

SECURING MODERN STAMPS

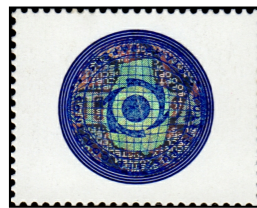
Print technology is accessible and cheap, while postal rates are at their highest. This 'perfect storm' means that counterfeiters increasingly take advantage, with Post Offices needing to embrace ever-more sophisticated security features. This display only covers material first used, or considered, for postage stamps since 2000.

CRYPTO GRAPHICS



France led the way in 2016 with fixed data matrices for mail tracking. Germany followed in 2021, with each stamp having a unique matrix code, also letting new services be implemented.

DOVIDS*



A 2000 Tullis Russell Coaters Kinegram on dummy stamp. Overprinted by intaglio to offer an extra level of security.

*Diffractive Optically Variable Image Device.

EMBOSSING



Micro-embossing was first used by Jersey in 2011. The technique requires precise print and embossing registration to function at its ultimate.

HIDDEN CODES

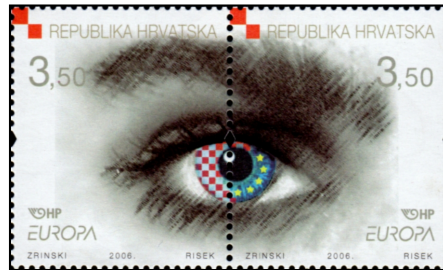


2010 PSA stamp from London 2010 Show PSB. Typical codes: MA10 = 2010 MPIL = Prestige Booklets



First introduced by Royal Mail in 2009, these many hidden codes serve to identify both the product by source and the year of stamp production.

INFRA-RED



InfraredDesign (IRD) was first used by Croatia from 2012. An invisible black and white design is revealed using a specialised piece of laboratory equipment.

INPRINT BACKING



Tullis Russell's In-Print is a PSA paper, with repeat text over the backing produced at paper making stage. First used by Canada in 2013.

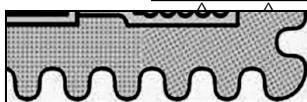


SECURITY PATTERNS

A Geometric Raster Pattern has replaced the more usual half-tone image screening. >



Repeating a pattern, but at a differing screen angle, is the Moiré Inducing Effect. >



SEE-THROUGH REGISTER



The effect when held to the light.



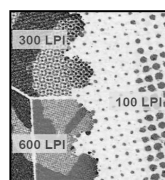
This feature, normally reserved for bank note production, was first used on stamps in 2003 by Enschedé. It only reveals a completed image when it is held to the light. It requires perfect register of both sides of the print - not easy to accomplish.

STAMP SLITS



A 2020 Machin stamp with slits.

VARIABLE SCREEN LINES



Advances in software has seen variable screen lines on the same stamp.

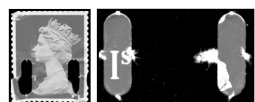
Here, 100, 300 and 600 lines per inch (lpi) adds to the stamp security.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?



Nano Print and Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID) are two likely future stamp security features, but only when the costs and technology advance sufficiently to be a viable proposition.

Incisions in a stamp help to prevent their re-use, as intentional damage will invariably occur when any removal attempt is made.



The effect after trying to remove a 'security slits' stamp.