The Latest in U.S. Currency Design

In order to keep counterfeiting low, the U.S. government continues to enhance the security of its currency.

In the following pages, we'll introduce you to the new $100 note and the other redesigned denominations: the $50, $20, $10, and $5 notes. The redesigned $100 note incorporates two advanced security features — the **3-D Security Ribbon** and the **Bell in the Inkwell** — and other innovative enhancements.

It is not necessary to trade in your old-design notes for new ones. All U.S. currency remains legal tender, regardless of when it was issued.

Even with the most technologically advanced security features, it's you — the educated consumer — who continues to be the best line of defense against counterfeiting. It only takes a few seconds to check the new $100 note and know it's real. Learn how to identify and use the two advanced security features: the 3-D Security Ribbon and the Bell in the Inkwell.

For more information, visit uscurrency.gov.
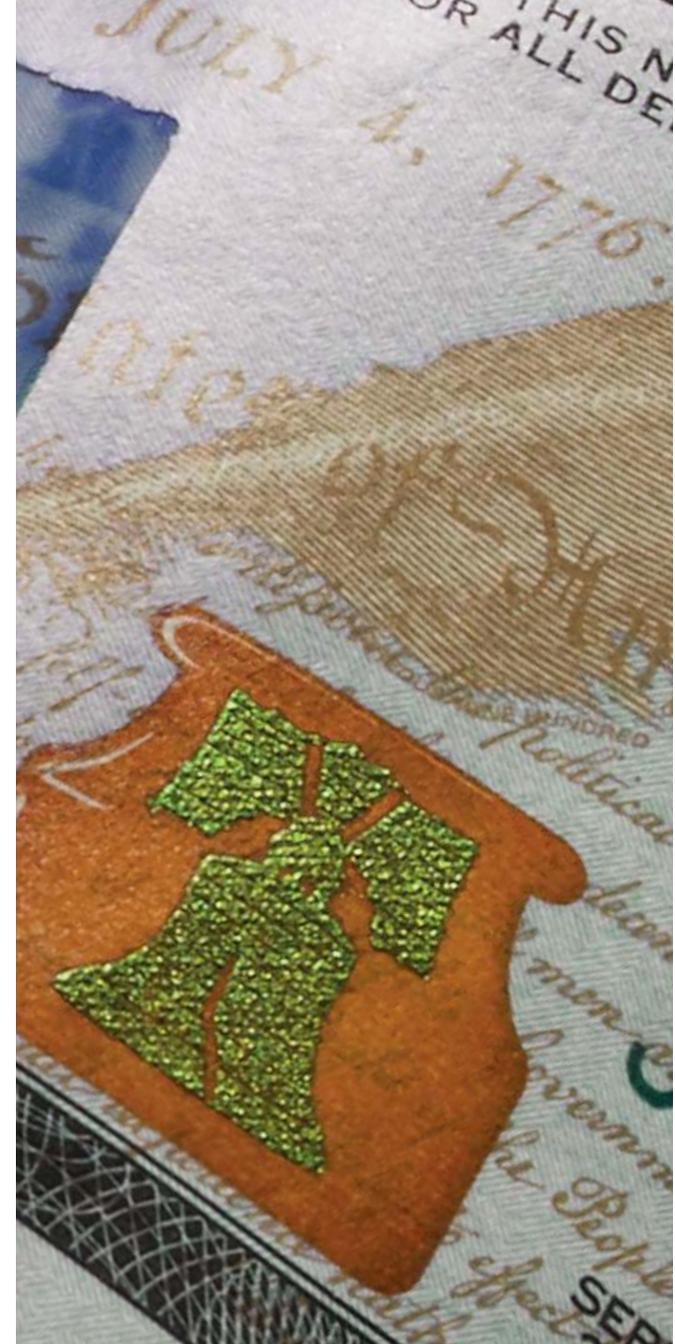
The New $100 Note

Know Its Features. Know It's Real.

Protect yourself —
it only takes a few seconds
to check the new $100 note
and know it's real.

3-D Security Ribbon

Tilt the note back and forth while focusing on the blue ribbon. You will see the bells change to *100*s as they move. When you tilt the note back and forth, the bells and *100*s move side to side. If you tilt it side to side, they move up and down. The ribbon is woven into the paper, not printed on it.

Bell in the Inkwell

Tilt the note to see the color-shifting bell in the copper inkwell change from copper to green, an effect which makes the bell seem to appear and disappear within the inkwell.

1. Portrait Watermark
Hold the note to light and look for a faint image of Benjamin Franklin in the blank space to the right of the portrait. The image is visible from either side of the note.

