

Abagnale Fraud Tips

The New Color of Money Note: Issue Date Early 2006

It is important to remember that both the new notes and the older-design notes will continue to be legal currency at full face value.

Serial Numbers

The unique combination of eleven numbers and letters appears twice on the front of the note. On the new \$10 note, the left serial number has shifted slightly to the right, compared with previous designs.

Federal Reserve Indicators

A universal seal to the left of the portrait represents the entire Federal Reserve System. A letter and number beneath the left serial number identifies the issuing Federal Reserve Bank.

Security Thread

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the security thread, or plastic strip, that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically to the right of the portrait. If you look closely, the words "USA TEN" and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows orange when held under ultraviolet light. In the redesigned \$10 note, the thread has shifted slightly to the right of its location on older series \$10 notes.



The Symbols of Freedom

The front of the new \$10 note also includes images of traditional icons of Americana - also called Symbols of Freedom. Two images of the torch carried by the Statue of Liberty are printed in red on the front of the bill. A large image of the torch is printed in the background to the left of the portrait of Secretary Hamilton, while a second, smaller metallic red image of the torch can be found on the lower right side of the portrait. The symbols of freedom differ for each denomination.

Watermark

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton. The watermark is part of the paper itself and can be seen from both sides of the note. A blank oval has been incorporated into the new \$10 design to highlight the watermark's location.

Microprinting

Because they are so small, microprinted words are hard to replicate. The redesigned \$10 bill features microprinting on the face of the note in four areas: the word "USA" and the numeral "10" can be found repeated beneath the large printed torch, and the words "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "TEN DOLLARS" can be found below the portrait, as well as vertically inside the left and right borders of the note.

Color

The most noticeable difference in the newly designed bill is the addition of subtle background colors of orange, yellow and red. The words "We the People" have been printed in red in the background to the right of the portrait. Also, small yellow 10s have been printed in the background to the left of the portrait on the front of the bill and to the right of the vignette on the back of the bill. The background colors differ with each denomination to help distinguish them.

Color-Shifting Ink

Look at the number "10" in the lower right corner on the front of the note. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes color from copper to green.

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