



Dummy News and Views

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

Issue Number 79

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Welcome to the Dummy Stamps Study Group's Seventy-ninth 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 United States Stamp Society's Dummy Stamps Study Group at terryscott@comcast.net

A New Test Stamp: Safeguard STAMPAFIX

by Paul Ramsay

Recently, I was lucky to acquire an unusual stamp affixer. Inside was a roll of previously unknown test stamps which had presumably been in the machine for 100+ years. Just for fun, as AI is everywhere, I asked Copilot to write this article. To my surprise, it produced several pages. Here's its introduction:

“Unveiling the Discovery — The stamp was uncovered during a routine cataloging of historical artifacts in a small archive facility, nestled in a quiet town. It was initially overlooked due to its unassuming design, but upon closer examination, researchers realized its immense significance. A handwritten note accompanying the stamp indicated that it originated from a country no longer recognized — a nation once thriving but lost to the sands of time.”

Sounds like a script for a movie but, of course, this and all other paragraphs were complete nonsense, so back to the old-fashioned way.

The stamps are endways delivery with the name of the product, name of the company, and an image of the machine printed in purple. There are 11 loose stamps, all mis-cut, suggesting the affixer may not have been that great, and a partial roll of 98 stamps with the last two gummed to a cardboard core. There is a splice that occurred at the 74th stamp. The stamps are perforated 8½ horizontally.

The machine is a SAFEGUARD, STAMPAFIX made by the Stampafix Company of Boston, Mass. It's a 6" cast iron cube with beveled glass windows. Not surprisingly, at 20 pounds it is quite heavy. It was offered on eBay together with what appears to be a custom carrying case, two stock certificates, a US patent, a key, and various tools. The starting bid was \$0.99 but it attracted significant interest.

According to Massachusetts records, the company was incorporated on 29 Nov 1910 and dissolved sometime in 1914. An application for a patent was filed on 25 Feb 1911 and granted 12 Oct 1915 (after the company had been dissolved).

I can find no contemporary adverts or any other material showing it went into production. The paint on the handle is well worn suggesting considerable use. Given the carrying case, my guess is that this is the inventor's demonstration unit. At the time, he would have been up against several lighter handheld designs and a few similar desktop designs.

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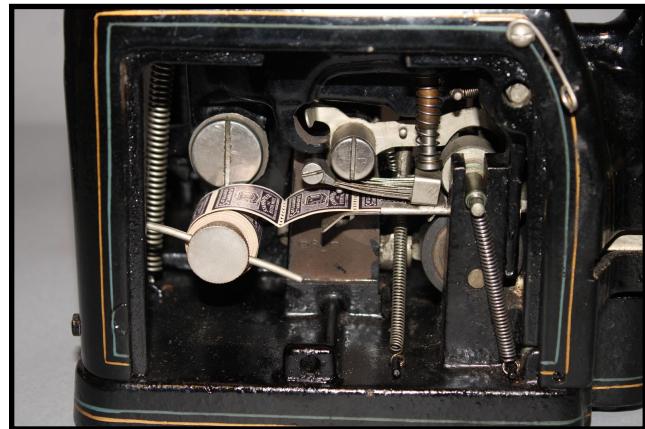
The front of the STAMPAFIX stamp affixer. The STAMPAFIX stamp affixer is approximately 6" tall.



The back of the STAMPAFIX stamp affixer showing a portion of a coil roll of the STAMPAFIX testing stamps.



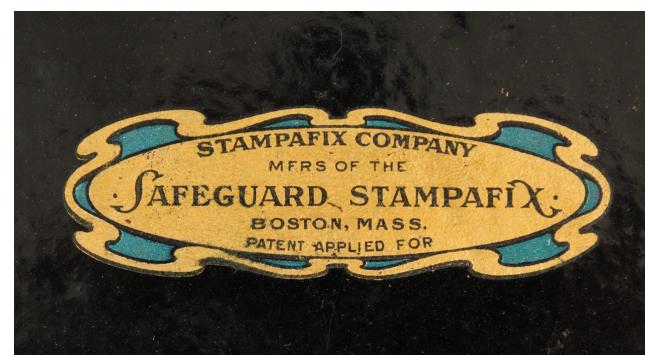
Another view of the STAMPAFIX stamp affixer.



Side of the STAMPAFIX stamp affixer opened to show a portion of a coil roll of the STAMPAFIX testing stamps.

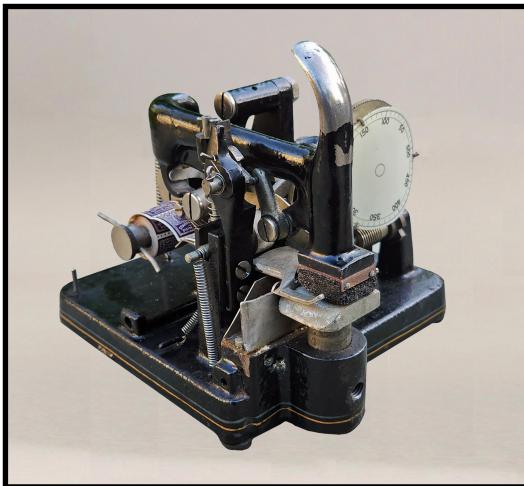


The top of the STAMPAFIX stamp affixer showing the company's decal.



