

MACHIN PRINTING CHARACTERISTICS CONTINUE

ELLIPTICAL PERFORATION

Machin stamps with elliptical perfs began to appear in 1993.

They were instituted as a security feature.

Two types of perforations have been identified. Identifying these two types of elliptical perforations on *single* specimens is rather difficult - pairs or greater make the task easier.



Narrow at the top and bottom, with rounded sides (eR)



Narrow at the top and bottom, with almost straight sides (eS)



MACHIN BACK PRINTS

Machins have appeared with "back prints".

These stamps indicated that it were sold at a discount. The back print was printed on top of the gum.

As such, you may not find any examples on used Machins since soaking the used stamp from its envelope/cover/piece removes the gum at the same time.

The first booklet released was the Christmas discount booklet in 1982 the Dextrin gum had stars overprinted.

There were three initial designs:

Type 1 only used on the Christmas booklets,

Type 2 left-over paper stocks of the single star type 2 were also used for the printing of the 12p values in sheets.

Type 3 were used on ordinary discount booklets.

Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



SOURCE AND DATE CODES

In March 2009 the first group of Machins with security features were issued with back ground codes.

The codes may be seen in the words ROYAL MAIL usually at the top right of the stamp and some later issues at the bottom right.

For instance, **MBIL/M11L** means that the stamp came from a Business Sheet in 2011. The source codes are as follows: **MBIL**- From Business Sheets, **MCIL**- From Custom Retail Books with four Machins and two Special or Commemorative Stamps, **MFIL**- From Books of Four, **MPIL**- From Prestige Books, **MRIL**- From Coil Stamps in Rolls, **MSIL**- From Books of Six, **MTIL**- From Books of Twelve, and No source codes at all for Machin Stamps from Counter Sheets, though these do carry year codes.

Starting in 2010, a year-indicator was added to the iridescent overprint. It appears either in the upper left corner of the stamp, in front of the crown, or the Queens forehead or eye.



Source code MSIL



Source code MCIL



Year Indicator 2010 (M10L)



Year Indicator 2014 (M14L)