

Security Features

The United States government is issuing currency with new designs and security features beginning with the \$20 note in late 2003. New designs for the \$50 and \$100 notes will follow in 2004 and 2005. The new \$20 design retains three of the most important security features that were first introduced in the 1990s and are easy to check: a **watermark**, **security thread** and **color-shifting ink**.



Security Thread

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the security thread, or plastic strip, that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically up one side of the note. If you look closely, the words "USA TWENTY" and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note. This thread glows green when held under an ultraviolet light.

Color-Shifting Ink

Look at the number "20" in the lower right corner on the face of the note. When you tilt the note up and down the color-shifting ink changes color from copper to green.

Watermark

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait of President Andrew Jackson. The watermark is part of the paper itself and it can be seen from both sides of the note.

New Features



Color

The most noticeable difference in the newly designed note is the addition of subtle background colors of green and peach added to both sides of the note. The words "TWENTY USA" have also been printed in blue in the background to the right of the portrait. Small yellow 20s have been printed in the background on the back of the note.

Symbols of Freedom

Two new "symbols of freedom" — American eagles — have been designed on the front of the note. The large blue eagle in the background to the left of President Andrew Jackson's portrait is representative of those drawn and sculpted during his time period. The smaller metallic green eagle to the lower right of the portrait is a more contemporary engraving. The symbols of freedom will differ for each denomination.

Portrait and Vignette

The oval borders and fine lines surrounding the portrait of President Andrew Jackson on the front, and the White House vignette on the back, have been removed. The portrait has been moved up and shoulders have been extended into the border. Additional engraving details have been added to the vignette background.

The Federal Reserve System and the Department of the Treasury are committed to continuing improvements in currency design in order to protect the economy and your hard-earned money.



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