

Web Press Notes

Between 1992 and 1996, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing experimented to see if a web press using continuous rolls of paper was quicker and cheaper than the standard intaglio printing, which used flat single sheets. The notes we that are discussing are **certain one dollar bills** from **Series 1988A**, **Series 1993** and **Series 1995**. They are normal legal tender currency and are not considered error notes, although they are valuable due to their relative scarcity compared to regular notes.

Intaglio web press compared to intaglio sheet fed press

In mid-1991, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) installed a web press at the Washington, DC printing facilities to test a new way of printing \$1 bills. BEP officials hoped that the test would replace the sheet fed intaglio presses by switching to a possibly quicker and less expensive method of printing.

There are several differences between the two types of presses:

Intaglio (standard)

- ⑤ Printed one sheet of 32 bills at a time.
- ⑤ Intaglio prints in three passes, once on each side for front and back, and then once more for seals, serial numbers, and plate numbers.
- ⑤ 32 notes printed, in three stages
- ⑤ Delivers approximately 8,000 sheets per hour.

Web press (experimental)

- ⑤ Fed by a continuous paper roll
- ⑤ Printed both sides of a note simultaneously
- ⑤ Creates 96 notes in one pass
- ⑤ Delivers 10,000 sheets in only 35 minutes

The continuous-roll printing process is visually very similar to the printing of newspapers, whereas intaglio visually resembles metal stamping manufacturing methods.

Problems arose with the web press. The main drawback was its inability to sustain long continuous runs compared to the standard sheet fed method of intaglio printing, resulting in constant breakdowns. In addition, the quality of the prints was not as good compared to the intaglio method. Due to these factors, the web press was discontinued in mid-1996.

Identifying Web Press Notes

A currency note that was printed on a web press (referred to as a web note) can be identified by a very distinct characteristic on the back side.

The following images illustrate the difference. The top note is a web note; the bottom note is a sheet fed note.



On the web note, the back plate number is just to the right side of TRUST in the motto IN GOD WE TRUST (red box). On the sheet fed note, the back plate number is to the lower right corner of the bill at the edge of the white space (blue box).

Web notes were made for three series of dollar bills, **Series 1988A**, **Series 1993** and **Series 1995**

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