

Connoisseur Catalogue

Online Edition ©2008

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Acknowledgments

The publishers are most grateful to Douglas G. A. Myall (2 Elizabeth Avenue, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5BA) for his help and continued agreement of the use of his Deegam system copyright material for: (a) the Machin Head Type designations; (b) cross-references to his Type numbers in descriptions of value settings; (c) the S series for coding of short phosphor bands, the I series for inset bands and the N series for notched bands; and (d) the universal coding system for sheet and cylinder block perforation types.

We also acknowledge the use, with permission, of copyright material of the Modern British Philatelic Circle (Membership Secretary – A.J. Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SD) covering: (a) the DB system for numbering decimal stamp booklets with the exception of ‘window’ stamp booklets; (b) the DP & SP numbering systems for all decimal booklet panes; (c) the perforation coding system for decimal booklet panes; and (d) the Type numbering system for ‘window’ stamp booklets.

SECTION 6A

Non-Standard Design
Machins & Decimal Definitives
with Security Features

(A) Double Heads with
Security Features



In what must be assumed to be a final postscript to the Double Head series, Royal Mail issued a 1st class value with security features in the 2000 Special by Design prestige booklet, produced in the run up to the StampShow 2000 international stamp exhibition. Printed by Walsall it is unique to the Double Heads in many ways, being gravure printed, having elliptical perforations on each edge, being on OFNP/PVA paper and having blue fluor additive to its phosphor bands.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14 (E1) elliptical perfs.						
A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive						
DSN1	1st	Black & buff	2B	15.2.00	Spec by Design pane DP306	1.00
			2B (S17)	15.2.00	Spec by Design pane DP306	16.00

(B) Decimal Wildings with Security Features

1998 Issues



In the lead up to the StampShow 2000 international stamp exhibition, Royal Mail issued a series of three prestige stamp booklets, reflecting various aspects of the design and production of definitive stamps. The first of these booklets, entitled “The Definitive Portrait”, focussed on the production of the Wilding definitive series which saw continuous use from 1952 until 1967. It was natural, therefore to include stamps of the Wilding design in the booklet.

The booklet contained three different values – 20p, 26p and 37p – in the same design and colours of the original Wilding 7d, 5d and 6d respectively. Whether by fortune or long-term advance planning, these colours closely (but not identically) coincide with the same colours used for their then current Machin counterparts. The design used was not directly the inspiration of Dorothy Wilding, but used her photograph of the Queen in it’s centre, hence the epithet “Wildings”. In fact the frame was designed by George Knipe. The decimal versions simply replace the inscriptions of “FIVE PENCE”, “SIX PENCE” and “SEVEN PENCE” with “TWENTY SIX”, “TWENTY” and “THIRTY SEVEN”. No currency wording or indicator is included.

Despite using a design almost half a century old, the stamps show all the modern security features of 1998. They were printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers, using CE gravure techniques that result in a very sharp and clear image, with much better definition than the Harrison printed originals. Each stamp shows an ellipse on both perf 14 vertical edges. This is unintentionally positioned one perforation hole lower than on standard definitives. Phosphor, with a blue fluor additive, is applied in narrow bars, 3mm wide and 21.5mm tall, which are considerably inset and only cover the printed portion of the stamp, not encroaching on to the border between design and perforations.

CC	Value	Bands	Original		Source	Price
			Value	Issued		

(a) Walsall. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14 (E1) elliptical perfs.

A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive. Coated paper.

DW200	20p	Bright green	SBrL	6d	10.3.98	Definitive Portrait panes DP264, 265	0.95
DW201	20p	Bright green	SBrR	6d	10.3.98	Definitive Portrait panes DP264, 265	0.95
DW260	26p	Brown	2Br	5d	10.3.98	Definitive Portrait panes DP263, 265, 266	1.00
DW370	37p	Reddish purple	2Br	7d	10.3.98	Definitive Portrait pane DP265, 266	2.00

2002 & 2003 Issues



Following on from the popularity of the 1998 issues, Royal Mail decided to revisit the idea of Wilding Designs with decimal denominations in 2002 and 2003 as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Queen's Accession to throne and the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The initial release of these stamps came in a pane from the Gracious Accession prestige booklet in the form of a 2nd value in the design of the original 2½d and a 1st in the design of a 1½d, printed by Enschedé. Later in the year came a De La Rue printed miniature sheet containing nine different values. May 2003 saw the release of a further miniature sheet (again by De La Rue, but this time printed in Byfleet with their distinctive characteristics) covering the 9 other designs that appeared in the pre-decimal series, followed by two further values in the "A Perfect Coronation" prestige booklet, printed by Walsall.

One criticism that had been levelled about the 1998 issues was they looked rather too modern, being on a very white paper and with an overly crisp image. To try and recreate a more authentic '1950's' look, the 2002 and 2003 issues were all printed on an uncoated paper and had a faint all over brown screening printed beneath the stamp colour to further tone the paper. This can be seen when examined under high power magnification. A nice touch was that the paper used bore a multiple "50" watermark to mark the Jubilee. Otherwise the stamps included the then current security features, with the ellipses now correctly positioned two perforation holes from the bottom of the stamp.

Most of the 2002 and 2003 values are unique to a single source. However, 1st, 2nd 47p and 68p values come from both prestige booklets and miniature sheets. However, these are easy to distinguish, partly by the usual distinguishing features of their different printers and also by their physical design. All have distinctive value tablets (see listing for details) and the Walsall 47p and 68p versions have coarser images with paler background tint to the surface of the paper.

