$100 Bill Security Features Visible to the Naked Eye

A List of 5 Features to Check on the 1996 Design & the 2013 Design
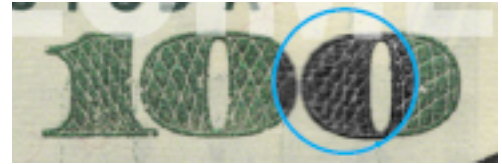
Color-Shifting Ink

Color-shifting ink is the most difficult security feature to replicate that is visible to the naked eye. Color-shifting ink is used to print the "100" numeral that is located in the lower right-hand corner on the front of the bill.
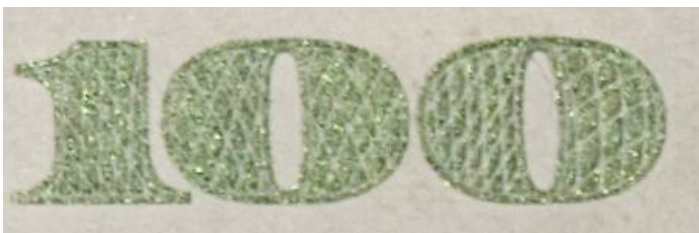
On the 1996-2013 $100 bill, the color-shifting ink used is **GREEN** and will shift between **GREY** and **GREEN** when the bill is tilted back and forth at an angle.

On the 2013 $100 bill, the color-shifting ink used is **COPPER** and will shift between **GREEN** and **COPPER** when the bill is tilted back and forth at an angle.

Genuine color-shifting ink vs. Counterfeit color-shifting ink

GENUINE

COUNTERFEIT

Intaglio Printing

Intaglio printing describes a special printing technique that creates very high-resolution images as well as "ridges" by using a heavy printing press to force ink onto paper. The ridges can be felt by running your fingertip across the bill.

On the 1996-2013 $100 bill, intaglio printing can be found all over the bill; most notably, along Benjamin Franklin's right shoulder.

On the 2013 $100 bill, an enhanced intaglio process was used; and like the previous $100 bill design, it is most notably evident along Benjamin Frankin's right shoulder.

Genuine intaglio printing vs. Counterfeit intaglio printing

GENUINE

COUNTERFEIT

Microprinting

Microprinting is pretty much exactly what it sounds like: tiny, tiny printed text that is nearly impossible to reproduce correctly on counterfeit money. You may need a magnifying glass to see microprinted security features.

On the 1996-2013 $100 bill, "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" is microprinted along Franklin's collar. In the lower left "100" numeral, "USA100" is repeatedly mircoprinted.

On the 2013 $100 bill, "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" is microprinted along Franklin's collar, just like the previous $100 bill design. Other areas with microprinting include: "USA" along the bottom of Franklin's portrait, "ONE HUNDRED USA" along the golden quill, and "USA 100" around the blank space surrouding the portait watermark.

Genuine microprinting vs. Counterfeit microprinting

GENUINE

COUNTERFEIT

Serial Number & Seal Printing

The dark green ink used to print the serial number and seal is very particular, and near impossible to exactly replicate. On real money, the serial number is uniformally spaced and level, and the ink is consistent, with no fading or chipping.
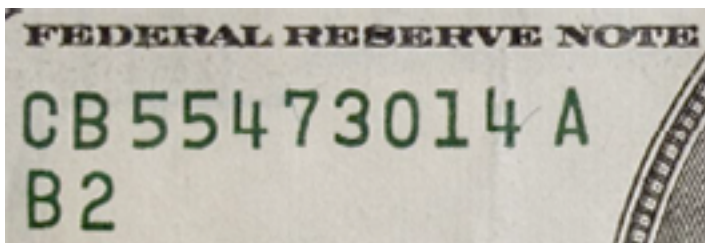
On the 1996-2013 $100 bill, the dark green ink is used on the serial numbers at the top left and bottom right, on the right seal, and the bottom right "100" numeral.
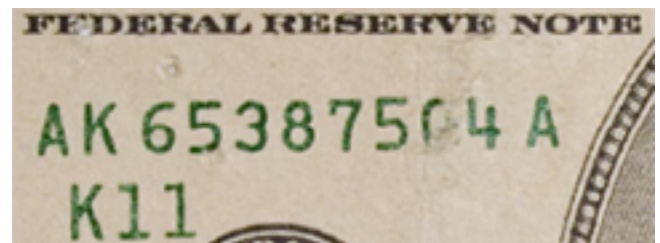

On the 2013 $100 bill, the dark green ink is used on the serial numbers at the top left and bottom right, on the right seal. The bottom right "100" number is copper; it reflects as green at an angle.

**Genuine serial number & seal printing
vs. Counterfeit serial number & serial printing**

GENUINE

COUNTERFEIT

Watermark

The watermark on $100 bills can be found in the blank space to the right of Benjamin Franklin's portrait. Hold the bill up to the light to see the watermark. The watermark should be visible from both sides of the bills.

On the 1996-2013 $100 bill, the watermark can be found in the blank space immediately to the right of the green seal.

On the 2013 $100 bill, the watermark can be found in the gold blank space immediately to the right of the green seal.

Genuine watermark vs. Counterfeit watermark

GENUINE

COUNTERFEIT