An enlargement of the SAFEGUARD, STAMPAFIX stamp affixer decal.

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A view of the STAMPAFIX stamp affixer without the protective cover on it. Note the round counter at the right. See an enlarged image of the round counter at the right.

The enlarged image of the round counter shown at the right, shows the operator of the stamp affixer how many stamps remain on the coil roll. There is a small round window on the front of the stamp affixer (see the image of the front at the top left of Page 2) that allows the user to see approximately how many stamps are left.



STAMPAFIX Company Stock Certificate dated May 23, 1912.



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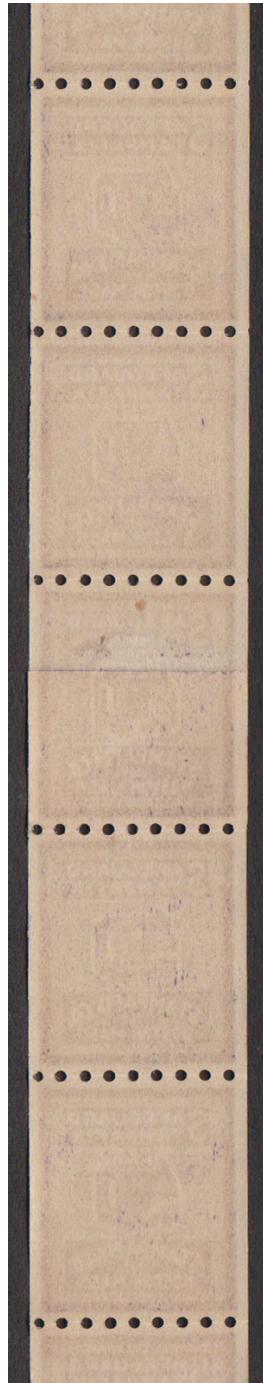
Shown above is the October 12, 1915 patent certificate Number 1,256,308 for the stamp affixing machine made by inventor Lionel G. H. Palmer (of Roslindale, Massachusetts).

This document gave the Stampafix Company, its successors and assigns the exclusive right to make, use and sell Lionel Palmer's stamp affixer in the USA for 17 years. Lionel Palmer applied for his patent on February 25, 1911, but he assigned his rights to the Stampafix Company before the patent was granted on October 12, 1915. Note that the decal on top of the affixer shown in the photo on Page 2 says "PATENT APPLIED FOR" and also shows the Stampafix Company made this affixer.

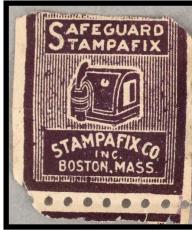
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An undamaged strip of 6 STAMPAFIX coil test stamps.



The gum side of the strip of 98 STAMPAFIX coil test stamps showing the splice that occurred at the 74th stamp (with 24 stamps remaining to the end that is attached to the coil's core).



Two of the 11 mis-cut damaged STAMPAFIX coil test stamps that were found loose in this stamp affixer.

About the Author - I'm an ex-Brit living in the US. I collect British stamps, mostly booklets and rolls, so why did I buy a US stamp affixer? Several years ago, while looking through a couple of UK dummy stamp collections, I noticed some with odd perforation. Turns out they were American. There was also an article in a reputable journal that stated Multipost was British. Given the trade between the two countries, it should be expected that affixers (especially handhelds) and their test stamps can be found on both sides of the pond.

There did not seem to be a useful source that partitioned US and UK machines and stamps, so I did my homework and put up a website. Naturally, after a while, I started to collect affixers. There is a display of handheld affixers in my office, mostly Multipost and Postafix (from the 1960s) as they are easy to find — there are usually several on eBay. Other affixers are much more difficult, some are unique, some are only known from adverts, but I continue to look.

We want to thank Paul Ramsay for this wonderful article about not only a new test stamp discovery but for the in-depth details about the SAFEGUARD, STAMPAFIX machine made by the Stampafix Company of Boston, Massachusetts.

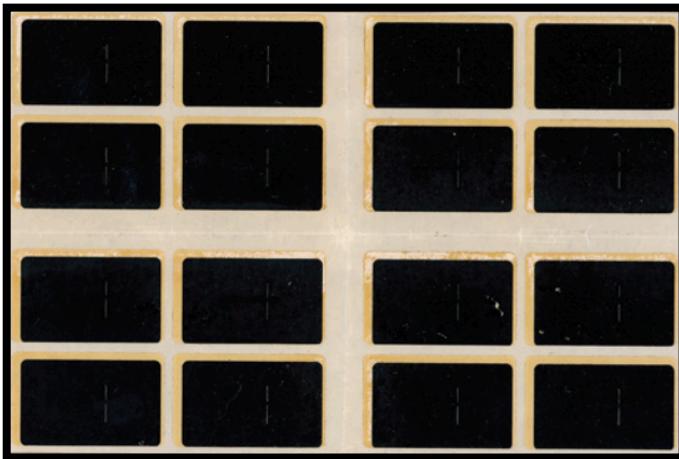
Paul Ramsay's wonderful web site may be found at www.gbstamprolls.com.