The equivalent value of the original pre-decimal stamp for the similar design and colour of the decimal version is listed under the heading "Original Value".

CC	Value	Bands	Issued	Original		Price	
				Value	Source		
(b) Enschedé. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA with bluish tint. Perf 15 x 14 (E1) elliptical perfs. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive (violet tint). Uncoated paper, wmkd Multiple “50”.							
DWS1	2nd	Carmine, thin value & text	CB (4.5mm)	6.2.02	2½d	Accession pane DP334	1.00
			CB (S1)			Accession pane DP334	25.00
	DWS1/2B	Additional narrow band at right			pane DP334	17.50	
	DWS1AB (S1)	Two additional short bands at top, centre band short at top			pane DP334	22.50	
	DWS1DW*	Diagonal “50” watermark			pane DP334	2.50	
	DWS1DW (S1)*	Diagonal “50” watermark, short band at top			pane DP334	22.50	
DWF1	1st	Dark green, value tablet type 1**	2B (9mm)	6.2.02	1½d	Accession pane DP334	1.00
			2B (S16)			Accession pane DP334	30.00
			2B (S16) (I1)			Accession pane DP334	30.00
			2B (I1)			Accession pane DP334	20.00
			2B (I2)			Accession pane DP334	10.00
	DWF1AB (S16)	Additional short band at centre, bands short at top			pane DP334	22.50	

* One stamp from pane DP334 is positioned in the area that is normally considered the selvedge. This stamp appears in an illustration as if on a piece of envelope, which is aligned diagonally. Consequently, this stamp bears a diagonal watermark as opposed to the conventional upright version.

** Type 1 tablet – Left hand 1st value tablet set close (1.1mm) to left border.

CC	Value	Bands	Issued	Original		Price	
				Value	Source		
(c) De La Rue. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA(Layflat). Perf 15 x 14 (E1) elliptical perfs. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive (turquoise tint). Uncoated paper, wmkd Multiple “50”.							
<i>Stamps from Wilding Collection 1 miniature sheet show vignettes (design areas) between 0.5 to 1mm smaller than those from the Enschedé Gracious Accession booklet pane DP344 in both directions.</i>							
DW10	1p	Orange DW10AB (S16)	2B	5.12.02	½d	Wilding Collection I M/S	0.75
			Additional short band at centre, bands short at top			Wilding Collection I M/S	2.75
DW20	2p	Ultramarine	2B	5.12.02	1d	Wilding Collection I M/S	0.75
			2B (S16)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	2.75
DW50	5p	Red-brown	2B	5.12.02	2d	Wilding Collection I M/S	0.75
DW330	33p	Brown	2B	5.12.02	5d	Wilding Collection I M/S	0.95
			2B (S16)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	2.75
DW371	37p	Magenta	2B	5.12.02	8d	Wilding Collection I M/S	1.00
			2B (S16)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	2.75
			2B (S16) (I2)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	30.00
			2B (I2)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	30.00
DW470	47p	Bistre-brown	2B	5.12.02	1/-	Wilding Collection I M/S	1.10
DW500	50p	Deep green	2B	5.12.02	1/3	Wilding Collection I M/S	1.25
			2B (I2)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	25.00

6A : Non Standard Machins & Definitives – Decimal Wildings

CC	Value	Bands	Issued	Original		Price
				Value	Source	
DWS2	2nd Carmine, thick value tablet & text	CB	5.12.02	2½d	Wilding Collection I M/S	0.90
		CB (S1)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	2.75
DWF2	1st Dark green, value tablet type 2***	2B	5.12.02	1½d	Wilding Collection I M/S	1.00
		2B (S16)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	2.75
		2B (S16) (I2)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	30.00
		2B (I2)	5.12.02		Wilding Collection I M/S	30.00
DWMS1	Wilding definitives collection I Miniature sheet	2B/CB	5.12.02		(cyl 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G, 1H, 1I (P26))†	6.50
		2B/CB (S16/S1)				13.75
		2B/CB (S16/S1) (I2)				75.00
		2B/CB (I2)				75.00

*** Type 2 tablet – Left hand 1st value tablet set away (1.4mm) from left border.

† Cylinder number printed once in composite sheet margin of 18 sheets (3 x 6) and trimmed off.

CC	Value	Bands	Issued	Original		Price
				Value	Source	
(d) De La Rue Byfleet. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA (Blue tint). Perf 15 x 14 (E1) elliptical perfs. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive (violet tint). Uncoated paper, wmkd Multiple "50".						
DW40	4p Deep lilac	2B	20.5.03	3d	Wilding Collection II M/S	0.75
DW80	8p Ultramarine DW80AB (S17)	2B	20.5.03	4d	Wilding Collection II M/S	0.75
		Additional short band at centre, bands short at bottom			Wilding Collection II M/S	5.50
DW100	10p Reddish purple	2B	20.5.03	6d	Wilding Collection II M/S	0.75
DW202	20p Bright green	CB	20.5.03	7d	Wilding Collection II M/S	0.80
		CB (S2)	20.5.03		Wilding Collection II M/S	5.50
DW280	28p Bronze-green	2B	20.5.03	9d	Wilding Collection II M/S	0.95
		2B (S17)	20.5.03		Wilding Collection II M/S	5.50
DW340	34p Brown-purple	2B	20.5.03	11d	Wilding Collection II M/S	1.00
		2B (S17)	20.5.03		Wilding Collection II M/S	5.50
DW420	42p Prussian blue	2B	20.5.03	10d	Wilding Collection II M/S	1.10
		2B (S17)	20.5.03		Wilding Collection II M/S	5.50
DW680	68p Grey-blue	2B	20.5.03	1/6	Wilding Collection II M/S	1.60
DWE1	E Chestnut	2B	20.5.03	4½d	Wilding Collection II M/S	1.10
		2B (S17)	20.5.03		Wilding Collection II M/S	5.50
DWMS2	Wilding definitive collection II Miniature sheet	2B/CB	20.5.03		(cyls unknown)	6.00
		2B/CB (S17/S2)				30.00



