

Know Your Notes

If you can identify the security features on genuine banknotes then you are protected from counterfeiters.



ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA



Metallic Security Thread



Genuine notes have a windowed **metallic security thread** which runs from top to bottom on the right hand side of the note. This appears as a series of silver dashes on the front of the note, but is seen as a continuous line when viewed against the light.



The Watermark

The **watermark** which is a three dimensional image of an allegorical head found on the left hand side of the note, is recognisable for its sharpness and positive image when viewed against the light.

Pyramid Like Pattern



The **Pyramid like pattern** which appears on the back at the right hand side of genuine banknotes, is designed to confuse the 'electronic eye' of a colour scanner.

Latent Image



The thickness of the ink layer deposited by the intaglio printing process permits the incorporation of a hidden image within the design. In our banknotes the letters **BCM** become legible.

On genuine banknotes the **latent image** incorporated on the front of the note at the bottom left hand corner is visible when viewed obliquely.



Micro Text Line



The intaglio process allows the reproduction of extremely fine detail. The **micro text line** will appear at first to the naked eye as a simple line. Closer inspection will render the text legible.

See-Through Features



All **see-through features** match perfectly front and back when held against the light.

When the banknote is held up to the light, parts of the design printed on the back will fit exactly within the unprinted area on the front.



Optical Variable Ink



On the back of the Lm10 and Lm20 banknotes, on the lower right hand side, the denomination is printed in and over **Optical Variable Ink** respectively. This type of ink causes colour shifts when viewed from different angles. The colour shifts for the Lm20 is gold to green and for the Lm10 from green to blue.

Metallic Fluorescent Ink



The wave like patterns shown to the left side of the banknote are printed in a metallic fluorescent ink which gives a lustre and fluoresces under ultra violet light.



This is what one can observe when a banknote is completely exposed to Ultra Violet light.

Tartan Design



Fine line patterns which appear on the front to the right hand side of the banknotes have been designed to confuse the reading mechanism of colour photocopiers which lack the resolution to reproduce accurately such structures.