We have proposed to Scott Publishing that this new discovery be listed as TD27C TE17c in the next update of the Scott United States Specialized Catalogue.

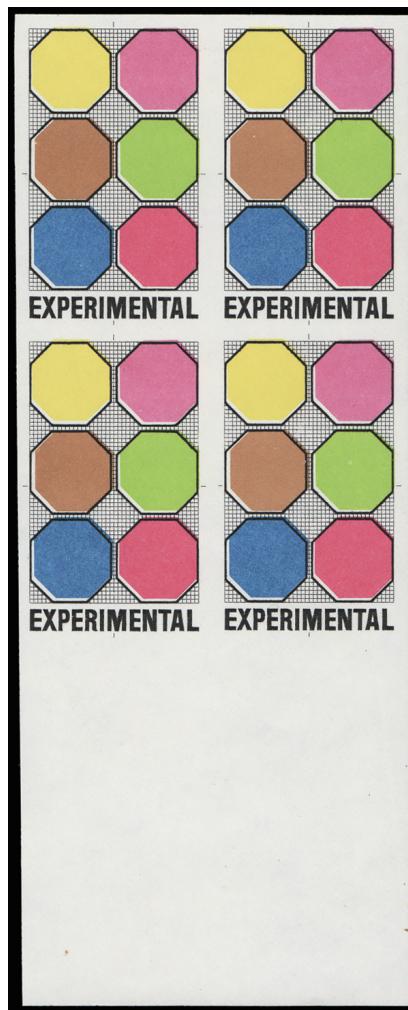
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Recent Auction Results

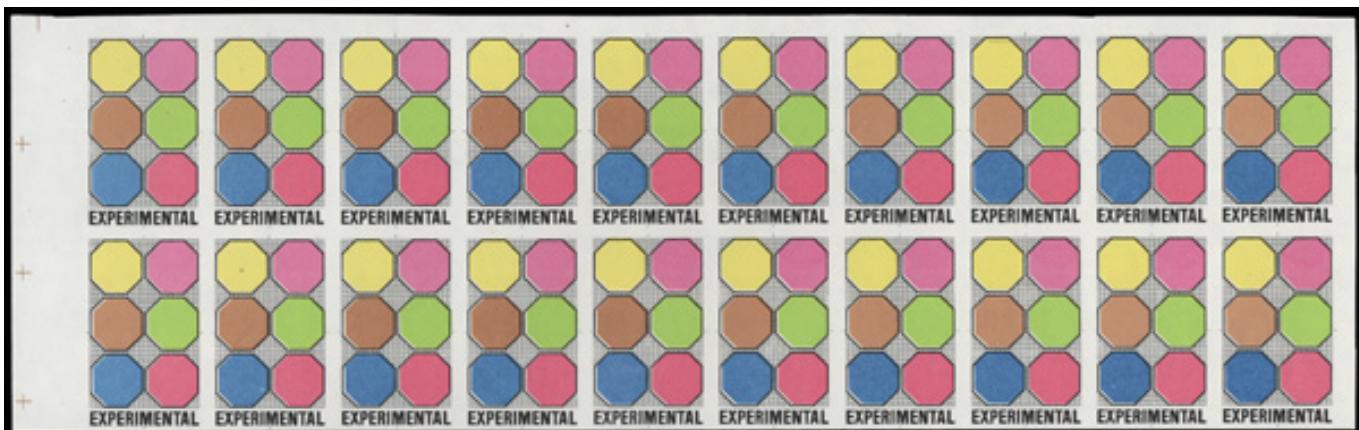
On April 1 & 2, 2025 Daniel F. Kellerher LLC held Sale #810 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 3992 **  TD117a Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a), cross-gutter block of 16, o.g., never hinged, exceptional positional from center of press sheet, with strong color; creased within gutters, light glossing or spots of color loss from prior storage, Very Fine nonetheless. Photo. Estimate \$600.00 - \$800.00. Not sold.



Lot 3993 **  TD118 , 1979, B.E.P. "Experimental", multicolored (Scott TD118), bottom sheet margin block of 4, o.g., never hinged, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$600.00. Realized \$250.00.



Lot 3994 **  TD118 , 1979, B.E.P. "Experimental", multicolored (Scott TD118), sheet margin block of 20, o.g., never hinged, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$3,000+. Realized \$1,300.00.