The Wilding definitives collection II ~ 1953 - 1959

CC	Value		Bands	Issued	Original Value	Source	Price
(e) Walsall. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA (Blue tint). Perf 15 x 14 (E1) elliptical perfs. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive (bright whitish tint). Uncoated paper, wmkd Multiple "50".							
DW471	47p	Bistre-brown, thick value and lettering*	2B	2.6.03	1/-	Perfect Coronation DP346	3.50
			2B (S13)	2.6.03		DP346	17.50
			2B (S17)	2.6.03		DP346	20.00
			2B (I1)	2.6.03		DP346	15.00
DW681	68p	Deep grey-blue, thick value and lettering*	2B	2.6.03	1/6	Perfect Coronation DP346	3.50
			2B (S11)	2.6.03		DP346	17.50
			2B (S17)	2.6.03		DP346	20.00
			2B (I1)	2.6.03		DP346	15.00

* Due to a coarser image the value and lettering, along with the lines in the frame appear thicker than seen on De La Rue issues from miniature sheets. The fluor additive the phosphor is also much brighter with a whitish tint.

(C) Large Format Machin NVI's

The second of the three prestige booklets intended to promote the StampWorld 2000 exhibition was released on 16th February 1999. Entitled "Profile on Print", the booklet focuses on the art of the printer and the different methods that have been used to print GB stamps from 1840 to the present day. Each of the five panes in the booklet was printed by a different printer and in a different printing process, showing the wide scope of production methods available to Royal Mail by which to effectively reproduce the Machin design. In the process they created some of the most extraordinary Machins ever seen. Two of the featured processes are very familiar to Machin collectors – gravure and litho – and the stamps printed in these are standard Machin NVI's, and are covered in section 5 of this catalogue. A third – intaglio – is less well known, but the other two – letterpress and embossing – have never been used to print Machin stamps before, although certain items of early postal stationery did have an embossed Machin head. To better show off the three more unusual printing processes to their best effect, the Machin design has been enlarged to a size of 30 x 41mm (which was previously used for the photogravure high values, first issued in 1977). Due to the increased size of these stamps, each pane includes just four stamps in a block.

The most interesting of the three is probably the Walsall printed Embossed value. This stamp is totally unprinted, with the exception for the value tablet which was reproduced in grey by lithography. The remainder of the design, including the stamp border, has been embossed out of the paper. The embossing die was created by using a pantograph to map the contours of Arnold Machin's original sculpture. The first attempt to make an embossing die using this method created a stamp with too raised a profile so that the embossed area became crushed very easily when inserted into a booklet. A second attempt at producing a suitable embossing die with less pronounced features proved more successful, although crushing still posed something of a problem to the extent that Royal Mail Supplies were under strict instruction that these booklets must not be stacked too high to prevent damage to the pane. To add even further interest, the stamps are also self-adhesive and thus have die-cut simu-



**Embossed
(Walsall)**



**Intaglio
(Enschedé)**



**Letterpress
(Harrison)**

lated perforations. The stamp has no phosphor bands, but has an all over layer of phosphor that covers the entire area of the stamp within the embossed borders, with the exception of the raised areas of the Queen's head. This gives the background a slightly creamy look. When examined under UV, the result is a silhouette of the Queen's head where the phosphor has not been applied.

The other two values are much more straightforward, being conventionally gummed and perforated (with no ellipse) and each bearing two phosphor bands with blue fluor additive. The Enschedé intaglio stamp had the phosphor bands applied by lithography beneath the intaglio printing and they are, therefore, difficult to see to the naked eye. The image was engraved by Czeslaw Slania, who was also responsible for the small format Machin head high values.

<i>CC</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Bands</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
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**(a) Walsall. Embossing & Litho. OFNP/SA. Kiss die-cut to simulate perf 14 x 14½.
A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive, all over design background.**

LFWE1	1st	Grey (value tablet)	—	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP281	2.00
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**(b) Enschedé. Intaglio. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14 x 14½.
A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive.**

LFER1	1st	Grey-Black	2B	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP282	2.00
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**(c) Harrison. Letterpress. OFNP/PVA. Perf 14 x 15.
A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive.**

LFHL1	1st	Black	2B	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP283	2.00
			2B (S16)	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP283	22.50
			2B (S17)	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP283	22.50
			2B (I1)	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP283	30.00
			2B (I2)	16.2.99	Profile on Print pane DP283	30.00
LFHL1NP			Missing phosphor		DP283	£1,250

(D) Millennium Machins

To mark the new Millennium, Royal Mail replaced standard first class values (then 26p and 1st orange-red) with a redesigned NVI 1st value, for the whole of the year 2000. The stamp is in the standard definitive dimensions but bears a larger than normal Machin head which bleeds off the stamp at the bottom and runs right to the perfs at the top. It is in an olive-brown colour, set against a white background, which makes for a striking and effective image. The adaptation was carried out by Richard Scholey of The Chase design group.

During the year the stamps were printed by three different printers from various sources, and although initially appearing similar, it is possible to distinguish them. Below we illustrate and describe the difference of the three printers, to aid identification. The horizontal position of the value tablet, which appears to differ from printer to printer, is an unreliable determinant as the white background made it difficult for printers to maintain an accurate register between the design and perforations – different positioning can be seen on stamps from the same printer & source.



