Engraved vs. Offset Example





# Engraved Identificaiton



You can feel the engraving with your fingers. Rubbing a piece of foil over the engraved stamp will reveal an image of the design – not so with the offset stamp.

# Detecting a Fake U.S. Coil



21 mm

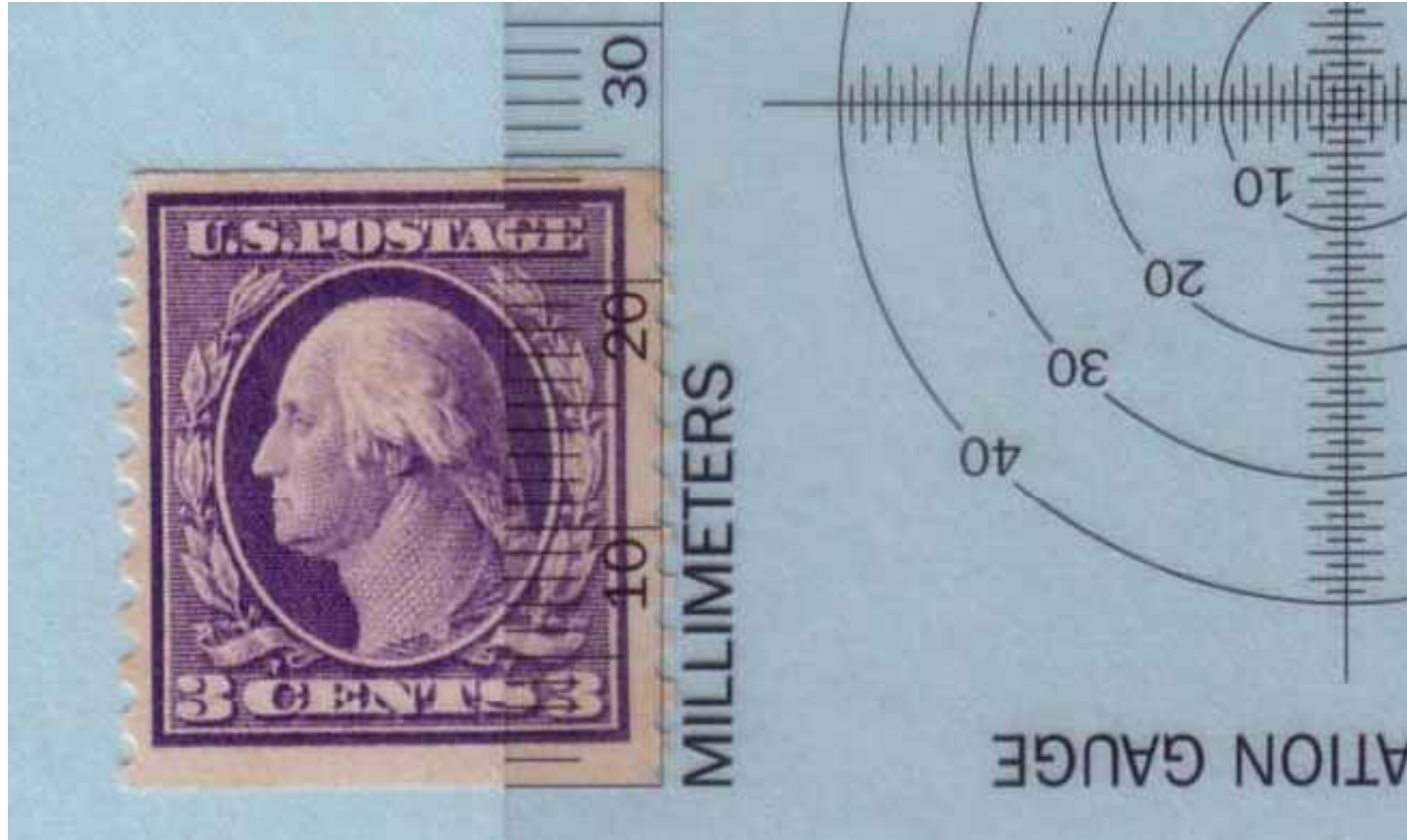


25 mm

All genuine U.S. coil stamps have an edge-to-edge width of 21mm for vertical coils or a height of 25mm for horizontal coils.



# Fake U.S. Coil Example



# Fake U.S. Coil Certificate



# Hard vs. Soft Paper



Scott #65 (3c rose)



Scott #210 (2c red-brown)

Pick examples of these stamps with wide margins – hold up to a light.

Scott #65 Hard Paper – Smooth, white, almost translucent.

Scott #210 Soft Paper – Thicker, rough, yellowish “mottled” fibers, opaque.