



# Dummy News and Views

the Newsletter of the United States Stamp Society - Dummy Stamps Study Group

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## Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Thirty-second Newsletter

This newsletter is produced quarterly by the United States Stamp Society's - Dummy Stamps Study Group for your information and pleasure. We hope that the information included in this newsletter will be informative, useful and encourage your enjoyment of collecting dummy/test stamps. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date with the latest information available to our group. Questions, comments and articles proposed for publication should be directed to Terry R. Scott, Chairman of the Dummy Stamps Study Group at [trs@napanet.net](mailto:trs@napanet.net)

## Richard J. Nazar Reports A New Scott Proposed TD130D “Star Spangled Banner” Linerless Self-Adhesive Test Coil Variety

by Terry R. Scott

Fellow dummy stamp collector Rich Nazar recently published an article on a previously unreported “Star Spangled Banner” Linerless Self-Adhesive test coil. This new discovery is tentatively proposed for listing in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* as Scott TD130D.

His in depth article was published in the August 2013 issue of *The United States Specialist*, the monthly publication of the United States Stamps Society.

The newly reported “Star Spangled Banner” test coil closely resembles the currently listed Scott #TD130A test coil, but there are several notable differences in the printing, in addition to the differences in perforation type and the fact that the new stamp is a linerless self-adhesive format.

The new “Star Spangled Banner” test coil is speculated to be a hybrid of leading technology for Self-Adhesive coils. The new test stamp is different from issued linerless self-adhesive coil stamps because it has actual punched round hole perforations that measure 9.8 gauge, which is consistent with coils issued on water activated gummed paper of that era.

This new test coil was produced in 1998 on the BEP's “F” Press, a combination web-fed press that could print both intaglio and offset at the same time.

I urge you to read the article by Richard J. Nazar in the August 2013 issue of *The United States Specialist* to get the information that tells a more complete story known about this new test coil. Copies may be ordered from: Larry Ballantyne, Executive

Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. The cost of \$2.00 include postage in the United States.

Illustrated below is a single of the new reported “Star Spangled Banner” test coil.



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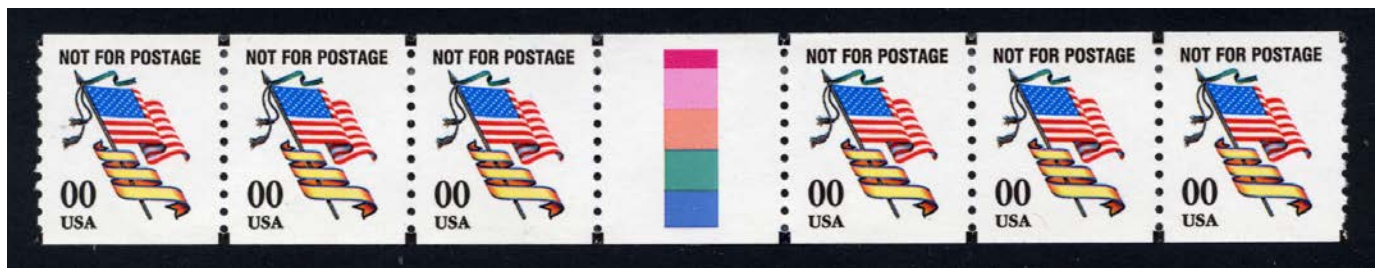
It is believed that the new “Star Spangled Banner” test coil was printed using four offset plates that were 18 stamps tall and 24 stamps in circumference, along with one intaglio sleeve that was 18 stamps tall and 48 stamps in circumference.

The newly reported test coil is found in rolls of 100 with a blank paper strip wrapped around the coils to hold them sealed. At the beginning of the coil roll there is a short piece of paper adhered to the back of the first stamp to facilitate peeling off the stamps from the roll in the same manner used for peeling off adhesive type tapes from rolls. The roll has plate numbers spaced every 24 stamps. There are two known types of plate numbers, one type has five numbers and one type has four numbers. The latter missing the intaglio blue plate number “1” is much more difficult to find.

Also on the rolls, spaced 24 stamps apart, and falling 12 stamps away from the plate number stamps, is a single stamp without the “Star Spangled Banner”

test coil stamp design, but with a multi-square color ladder printed. There are six known different types of color ladders but it is speculated that there are possibly seven additional different color ladder types. The known types are illustrated below.