Printer	De La Rue	Walsall	Questa
Queen's Portrait	Positioned low: No fabric showing beneath Queen's shoulder, Top point of diadem clearly visible.	Positioned low: No fabric showing beneath beneath Queen's shoulder Top point of diadem clearly visible	Positioned high: Fabric clearly visible beneath shoulder Top point of diadem runs off top of stamp. (Stamps from DP316 are positioned lower, akin to De La Rue stamps)
	Dark mark between top and right arms in Maltese cross on diadem No pearls visible on back of diadem	No mark between top and right arms in Maltese cross on diadem Pearls clearly visible on back of diadem	Dark mark between top and right arms in Maltese cross on diadem No pearls visible on back of diadem
Value Tablet	1.6mm from bottom	1.8mm from bottom	1.6mm from bottom
Gum	PVA layflat Bluish tint	PVA Cream	PVA Cream
Paper	Creamy	White	White
Blue Fluor	Turquoise tint	Violet tint	Very bright violet tint
Phosphor	9mm	9mm	9.5mm (9mm on DP316)
Perfs	15 x 14	15 x 14 (counter books) 14 (prestige books)	14 (counter books) 15 x 14 (prestige book)

Her Majesty's Stamps Miniature Sheet.

This sheet was issued to mark the StampShow 2000 international stamp exhibition, held at Earl's Court, London in May 2000. It contains 4 x 1st Millennium definitives and a version of the 1953 Coronation 1/3 stamp but revalued £1. It was sold at £2.04. The sheet was printed in gravure by De La Rue on OFPP paper that was left over from the Jeffrey Matthews miniature sheet (see page 13 for further details).



Illustration at 50% of original size

De La Rue

CC	Value		Paper	Bands	Issued	Source	Price
(a) De La Rue. CE Gravure. PVA layflat gum. Perf 15 x 14 (E1). A(B) phosphor with blue fluor additive							
FMD1	1st	Olive-brown	OFNP	2B	6.1.00	cyl 1, 2	0.90
FMD2	1st	Olive-brown	OFPP	—	23.5.00	HM Stamps M/S	1.50
FMD3	1st	Olive-brown, dull fluor	OFNP	2B	1.01	cyl 2	1.50
FMDMS1		Her Majesty's Stamps M/S containing FMD2 x 4 + 1953 Coronation commem x 1	OFPP	—	23.5.00	(cyl 1A 1B 1C 2D 2E 2F)*	10.00

* Cylinder numbers trimmed off

Questa

CC	Value		Bands	Perf	Issued	Booklet	Source	Price
(b) Questa. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA gum. ES Elliptical (E1) perforations, gauge as indicated. A2(B) longwave afterglow phosphor with blue fluor additive.								
FMQ1	1st	Olive-brown	2B (9mm)	14	6.1.00	10 (£2.60)	DP302	0.90
			2B (11)		6.1.00	10 (£2.60)	DP302	7.50
			2B (12)		6.1.00	10 (£2.60)	DP302	7.50
FMQ2	1st	Yellowish olive	2B (9mm)	14	14.3.00	10 (£2.60)	DP302	1.10
			FMQ2MLB	Left band omitted			DP302	75.00
			FMQ2MRB	Right band omitted			DP302	35.00
			FMQ2NP	Missing phosphor			DP302	4.50
FMQ3	1st	Olive-brown	2B (9.5mm)	15 x 14	4.8.00	Queen Mother	DP316	1.00
			2B (11)		4.8.00	Queen Mother	DP316	20.00

Walsall

CC	Value		Bands	Perf	Ellipse	Fluor	Issued	Booklet	Source	Price
(c) Walsall. CE Gravure. OFNP/PVA. Elliptical (E1) perfs, gauge as indicated.										
A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive										
FMW1	1st	Olive-brown FMW1NP	2B	15 x 14	ES	Dull	6.1.00	10 (£2.60)	DP301 DP301	0.90 750.00
FMW2	1st	Olive-brown	2B	14	ES	Dull	15.2.00	Spec by Design	DP303	1.10
			2B (S16)				15.2.00	Spec by Design	DP303	17.50
			2B (S17)				15.2.00	Spec by Design	DP303	22.50
			2B (I1)				15.2.00	Spec by Design	DP303	17.50
			2B (I2)				15.2.00	Spec by Design	DP303	5.50
FMW3	1st	Deep olive-brown	2B	15 x 14	ER	Dull	21.3.00	4 (£1.04)	DP307	1.25
							4.4.00	4 (£1.04)	DP308	
			2B (S16)				21.3.00	4 (£1.04)	DP307	17.50
			2B (S16) (I1)				21.3.00	4 (£1.04)	DP307	25.00
			2B (S17)				4.4.00	4 (£1.04)	DP308	8.00
			2B (S17) (I1)				4.4.00	4 (£1.04)	DP308	20.00
			2B (I1)				21.3.00	4 (£1.04)	DP307	4.75
							4.4.00	4 (£1.04)	DP308	
			2B (I2)				4.4.00	4 (£1.04)	DP308	15.00
FMW4	1st	Deep olive-brown FMW4NP	2B	15 x 14	ES	Dull	14.3.00	10 (£2.60) comms)	DP301 DP314 DP314	0.90 350.00
FMW5	1st	Olive-brown	2B	14	ES	Bright	18.9.00	Treasury of Trees	DP323	1.40
			2B (I2)				18.9.00	Treasury of Trees	DP323	5.00

