



Web Note\$

CURIOUS\$ CURRENCY

General Information

- In the late 1980s and early 1990's the United States found that they needed to produce more \$1 bills faster and cheaper to keep up with the way people saved and spent money. To do this, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing purchased a new set of printing presses called the Intaglio web press.

Intaglio Web Press

- The Intaglio presses print on continuous rolls of paper instead of on sheets. This is closer to the way newspapers are printed instead of the way a computer prints.
 - **Old presses:** one sheet at a time with 32 notes on a sheet printing separately on the front and back
 - **New presses:** both sides printed simultaneously 96 notes for each full revolution of the plates

Denominations

Web notes were to be tested and perfected on the \$1 bill and then expanded so that all denominations of US money would be printed on the Intaglio Web Press printers.

However, due to problems, no other denominations were ever produced. So you will only find \$1 Web Notes.

Problems with the Web Press

There are a number of problems that were encountered when trying to perfect the Web Press printing process.

- The first was the inability to sustain long print runs due to errors and jamming. The machines would have to be shut down and many notes were rejected and destroyed.
- Many believe process was sabotaged due to large number of jobs that would have been lost. This includes stories of people throwing things into the machines while running to cause them to break.

- In the end, Web notes turned out to make much lower quality notes when compared to the old printing process.

Identifying Web Notes

- On the front of the bill, they have no position indicator number in the upper left but they do have a face plate number in the lower right



On the back of the bill, they have a plate number to the right of the In God We Trust Motto but no plate number in the lower right as on sheet fed notes.



Comparing Sheet Fed and Web Notes

The images below show the differences between sheet fed and web fed notes.

The top image is the front of a web note, while the bottom is the front of a sheet fed note.



The top note is the reverse of a web note, the bottom is the reverse of a sheet fed note.



The End of Web Notes

The Web Press experiment was deemed a failure and in July of 1996 all web press printers were taken offline.

Web Note Series

There are three series for Web notes that were produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

1. 1988A – Catalina Vasquez Villalpando and Nicholas Brady
2. 1993 – May Ellen Withrow and Lloyd Bentsen
3. 1995 – Mary Ellen Withrow and Robert Rubin

Note: the series number is not the year the note was printed.

Key Issues

Key Issues are the lowest print runs for web notes and therefore are the most scarce.

- Web notes have two key dates/issues both in 1988A series, they are the FRB NY – **B-L block** and FRB NY **F-* block**
- FRB NY – B-L block approximately 1,920,000 printed bills. These bills can be worth between \$300 and \$1300 dollars.
- FRB NY F-* block approximately 640,000 printed bills. These bills can be worth between \$600 and \$1250 dollars.

Creating a Complete Block Set

A Complete Web note Block Set would include 22 notes. The table below identifies each series and block necessary to complete the set.

Date	City	Block
1988A	Boston	A-E
1988A	Boston	A-F
1988A	Boston	A-G
1988A	New York	B-L
1988A	Philadelphia	C-A
1988A	Richmond	E-I
1988A	Richmond	E-K
1988A	Atlanta	F-L
1988A	Atlanta	F-M
1988A	Atlanta	F-N
1988A	Atlanta	F-U
1988A	Atlanta	F-V
1988A	Atlanta	F-*
1993	New York	B-H

1993	Philadelphia	C-A
1995	Boston	A-C
1995	Boston	A-D
1995	New York	B-H
1995	Cleveland	D-C
1995	Atlanta	F-D