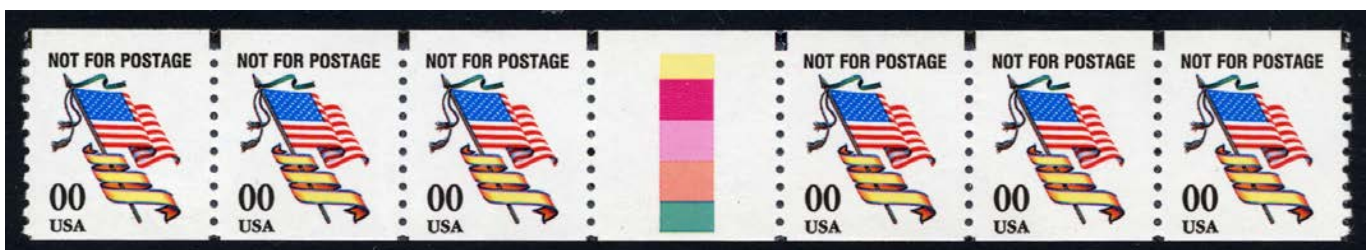
Also, found on some rolls, spaced 24 stamps apart, in between plate numbers, is a strip of nine stamps without the Star Spangled Banner design. The center stamp has a color ladder, with three large solid color density blocks to its left and four to the right. Those seven color blocks show different intensities of one of the five colors of ink used to print the stamps. The first stamp in the string shows the name and color of the ink used to print the seven solid density blocks. It is known from BEP images that there are five different colors / types of this strip but to date only two different ones are known in collectors hands. These are shown following. For the purposes of keeping some order of what we are referring to, we have assigned these different type numbers.



The above strip is called a Type 1 color ladder



The above strip is called a Type 2 color ladder.



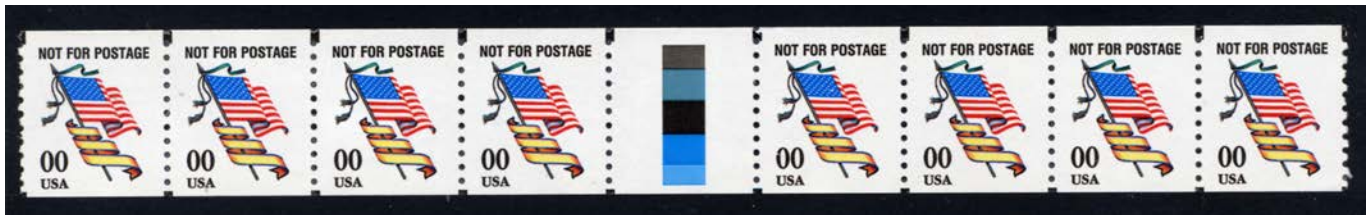
The above strip is called a Type 3 color ladder.

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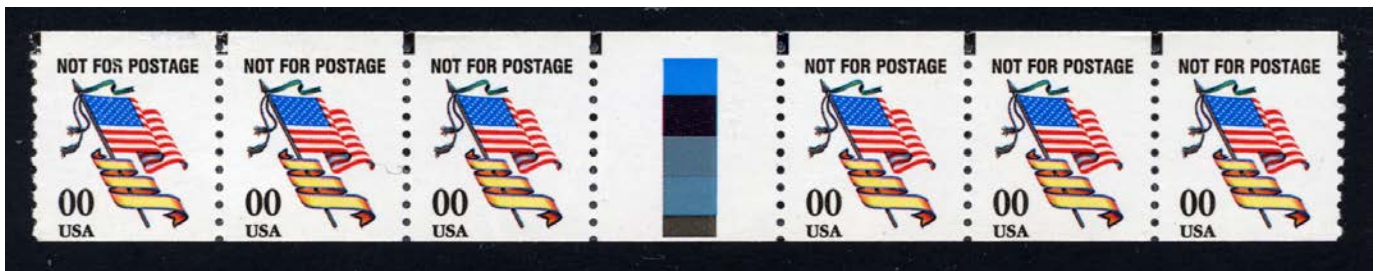




The above strip is called a Type 4 color ladder.



The above strip is called a Type 5 color ladder.



The above strip is called a Type 6 color ladder.

Following are illustrations of the different plate number types. The first type shown below is a stamp with five plate numbers (magenta, yellow, cyan, blue and black). Note that the four offset plate numbers look like blobs compared to the fourth digit (which is the intaglio blue plate number).