Label Sheets



CC	Format*	Plate or cyl	Stamp Contents	Bands	Stamp CC No	Issued	Pane	Price
(d) Walsall. Gravure. OFNP/PVA. Perf 15 x 14 (E1)								
LS9	B	Postman Pat – StampShow 2000	4 x 1st	2B	FMW3	21.3.00	DP307	4.50
				2B (I1)				15.00
		W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 (W1)		2B				5.50
				2B (S16)				30.00
				2B (S16) (I1)				40.00
				2B (I1)				17.50

CC Format*	Plate or cyl	Stamp Contents	Bands	Stamp CC No	Issued	Pane	Price
LS10 B	National Botanic Gardens of Wales	4 x 1st	2B	FMW3	4.4.00	DP308	4.00
			2B (S17)				16.00
			2B (S17) (I1)				27.50
			2B (I1)				10.00
			2B (I2)				30.00
	W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 (W1)		2B				5.00
			2B (I1)				12.00

* See page 5A/17 for details of formats

(E) Universal Airmail Machins



In 2003 Royal Mail expanded their range of NVIs to cover the most commonly used postage rate for European and Overseas airmail letters. Although they had previously been using an “E” NVI for letters up to 20g to Europe, they were finding that people familiar with inland NVIs assumed it would cover virtually any standard letter (similar to inland NVIs which were at that time valid for mail weighing up to 60g). As a consequence a large proportion of letters bearing just an “E” value were being underpaid. To mitigate this problem, Royal Mail decided that their airmail NVIs would be valid for mail up to 40g, a weight that encompasses over 80% of all private and commercial overseas mail. And to stress this to postal users an inscription, “up to 40 grams”, appears at the bottom of the two initial values. Royal Mail went for a completely new design based around a smaller version of the Machin head, with alternating red and ultramarine lozenges – a familiar sight surrounding the perimeter of airletters – running down the right edge to indicate that these stamps were specifically intended for airmail use. Despite this, Universal airmail issues are still valid for postage on inland mail at the equivalent face value of the current rate (see table below for details). In 2004 the “Europe” and “Worldwide” values were joined by a Worldwide “Postcard” stamp in the same design.

To date all issued stamps have been printed by Walsall and are self-adhesive, with simulated die-cut perforations and bear two phosphor bands on the vertical edges, with a blue fluor additive. The stamps were sold in booklets of four with colour coded covers similar to 1st and 2nd NVIs. They are normally collected on cut square backing paper.

Pack Issues. To ensure that the full range was available for purchase in presentation pack format, it was deemed necessary to prepare a limited number of the Universal airmails as single stamps. Rather than labouriously cutting up booklets, Walsall simply

adjusted the depth of the die cutter so that it penetrated through the self-adhesive backing as well, effectively punching the stamp out and creating what at first appears to be a conventional perforated around stamp. The initial pack issues of Europe and Worldwide stamps emanate from actual booklet sheets and therefore have part of the booklet cover on the reverse of the backing paper. These were later reprinted and included the subsequently released “Postcard” value. For these special continuous coil rolls were prepared, which had no printing on the reverse. All three values appear in this format.

Catalogue Numbering. Stamps are coded as E(urope), W(orlwide) or (Worldwide) P(ostcard), preceded by U(niversal airmail) and followed by W(alsall) for printers. The backing paper is identified as S(cut square), PP(perforated around and printed on reverse) or PU (perforated round and unprinted on reverse).

UNIVERSALAIRMAILNVIVALUESATPOSTALRATECHANGES

(Dates given in bracket are those of initial NVI availability)

<i>Effective</i>	<i>Universal Europe to 40g (27.3.03)</i>	<i>Universal Worldwide to 40g (27.3.03)</i>	<i>Universal Postcard (1.4.04)</i>
2.7.01	52p	£1.12	–
8.5.03	53p	£1.12	–
1.4.04	57p	£1.12	43p
7.4.05	60p	£1.12	47p
4.4.06	64p	£1.19	50p
2.4.07	69p	£1.24	54p

Walsall

<i>CCNo.</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Backing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Booklet</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
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(a) Walsall. Gravure. OFNP/SA. Kiss die-cut to simulate Perf 15 x 14 (E1) unless otherwise stated. A2(B) blue phosphor. Opaque backing paper.

UEW1	Europe	Bright blue	2B	Bright	S	27.3.03	4 (€2.08)	SP43 (W1)	1.25
			2B (S16)			27.3.03		SP43	7.50
			2B (S17)			27.3.03		SP43	3.50
UEW2	Europe	Bright blue	2B	Bright	PP	27.3.03	Packs		1.50
			2B (S17)			27.3.03			25.00
			2B (S17)(I2)			27.3.03			25.00
UEW3	Europe	Deep bright blue	2B	Dull	S	4.04	4 (€2.28)	SP43 (W2)	2.00
			2B (S16)			4.04		SP43	35.00
			2B (S17)			4.04		SP43	13.75
			2B (S17) (I2)			4.04		SP43	25.00
			2B (I1)			4.04		SP43	17.50
			2B (I2)			4.04		SP43	10.00



Original Head Setting (ex W1 or W2)

Higher Head Setting (ex W3)

Europe & Worldwide Settings. Stamps printed from cyl W3 show the Queen's head set approximately 0.25mm higher in comparison to the "Europe" and "up to 40 grams" text and the airmail bars. This setting is the result of a revised W3 blue cylinder, which was evidently also used for pack issues with the unprinted back (*UEW9 & UEW14*) as these have the same higher setting of the Queen's head. Worldwide stamps from the 2005 and 2007 pack printings also show the same higher setting. The easiest way to identify the two settings is to compare either the gap between the base of the Queen's head and text at the base, which is wider on the higher setting, or, better still, the position of the Queen's nose. On the original lower setting the base of the nose almost exactly lines up with the bottom of the "E" in Europe". On the higher setting it is clearly moved up to sit nearer to the middle of the base line of the "E".