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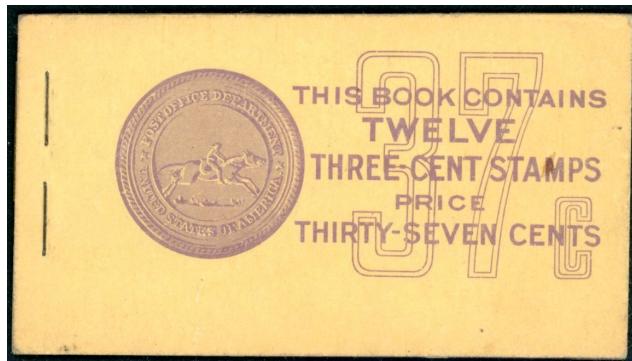
On April 5, 2025 Sterling Stamps held Sale #25A that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



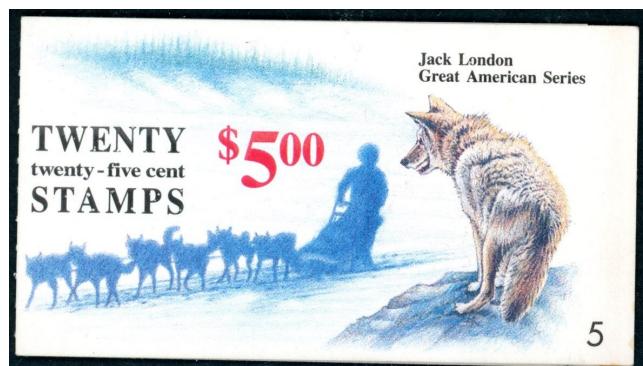
Lot 94 ** TD13 USA Scott TD13 Schermack Test Coil Pair MNH VF - Rarely seen test coil pair stating "APPLIED AT THE RATE OF 250 PER MINUTE". Schermack type III perforations. Light facial scrape on left stamp, a stain on center right perf, and a couple tiny gum skips or nicks. VF centering. Photo. Scott \$900.00. Realized \$290.00.



Lot 95 ** TD109b USA Scott TD109b MNH Vertical Pair Unslit Horizontal - Untagged, dull gum. VF. Photo. Scott \$200.00. Realized \$50.00.

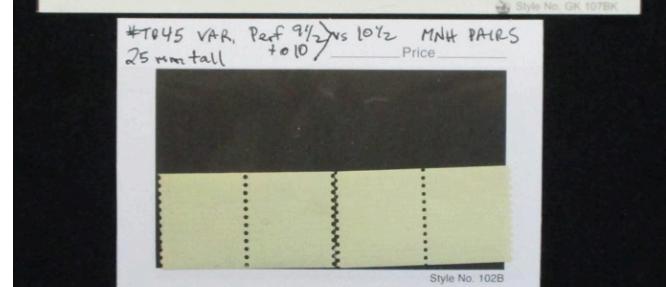
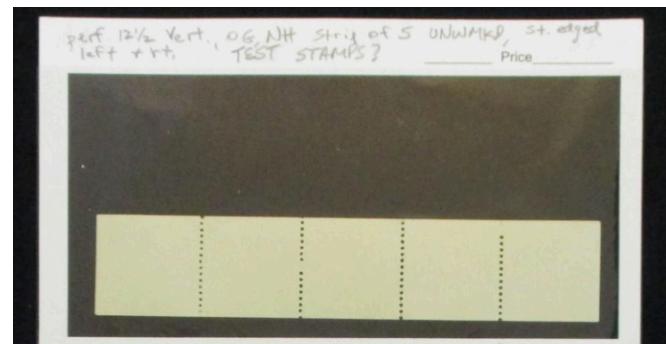


Lot 96 TDB3 USA Scott TDB3 Complete Test Booklet - 1940, 37¢ violet on buff booklet holds 2 panes of 6 (violet framed rectangles). F-VF. Photo. Scott \$500.00. Realized \$120.00.



Lot 97 TDB36 USA Scott TDB36 Test Booklet, Mismatched Numbers - Scott mentions that booklets exist with mismatched pane and cover numbers. In this case, the booklet cover has "5" in the lower right corner, and both panes inside having plate #1. "American Garden" is printed on inside of back cover. VF. Photo. Scott \$600.00. Realized \$140.00.