The second type shown below is a stamp with just four offset plate numbers (magenta, yellow, cyan and black) missing the intaglio blue plate number. It is important to note that just the intaglio plate number is missing; the stamps are normal, printed with all five intended inks.



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You will note that on the left and right of each stamp on the roll there is a small black bar at the top and bottom of the row of perforations. There is also a horizontal black line through the bars at the right of the stamps that contain the plate numbers. It appears that this small black bar was used for registration for perforating and cutting the stamps into rolls.

It is also apparent that the adhesive was applied after the perforating process, another “first” in self-adhesive stamp production.

Shown below, and on the following page, are two strips of stamps that are each nine stamps long with the center stamp having a color ladder. The four stamps leading up to, and following the stamp with the color ladder show one of the colors used to print the stamps in seven different intensities with the first stamp indicating the color name and number used.

It is to be noted that these test stamps are overall tagged and glow a yellowish-green when exposed to short-wave light.



While difficult to see in the above illustration, the first stamp at the left end without the “Star Spangled Banner” stamp has the color description in four lines. It reads “Yellow / 211 / Line / Screen”. This is followed by three yellow printed squares of different color intensity, then the stamp with the color ladder, then four more yellow printed squares of different color intensity.



Shown to the left is the color ladder in the center stamp of the strip above with a similar color ladder matched against it from the 1991 World War II issue Scott #2559c, 29¢ *Shipments for Allies*. This indicates that BEP uses a consistent color ladder with regular issued stamps as well as these “Star Spangled Banner” test stamps.

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While also difficult to see in the above illustration, the first stamp at the left end without the “Star Spangled Banner” stamp has the color description in four lines. It reads “Blue / 363 / Line / Screen”. This is followed by three blue printed squares of different color intensity, then the stamp with the color ladder, then four more blue printed squares of different color intensity.

There is an amazing amount of information in the article by Richard J. Nazar in the August 2013 issue of The United States Specialist. It is strongly recommended you get a copy of this great publication and read it. Once

again, it is available from: Larry Ballantyne, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 6634, Katy, TX 77491-6634. The cost of \$2.00 include postage in the United States. □

## Recent Auctions of Interest to Dummy Stamp Collectors

by Terry R. Scott

On July 10-11, 2013 Cherrystone held Auction Sale #713 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 15% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 1500 **LARGE LOTS & COLLECTIONS UNITED STATES** 1941 test (dummy) stamps, unexploded booklet with one pane (another removed), also one cover, plus Great Britain vertical strip of five, also four on covers, interesting lot. Photo ex. Realized \$450.00



On August 8-10, 2013 Harmer Schau held APS StampShow Auction Sale #98 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.

Lot 2140 (★) U.S.; Test Stamps, 1910, 30mm by 33½mm Red, #TD29. Ungummed, large margins all around, Very Fine. Photo (See next page). Scott \$650.00 Estimate \$200.00-\$250.00 Realized \$290.00