Lozenge Colours. The markings that run down the right of each stamp which are sometimes referred to as chevrons or, more correctly, lozenges, were initially printed in red and ultramarine. However, issues from the 2007 Machin Collectors pack, for the first time, showed the lozenges in the magenta and bright blue colours of the body design, as seen on Europe and Worldwide issues. This was, presumably, a cost saving exercise. Whether this will follow onto booklet issues has yet to be seen.

CCNo.	Value		Bands	Fluor	Backing	Date	Booklet	Source	Price
UEW4	Europe	Deep bright blue, snowy print	2B	Dull	S	4.04	4 (€2.28)	SP43 (W2)	12.50
UEW5	Europe	Pale bright blue	2B 2B (S16) 2B (I2)	Bright	S	15.6.04 15.6.04 15.6.04	4 (€2.28)	SP43A (W2) SP43A SP43A	1.50 11.00 35.00
UEW6	Europe	Pale bright blue, snowy print	2B	Bright	S	15.6.04	4 (€2.28)	SP43A (W2)	25.00
UEW7	Europe	Pale bright blue	2B 2B (S17) 2B (S17) (I1) 2B (I1) UEW7WLB	Dull	S	1.05 1.05 1.05 1.05 1.05	4 (€2.28)	SP43A (W2) SP43A SP43A SP43A SP43A	2.00 4.50 12.50 9.00 12.50

6A : Non Standard Machins & Definitives – Universal Airmail Machins

<i>CCNo.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Backing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Booklet</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
UEW8	Europe	Pale bright blue, snowy print	2B	Dull	S	1.05	4 (£2.28)	SP43A (W2)	4.00
			2B (S17)				1.05		SP43A
UEW9	Europe	Pale bright blue, unprinted backing paper, high setting	2B	Dull	PU	4.9.05	Packs		2.25
UEW10	Europe	Pale bright blue, high setting	2B	Dull	S	2.06	4 (£2.40)	SP43A	2.50
			2B (S17)			2.06		SP43A	5.50
			2B (S17) (I2)			2.06		SP43A	17.50
			2B (I2)			2.06		SP43A	17.50
UEW11	Europe	Pale bright blue	2B	V. Dull	S	6.06	4 (£2.56)	SP43A	5.00
			2B (S16)			6.06		SP43A	25.00
UEW12	Europe	Pale bright blue, snowy print	2B	V. Dull	S	6.06	4 (£2.56)	SP43A	11.00
UEW13	Europe	Pale bright blue, high setting	2B	V. Dull	S	2006?	4 (£2.56)	SP43A	4.00
UEW14	Europe	Light bright blue, magenta & bright blue lozenges, high setting	2B (S17)*	Dull	PU	5.6.07	Packs		4.25
UWW1	Worldwide	Magenta	2B	Bright	S	27.3.03	4 (£4.48)	SP44 (W1)	2.25
			2B (S16)			27.3.03		SP44	17.50
			2B (S17)			27.3.03		SP44	5.00
UWW2	Worldwide	Magenta	2B	Bright	P	27.3.03	Packs		2.75
			2B (S17)			27.3.03			19.50
			2B (I1)			27.3.03			30.00
UWW3	Worldwide	Pale magenta	2B	Bright	S	15.6.04	4 (£4.48)	SP44A (W2)	2.75
			2B (I2)			15.6.04		SP44A	15.00
UWW4	Worldwide	Magenta	2B	Dull	S	10.04	4 (£4.48)	SP44A (W2)	3.75
			2B (S16)			10.04		SP44A	25.00
			2B (S17)			10.04		SP44A	30.00
UWW5	Worldwide	Deep magenta	2B	Dull	S	11.04	4 (£4.48)	SP44A (W2)	7.00
			2B (S16)			11.04		SP44A	30.00
			2B (S16) (I2)			11.04		SP44A	35.00
			2B (S17)			11.04		SP44A	22.50
			2B (S17) (I2)			11.04		SP44A	25.00
			2B (I2)			11.04		SP44A	12.75
UWW6	Worldwide	Pale magenta, unprinted backing paper, high setting	2B	Dull	P	4.9.05	Packs		2.75
UWW7	Worldwide	Pale magenta	2B	Dull	S	10.05	4 (£4.48)	SP44A (W2)	3.25
			2B (S17)			10.05		SP44A	7.50
			2B (S17) (I1)			10.05		SP44A	40.00
			2B (I1)			10.05		SP44A	40.00
UWW8	Worldwide	Pale magenta, snowy print	2B	Dull	S	6.06	4 (£4.76)	SP44A	10.00
			2B (S17)			6.06		SP44A	12.50

* All copies found to date have short phosphor bottom as standard.

