

take a closer look

Counterfeit banknotes are rare but it always pays to be careful. Making sure your notes are real isn't as hard as you might think.



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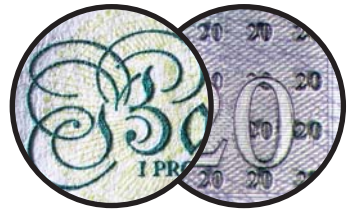
BANK OF ENGLAND

Banknote checklist



1 Check the paper and the raised print

Banknotes are printed on special paper that gives them their unique feel. By running your finger across the note, you can feel raised print in areas such as the words 'Bank of England' on the front. There is also raised print in the bottom right corner of the new-style £20, around the figure 20.



2 Check the metallic thread

There is a metallic thread embedded in every banknote. This appears as silver dashes on the back of £5, £10 and £20 notes and on the front of £50 notes. If you hold the note up to the light, the metallic thread appears as a continuous dark line.



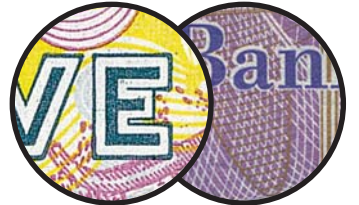
3 Check the watermark

Hold the note up to the light and you will see an image of the Queen's portrait. On the new-style £20 the watermark includes a bright £20.



4 Check the print quality

The printed lines and colours on banknotes are sharp, clear and free from smudges or blurred edges.



5 Check the foil features

On £5, £10 and old-style £20 notes there is a hologram on the foil patch. The image changes between a brightly coloured picture of Britannia and the numerical value of the note. On new-style £20 notes the foil patches contain alternating holographic images. One hologram shows a multi-coloured image of Adam Smith, the other changes between a multi-coloured £ sign and the number 20. The number 20 is also embossed on the strip, to the right of the Chief Cashier's signature. On £50 notes the foil patch features a reflective rose and medallion.



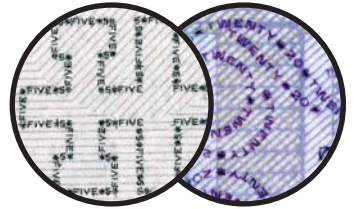
6 Check the ultra-violet features

If you put the note under a good quality ultra-violet light, its value appears in bright red and green numbers while the background is dull in contrast. On the new-style £20, there are also randomly spread bright red and green flecks on both sides of the note.



7 Check the microlettering

Using a magnifying glass, look closely at the lettering beneath the Queen's portrait – you will see the value of the note written in small letters and numerals.



8 Check the see-through register

Hold the note up to the light and you will see coloured irregular shapes printed on the front and back of the note that combine to form the pound sterling symbol.