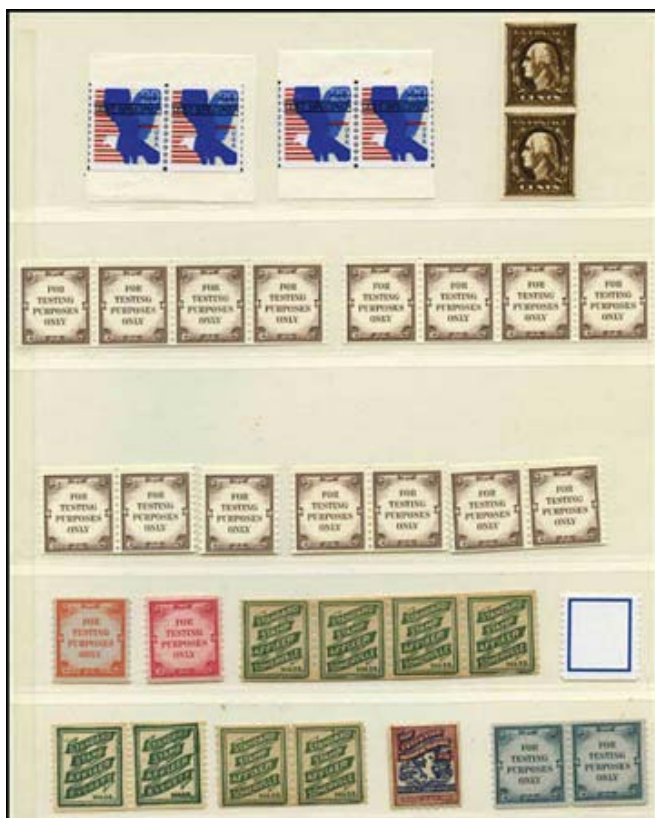
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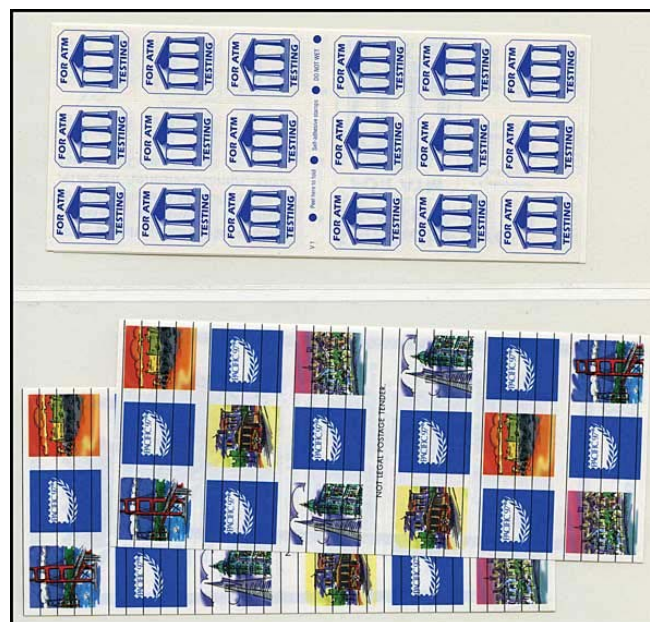
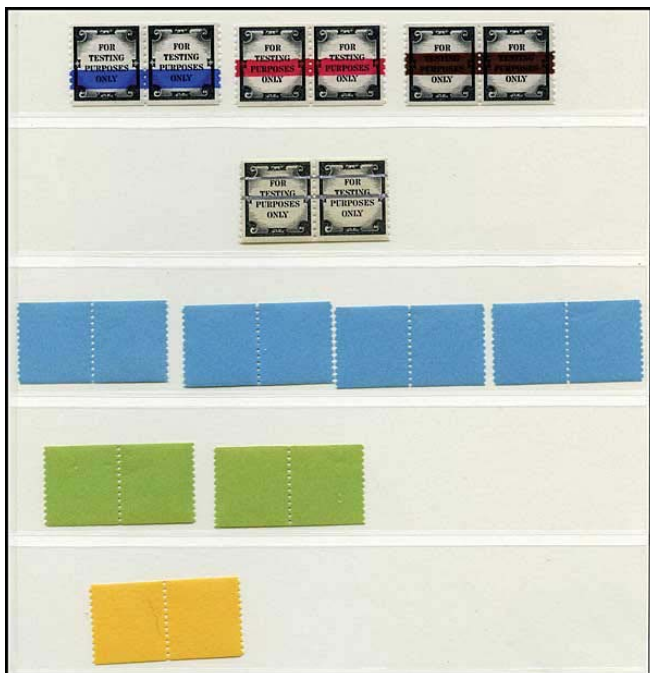


Lot 2450 \* U.S. Back of the Book Collections, Collector's Test Accumulation. To around 2000, accumulated individually over years on stock pages, few hundred from common to somewhat better incl. #TD39, TD34 strip of 4, dupl. incl. multiples, TD51 pair, self-adhesives incl. TDB86, 89, dummy booklets, local and Cinderella test, some dupl., Fine to Very Fine. Photo (See following illustrations). Estimate \$500.00-\$750.00 Realized \$1,500.00