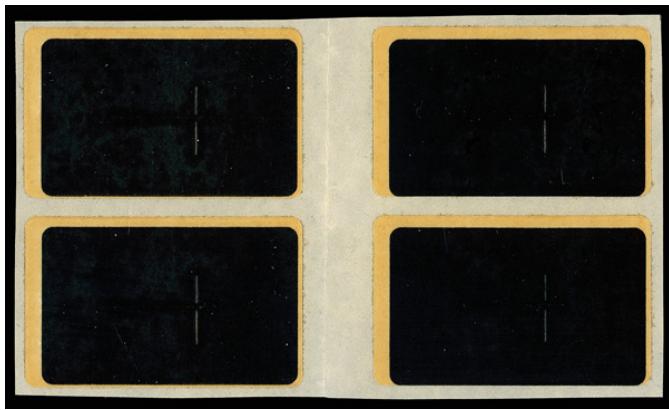
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Lot 98 USA Test Stamp Lot - Several dozen test stamp coil singles, pairs, and strips. A few joint line pairs and MNH pairs of Scott TD65 and TD91 are in the mix along with a few that seem to be Scott unlisted varieties or unknown potential test stamps. A few Great Britain test stamps joined the stock page for the ride. Generally fine or better with an occasional flaw. Photos. Est. \$75.00 - \$100.00. Realized \$95.00.

On April 6, 2025 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5266 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.

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Lot 6307 BK ** TD117a **Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a)**, block of 4 with vertical gutter, o.g., never hinged, positional from press sheet of 200, clean printing (adhesive discoloration as always on these early self-adhesives); creased through gutter away from stamps, Very Fine regardless. Photo. Suggested bid. \$130.00. Not sold.

On April 19, 2025 Michael Aldrich held Sale #115 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this auction. Michael Aldrich does not publish prices realized.



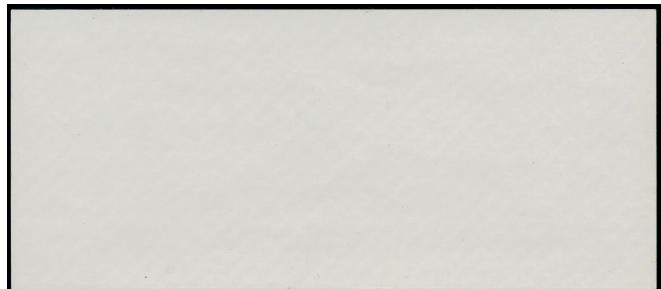
Lot 2319 ** TD109 Pair, NH, Sharp color, Fresh and VF. Photo. Scott \$180.00. Realized unknown.



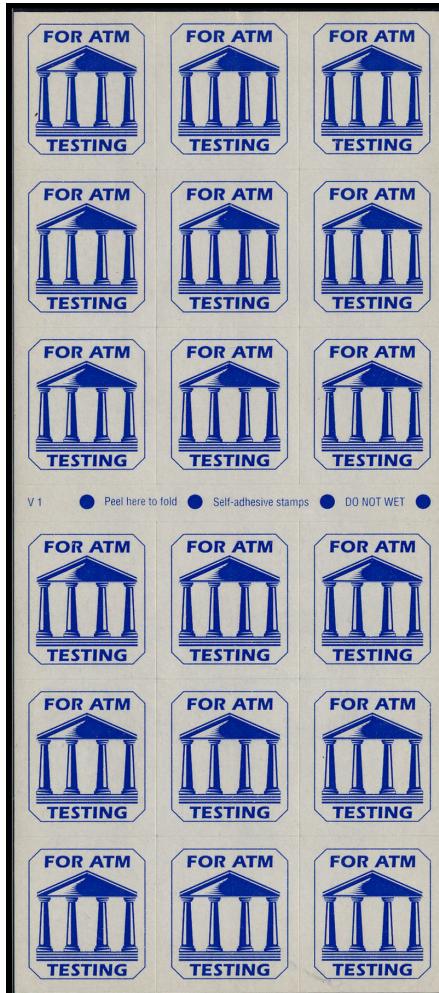
Lot 2320 ** TD125 single, NH. VF. Photo. Scott \$100.00. Realized unknown.



Lot 2321 ** TD133A, PNC/5, #1111, NH, XF, Photo. Scott \$300.00. Realized unknown.

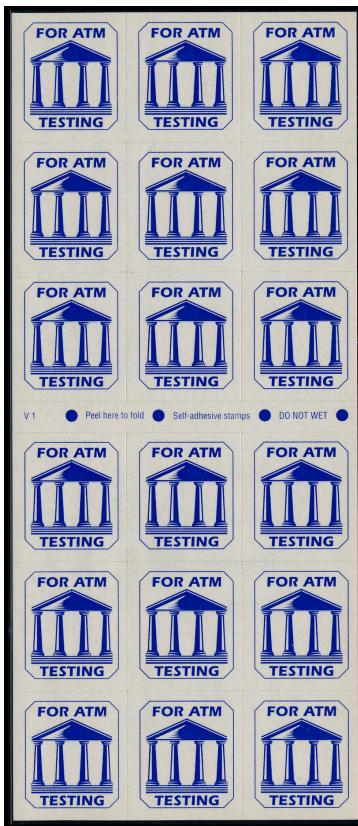


Lot 2322 * BKT. TDB85b, BP/18, Unused, No die cuts, XF. Photo. Scott 300.00. Realized unknown.