6A : Non Standard Machins & Definitives – Universal Airmail

<i>CCNo.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Backing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Booklet</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
UWW9	Worldwide	Pale magenta	2B	V.Dull	S	9.06	4 (£4.76)	SP44A	6.00
			2B (S16)			9.06		SP44A	19.50
			2B (I2)			9.06		SP44A	22.50
UWW10	Worldwide	Pale magenta, snowy print	2B	V.Dull	S	9.06	4 (£4.76)	SP44A	11.00
UWW11	Worldwide	Bright magenta, magenta & bright blue lozenges, high setting	2B (S17)*Dull		PU	5.6.07	Packs		4.75
UPW1	Postcard	Olive-grey	2B	Bright	S	1.4.04	4 (£1.72)	SP51 (W1)	0.90
			2B (S16)			1.4.04		SP51	12.75
			2B (S17)			1.4.04		SP51	6.00
			2B (I2)			1.4.04		SP51	11.00
			UPW1/IBa	Interrupted bands at bottom					
UPW1/IBb	Interrupted bands at top						80.00		
UPW2	Postcard	Olive-grey, unprinted backing	2B	Bright	P	1.4.04	Packs		1.25
			2B (S17)			1.4.04			5.00
			2B (S17) (I2)			1.4.04			8.50
			2B (I2)			1.4.04			25.00
UPW3	Postcard	Olive-grey, snowy print	2B	Bright	S	6.04	4 (£1.72)	SP51 (W1)	5.50
			2B (S17)			6.04		SP51	12.50
			2B (I2)			6.04		SP51	11.00
UPW4	Postcard	Deep brownish grey	2B (S17)	Dull	S	12.04	4 (£1.72)	SP51 (W2)	3.00
			2B (S17) (I2)			12.04		SP51	30.00
UPW5	Postcard	Deep brownish grey, snowy print	2B (S17)	Dull	S	12.04	4 (£1.72)	SP51 (W2)	5.00
			2B (S17) (I2)			12.04		SP51	30.00
			2B (S16)			12.04		SP51	17.50
UPW6	Postcard	Olive-grey	2B	Dull	S	8.04	4 (£1.72)	SP51 (W1)	3.75
			2B (S17)			8.04		SP51	12.00
UPW7	Postcard	Olive-grey, snowy print	2B	Dull	S	8.04	4 (£1.72)	SP51 (W1)	--
			2B (S17)			8.04		SP51	30.00
UPW8	Postcard	Olive-grey, unprinted backing	2B	Dull	P	4.9.05	Packs		2.25
UPW9	Postcard	Brownish grey	2B	V.Dull	S	6.06	4 (£2.00)	SP51 (W2)	5.00
			2B (S17)			6.06		SP51	9.00
			2B (S17)(I2)			6.06		SP51	14.00
UPW10	Postcard	Pale olive-grey, magenta & bright blue lozenges	2B	Bright	PU	5.6.07	Packs		3.75
UPW11	Postcard	Brownish grey, snowy print	2B (S17)	V.Dull	S	6.06	4 (£2.00)	SP51 (W2)	30.00
UPW12	Postcard	Brownish grey	2B(S17)(I2)	Bright	S	6.06	4 (£2.00)	SP51 (W2)	25.00
			UPW12/IB	Interrupted bands at bottom, right band inset					

(F) Pricing In Proportion Machins



On 21st August 2006 Royal Mail radically revised how they charged for inland mail. No longer was the weight of the item the sole determinant of the tariff. Now a combination of both weight and size was used to assess the postal charge levied. Known as Pricing in Proportion (or PIP), there were three size bands that an item of mail could fall into – “Letter” for items not exceeding 240 x 165mm and 5mm in thickness and weighing below 100g; “Large Letter” for items larger than Letter size but below 353 x 250mm and 25mm in thickness and weighing no more than 750g; and “Packet” for all items that were bigger than Large Letters or weighing over 750g. Within the Large Letter and Packet categories there were various rate steps dependent upon weight (Letter size had just one weight step up to 100g), but these steps were larger than before. The intention of these changes was to more accurately reflect the true cost of transmitting an item of mail. Any items above Letter size need some manual intervention and thus cost more to process. Overall the change was intended to be revenue neutral, as a result of more generous weight allowances within the extended weight steps, but large light items cost appreciably more to post than before.

To cope with the new tariff, Royal Mail revised their range of stamps. Gone were the traditional Machin design NVIs, replaced by versions for standard Letter and Large Letter in both 1st and 2nd values. The standard Letter versions retained the familiar definitive dimensions, but showed a reduced sized Machin head with a greatly enlarged value tablet, positioned in the top left corner. The font for the value has also changed from the custom designed Jeffery Matthews type seen on previous NVIs to Helvetica, the type face that had been used on booklet covers for several years. Large Letter versions measure 30mm x 24mm – the same height but 1½ times the width of a conventional definitive. Although the Queen’s head remained the same size as on the PIP Letter versions, the value tablet was larger still, and beneath it, in the lower-left corner was the inscription “Large”. Other features of the stamp including ellipses,

paper, gum and phosphor match those on then current stamps printed by the various security printers. Unusually, large 2nd stamps had 2 side phosphor bands (measuring 9mm in total width) so that they could still treated as a 1st value if applied to a standard sized letter weighing below 100g. In a surprise development in January 2007 Royal Mail announced that standard sized PIP Machins would be withdrawn and replaced with conventional Machin design NVIs from June 2007 – with the important introductory phase of the Pricing In Proportion system successfully overcome, they felt that, following consultations with collector groups, the PIP versions weren't homogeneous with the rest of the definitive series, whilst traditional NVIs balanced the series properly. Large format PIP stamps, however, remained unchanged.

Catalogue numbering. PIP issues are prefixed with a “P” then the value F(irst) or S(econd) then possibly L(arge) if a large letter, then D(e La Rue), W(alsall) or E(nschédé) to denote the printer. Stamps with an opaque backing are coded “O” and those with translucent backing are coded “T”.