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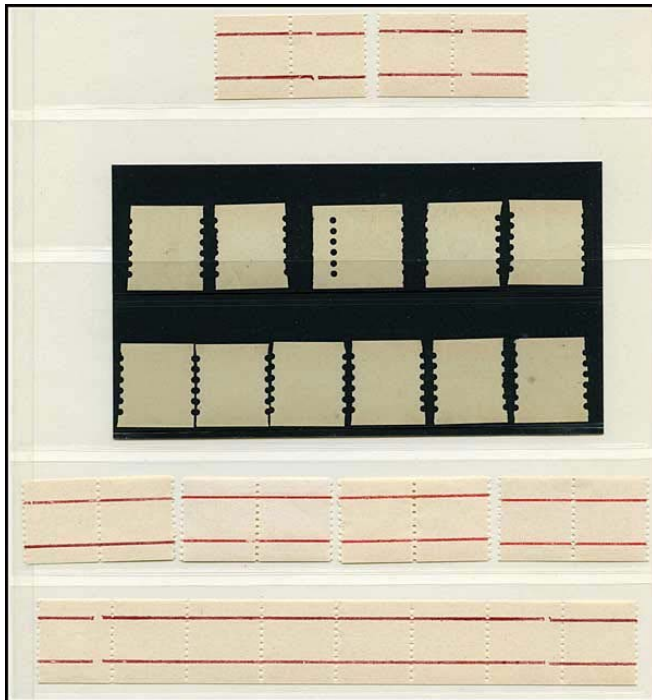
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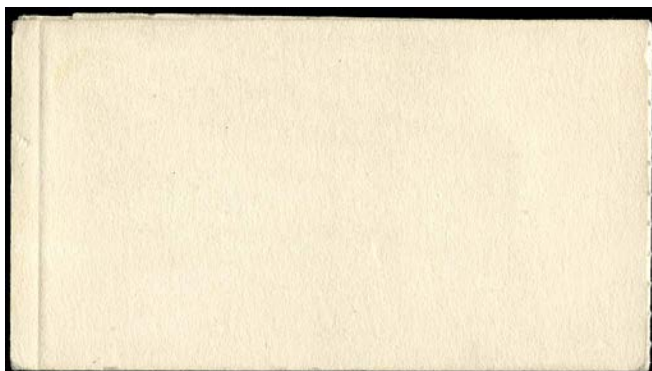
Lot 2088 \*\* USA (TDB25) 1970s TEST BOOKLET CONTAINING BLANK PANE OF 8 (x5) Blank folded cover with one horizontal format pane of 8 blanks attached inside by booklet tab, perf 11x10½, five examples. We don't recall ever seeing one of these before, let alone five of them. Most unusual and rare offering. Fine to very fine. Ex-Dr Spalding. Photo ex. Cat \$2,500.00 Realized \$650.00

On August 19-21, 2013 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale #638 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



Lot 1215 \*\* TD108 Test Stamp, 1970, B.E.P. "For Testing Purposes Only", carmine, untagged, dull gum (Scott TD108), pair, o.g., never hinged, extremely fresh and choice example of this rarely offered test coil, with spectacular rich color, Fine to Very Fine, 2010 P.S.A.G. certificate. (Ed. note: This pair was actually tagged and had "normal" shiny gum) Photo. Scott \$1,900.00 Estimate \$1,000.00 - \$1,500.00 Realized \$550.00

On August 10-11, 2013 Regency Superior held Public Auction #100 that contained the following test stamps. There is a 18% Buyer's Premium for this sale.



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# Proposed Future DSSG Projects

## Updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets

Work is progressing, very much still at a snail's pace, on updating Research Paper Number 3 - Dummy Stamp Booklets. The last update by Earl McAfee, Dummy Booklets Study Group Chairman, was in 1998. Since then there have been many new discoveries. Many of them have been written up in articles in The United States Specialist. Now the time has come to document and illustrate them in a new updated version of Research Paper Number 3. I am in charge of this update project and knowing that it will

take quite a bit of time to complete, have no estimated completion date in mind. I will be asking all of you to join me in this project as I am not able to do it all, nor would you want me to do it all. It is a DSSG project and all members should have a chance to provide their input. Several illustrations are needed and a listing of these will be sent to you when I compile it. Scans at 300 dpi are necessary for clarity. It is anticipated that this publication will be in color. It has not yet been determined if it will be available on CD. □

## The Other Projects

There are several other projects currently being worked on by various members of the DSSG. They are as follows:

- Compiling a complete and comprehensive list of dummy test stamp roll sizes, box and roll labels. There are many different styles of labels sometimes found on the same test stamps. This is especially true of Bureau of Engraving and Printing products
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive record of auction appearances and prices realized for test stamps
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive listing of references for test stamps
- Compiling a complete and comprehensive list of plate numbers printed on test stamps and the frequency in which they appear and the frequency of joint lines on test coils when they appear. □

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This issue and all past issues of the Dummy Stamps Study Group Newsletter - Dummy News and Views may be found at:

<http://www.usstamps.org/dssg.html>