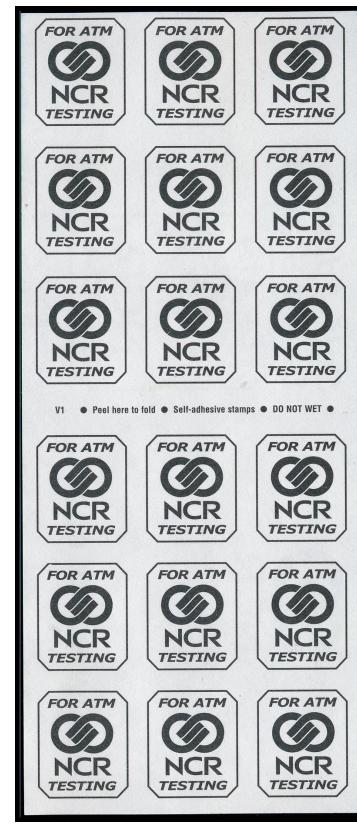


Lot 2323 * BKT. TDB89a, BP/18, Unused, "V1", XF. Photo. Scott 225.00. Realized unknown.

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Lot 2324 * BKT. TDB89a, BP/18, Unused, "V1", XF. Photo. Scott 225.00. Realized unknown.



Lot 2326 * BKT. TDB99a, BP/18, Unused, "V1", XF. Photo. Scott \$75.00. Realized unknown.

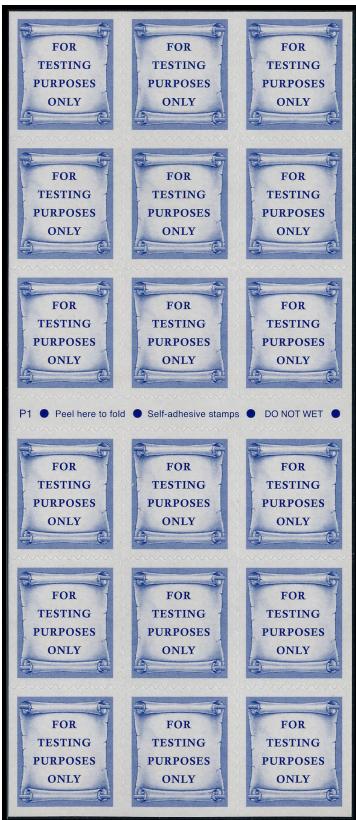


Lot 2325 * BKT. TDB90a, BP/18, Unused, "V1", XF. Photo. Scott \$130.00. Realized unknown.



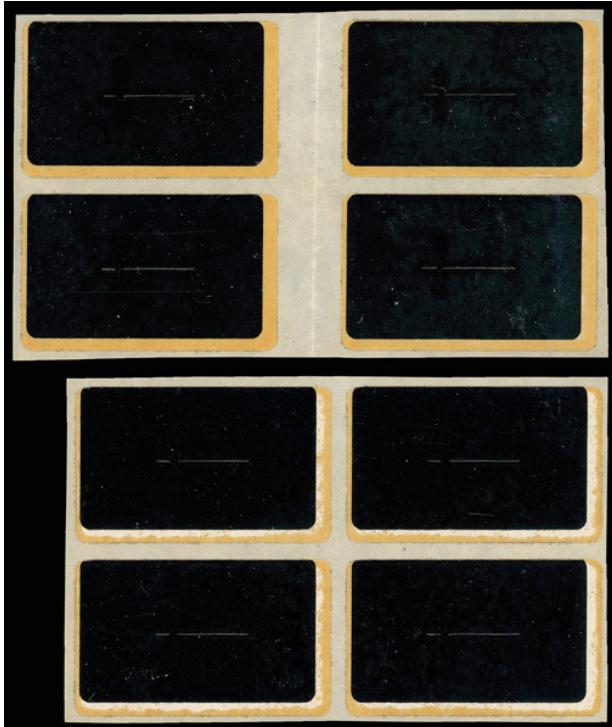
Lot 2327 * BKT. TDB100a, BP/18, Unused, "V1", XF. Photo. Scott \$110.00. Realized unknown.

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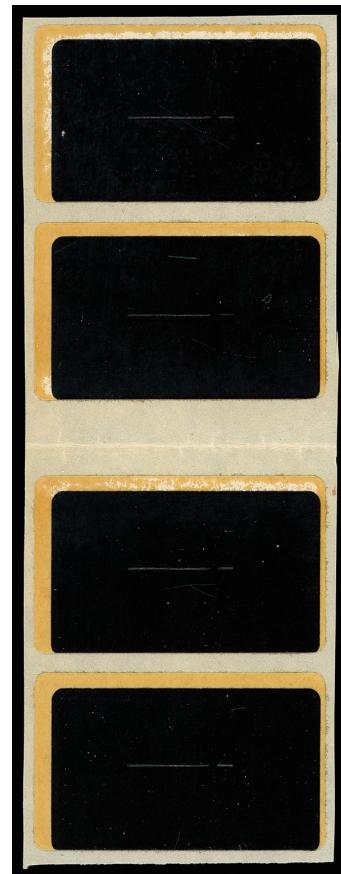


Lot 2328 * BKT. TDB101a, BP/18, Unused, "P1", XF. Photo. Scott \$150.00. Realized unknown.