2. Security Thread
Hold the note to light to see an embedded thread running vertically to the left of the portrait. The thread is imprinted with the letters *USA* and the numeral *100* in an alternating pattern and is visible from both sides of the note. The thread glows pink when illuminated by ultraviolet light.
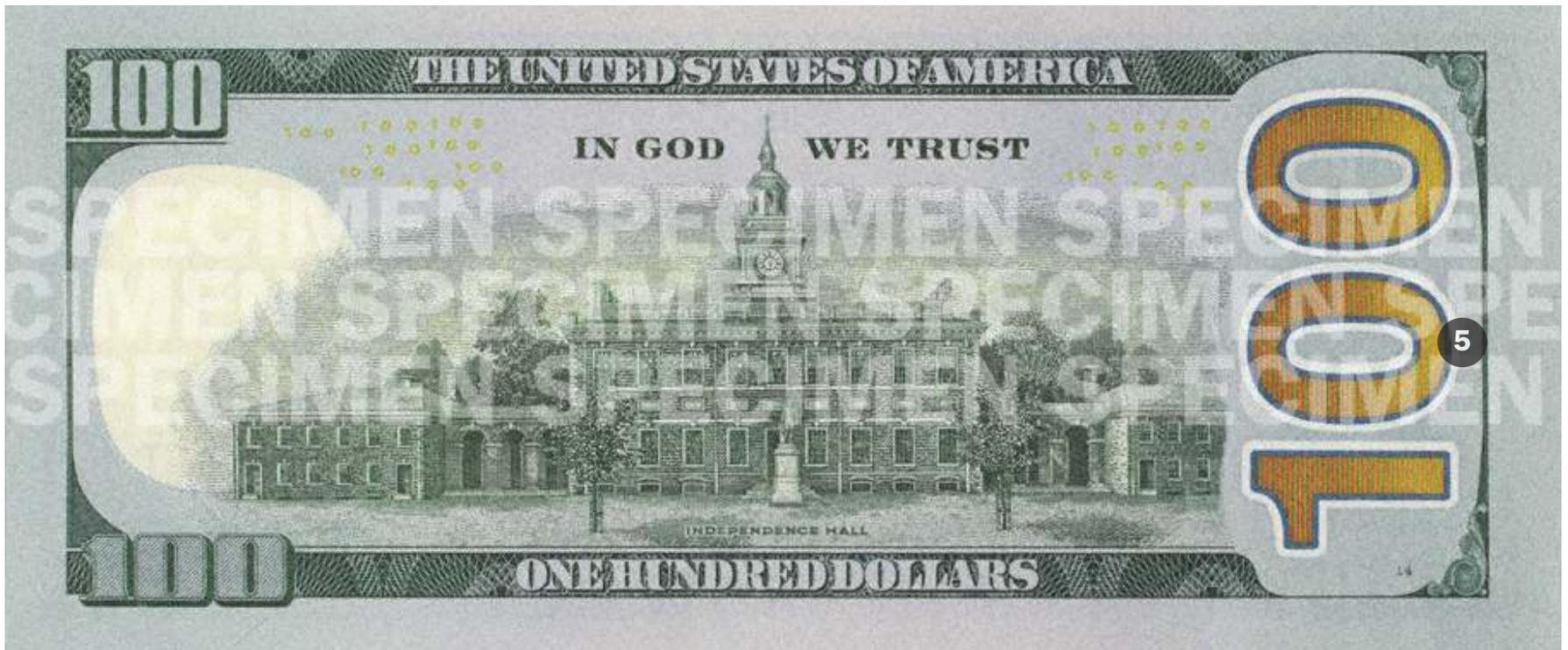
3. Color-Shifting 100
Tilt the note to see the numeral *100* in the lower right corner of the front of the note shift from copper to green.

4. Raised Printing
Move your finger up and down Benjamin Franklin's shoulder on the left side of the note. It should feel rough to the touch, a result of the enhanced intaglio printing process used to create the image. Traditional raised printing can be felt throughout the $100 note, and gives genuine U.S. currency its distinctive texture.

5. Gold 100
Look for a large gold numeral *100* on the back of the note. It helps those with visual impairments distinguish the denomination.

6. Microprinting
Look carefully to see the small printed words *THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA* on Benjamin Franklin's jacket collar, *USA 100* around the blank space containing the portrait watermark, *ONE HUNDRED USA* along the golden quill, and small *100s* in the note borders.

FW Indicator (not shown here)
The redesigned $100 notes printed in Fort Worth, Texas, will have a small *FW* in the top left corner on the front of the note, to the right of the numeral *100*. If a note does not have an *FW* indicator, it was printed in Washington, D.C.

The redesigned $50 note was first issued in 2004. It has three key security features that are easy to check: a security thread, portrait watermark, and color-shifting numeral *50*.

1. Security Thread   2. Portrait Watermark   3. Color-Shifting 50

The redesigned $20 note was first issued in 2003. It has three key security features that are easy to check: a security thread, portrait watermark, and color-shifting numeral *20*.

1. Security Thread   2. Portrait Watermark   3. Color-Shifting 20

The redesigned $10 note was first issued in 2006. It has three key security features that are easy to check: a security thread, portrait watermark, and color-shifting numeral *10*.

1. Security Thread   2. Portrait Watermark   3. Color-Shifting 10

The redesigned $5 note was first issued in 2008. It has three key security features that are easy to check: a column of three small numeral *5* watermarks, a security thread, and a large numeral *5* watermark.

1. Watermark: Column of three smaller numeral 5s

2. Security Thread

3. Watermark: Large numeral 5

Questions & Answers

Q: What should I do if I suspect a counterfeit note?

A: If you receive a note that you suspect may be a counterfeit or if you question a note that is already in your possession, turn it over to local police. If the note is genuine it will be returned as soon as possible. If the note is counterfeit, you will not be reimbursed. It is against the law to knowingly pass a counterfeit note.

Q: Where can I learn more about U.S. currency changes?

A: Go to our website, uscurrency.gov, which includes additional information in multiple languages.

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