On April 22-23, 2025 Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, LLC held Sale - 2012 Kelleher Club Sale that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



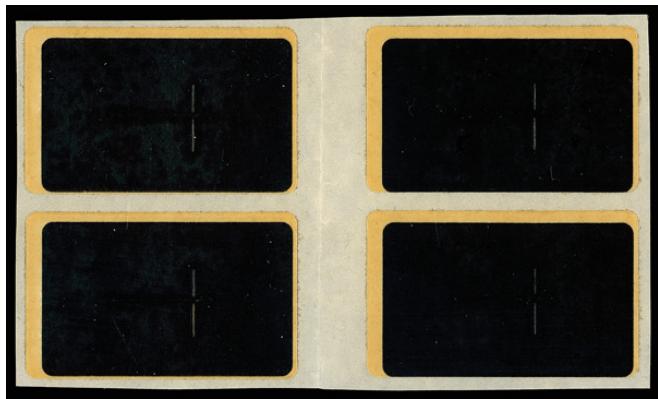
Lot 1088 ** TD117a Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a), o.g., never hinged, two blocks of four, one normal, one with vertical gutter (adhesive discoloration as always on these early self-adhesives); gutter creased between stamps, each with slight glossing from prior plastic holders, Very Fine nonetheless. Photo. Estimate \$350.00 - \$500.00. Not sold.



Lot 1087 ** TD117a Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a), vertical strip of 4 with horizontal gutter, o.g., never hinged, positional from press sheet of 200, with clean printing (adhesive discoloration as always on these early self-adhesives); creased in gutter well away from stamps, still Very Fine. Photo. Estimate \$160.00 - \$250.00.. Realized \$80.00.

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On May 4, 2025 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5274 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 6434 **  TD117a **Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a)**, block of 4 with vertical gutter, o.g., never hinged, positional from press sheet of 200, clean printing (adhesive discoloration as always on these early self-adhesives); creased through gutter away from stamps, Very Fine regardless. Photo. Suggested bid \$105.00. Not sold.

On May 13-15, 2025 The Dutch Country Auctions / The Stamp Center. held Sale #358 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this auction.

Lot 415 ** TD117 (200) VF NH, Press sheet of (200) Self Adhesive, black 1973 Christmas Test Stamp (#1552), rouletted backing paper, folded for storage causing weakened rouletting, horizontal separations between panes, as usual, slight toning/foxing from self adhesive. No photo. Catalogue \$750.00. Not Sold.

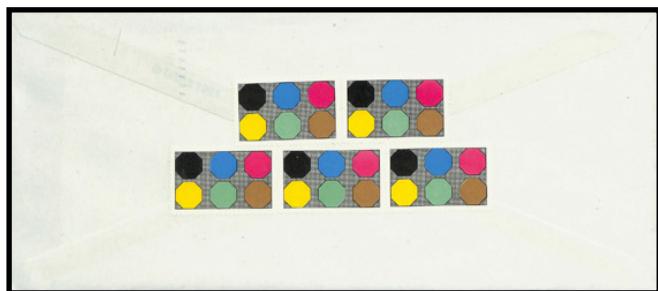
On May 18, 2025 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5272 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 9262  TD130A **Test Stamp, 1998, "Not For Postage" Star Spangled Banner coil, die-cut 11 1/4 (Scott TD130A)**, 8 examples on the back of #U632 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked '7 DEC/1998/PHILADELPHIA, PA 191' slogan cancel, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$75..00. Not sold.



Lot 9263  TD130A **Test Stamp, 1998, "Not For Postage" Star Spangled Banner coil, die-cut 11 1/4 (Scott TD130A)**, 8 examples on the back of #U632 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked '7 DEC/1998/PHILADELPHIA, PA 191' slogan cancel, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$75..00. Not sold.



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Lot 9264  TD130E Test Stamp, 1998, Six Color Octagons (Scott TD130E), 5 examples on the back of #U632 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked 'DEC 9/1998/SOUTH SUBURBAN, IL 604', Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$100.00. Realized \$52.00.

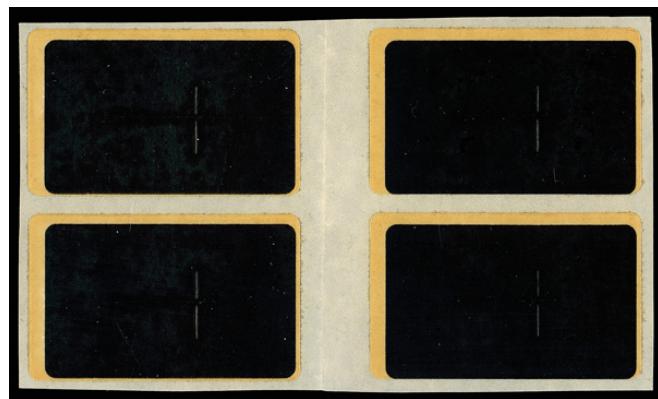


Lot 9265  TDB93 1998, Test Stamp Booklet, 00 blue gray George Clinton Experimental (Scott TDB93), 8 examples on the back of 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked '04 DEC/1998/ FAYETTEVILLE, AR 727' and slogan cancel, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$100.00. Not sold.



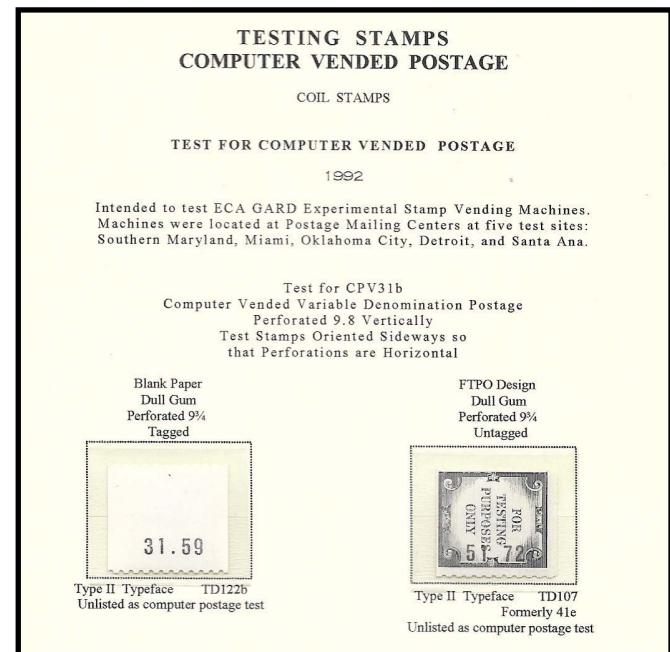
Lot 9266  TDB93 1998, Test Stamp Booklet, 00 blue gray George Clinton Experimental (Scott TDB93), 8 examples on the back of 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked '04 DEC/1998/ FAYETTEVILLE, AR 727' and slogan cancel, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$100.00. Realized \$52.00.

On June 1, 2025 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5274 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 6345 **  TD117a Test Stamp, 1973, Christmas issue, black, self-adhesive, on imperf backing paper (Scott TD117a), block of 4 with vertical gutter, o.g., never hinged, positional from press sheet of 200, clean printing (adhesive discoloration as always on these early self-adhesives); creased through gutter away from stamps, Very Fine regardless. Photo. Suggested bid \$84.00. Not sold.

On June 5, 2025 Sam Houston Philatelics held Sale #3124 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 15% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



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Lot 167 ** TD107, TD122b **TD107, TD122b, Test stamps for CPV31b, intended to test ECA GARD Experimental Stamp Vending Machines**, Test stamps oriented sideways so perforations are horizontal. On homemade Scott album page with full description of the stamps. Unlisted and unknown by numerous stamp experts we checked with, VF NH. Photo. Estimate \$20.00. Realized \$210.00.



Lot 168 ** TD107e TD107e, 1962-88 BLACK COIL TEST STAMPS, ROLL OF 3,000 UNOPENED, centering appears VF-XF, untagged, NH Photo. Catalogue \$3,000.00. Not sold.

On June 15, 2025 Weekly Online Sales - a Division of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions held Sale #5276 that contained the following test stamps. There was a 20% Buyer's Premium for this auction.



Lot 9261 **TD130A Test Stamp, 1998, "Not For Postage" Star Spangled Banner coil, die-cut 11 1/4 (Scott TD130A)**, 8 examples on the back of #U632 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked '7 DEC/1998/PHILADELPHIA, PA 191', Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$75.00. Realized \$62.00.



Lot 9262 **TDB93 1998, Test Stamp Booklet, 00 blue gray George Clinton Experimental (Scott TDB93)**, 8 examples on the back of 32¢ Liberty Bell envelope postmarked '04 DEC/1998/FAYETTEVILLE, AR 727' and slogan cancel, Extremely Fine. Photo. Scott \$100.00. Realized \$62.00.

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Requests for Articles for *The United States Specialist*

Andrew Kelley, Editor of *The United States Specialist*, is always looking for articles of interest for inclusion in our society's monthly publication. The type of articles Martin needs most are the shorter ones, one or two-page articles. If you are considering writing an article for *The United States Specialist*, please contact him for instructions. If the article is regarding dummy stamps, I would appreciate knowing about it also. Many members of the DSSG have written articles on dummy stamps and other stamps for this publication. It is rewarding and other USSS members benefit greatly from the information that is published in *The United States Specialist*.

Andrew Kelley can be reached by e-mail at: editor@usstamps.org □

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>