PIP NVI VALUES AT POSTAL RATE CHANGES

(Dates given in bracket are those of initial availability)

<i>Effective</i>	<i>1st Class</i>	<i>2nd Class</i>	<i>1st Large</i>	<i>2nd Large</i>
	(1.8.06)	(1.8.06)	(1.8.06)	(1.8.06)
4.4.06	32p	23p	–	–
21.8.06	32p	23p	44p	37p
2.4.07	34p	24p	48p	40p
7.4.08	(36p)	(27p)	52p	42p
6.4.09	(39p)	(30p)	(61p)	(47p)

De La Rue

<i>CC No.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(a) De La Rue. Gravure. OFNP/PVA (cream gum), no fluor in paper coating, glossy paper. Perf 15 x 14 (E1). A2(B) phosphor with blue fluor additive							
PSD1	2nd	Bright blue	CB	Dull	1.8.06	cyl D1	0.55
			CB (S1)		1.8.06	cyl D1	25.00
PSD2	2nd	Bright blue, pale Queen's head	CB	Bright	15.8.06	vert coil CPS1	1.00
PSD3	2nd	Pale bright blue	CB	Bright	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP378	1.40
PFD1	1st	Gold	2B	Bright	1.8.06	cyl D1	0.65
					3.10.06	vert coil CPF1 (1,000)	
			2B (I2)		3.10.06	vert coil CPF1	11.00
PFD2	1st	Gold	2B	Dull	14.11.06	vert coil CPF2 (500)	1.50
PFD3	1st	Deep gold	2B	Bright	1.3.07	Inventions pane DP372	1.40
					5.6.07	Masterpiece DP378	
			2B (I2)	5.6.07	5.6.07	DP378	30.00

6A : Non Standard Machins & Definitives – PIP Machins

<i>CC No.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
PFD4	1st	Gold, very shiny gum	2B	Bright	6.07	cyl D1	3.00
PSLD1	2nd Large	Bright blue	2B	Dull	1.8.06	cyl D1	0.75
PSLD2	2nd Large	Pale bright blue	2B 2B (I2)	Bright	5.6.07 5.6.07	Masterpiece DP378 DP378	1.45 30.00
PFLD1	1st Large	Gold	2B 2B (S17)	Bright	1.8.06 1.8.06	cyl D1 cyl D1	0.85 25.00
PFLD2	1st Large	Deep gold	2B	Bright	5.6.07	Masterpiece DP378	1.55

Walsall

<i>CCNo.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Backing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Booklet</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
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**(b) Walsall. Gravure. OFNP/SA. Kiss die-cut to simulate Perf 15 x 14 (E1).
A2(B) blue phosphor. Translucent or opaque backing paper.**

PSW1	2nd	Bright blue	CB CB (S2)	Dull	O	12.9.06 12.9.06	12 (£2.76)	SP70 SP70	0.60 6.50
PSW2	2nd	Bright blue PSW2IMP Imperforate (horiz. or vert. pair)	CB	Dull	T	12.9.06		sheets type 5 sheets type 5	0.90 250.00
PSW3	2nd	Pale bright blue	CB CB (S2)	V.Dull	O	3.07 3.07	12 (£2.76)	SP70 SP70	2.00 8.50
PSW4	2nd	Pale bright blue, snowy print	CB	Bright	O	3.07	12 (£2.76)	SP70	4.00
PSW5	2nd	Pale bright blue, ribbed impression	CB	V.Dull	O	5.07	12 (£2.76)	SP70	2.50
PSW6	2nd	Bright blue, coarse phos screen	CB	Bright	T	5.07		sheets type 5	5.00
PSW7	2nd	Deep bright blue	CB CB (S2)	V.Dull	O	6.07 6.07	12 (£2.76)	SP70 SP70	-- 8.50
PSW8	2nd	Pale bright blue	CB	Bright	O	2007	12 (£2.76)	SP70	4.50
PFW1	1st	Gold	2B 2B (S16) 2B (S17)	Bright	O	12.9.06 12.9.09 12.9.06 12.9.06	6 (£1.92) 12 (£3.84)	SP68 SP69 SP69 SP69	0.80 -- 8.50 10.00
PFW2	1st	Gold PFW2NP Missing phosphor	2B	Bright	T	12.9.06		sheets type 5 sheets type 5	1.00 200.00
PFW3	1st	Gold	2B	Dull	O	15.1.07	6 (£1.92)	SP77	1.40
PFW4	1st	Pale gold	2B	Bright	O	1.2.07	6 (£1.92)	SP78	1.40
PFW5	1st	Pale gold	2B	Bright	T	9.06		sheets type 5	4.00
PFW6	1st	Pale gold	2B	Dull	O	8.07	12 (£3.84)	SP69	3.00
PFW7	1st	Pale yellowish gold, pale Queen's head	2B	Dull	T	3.07		sheets type 5	3.25

6A : Non Standard Machins & Definitives – PIP Machins

<i>CC No.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Backing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Booklet</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
PFW8	1st	Gold, pale Queen's head	2B	Dull	T	12.07		sheets type 5	3.25
PFW9	1st	Deep gold	2B (S17)	Bright	O	3.08	6 (£2.04)	SP78	10.00
PSLW1	2nd Large	Bright blue	2B	Dull	O	15.8.6	4 (£1.48)	SP67	0.95
PSLW2	2nd Large	Bright blue	2B	Dull	T	27.3.07		sheets type 6	1.15
PSLW3	2nd Large	Bright blue, coarse phos screen	2B	Dull	T	4.07		sheets type 6	5.50
PFLW1	1st Large	Gold	2B	Bright	O	15.8.06	4 (£1.76)	SP66	1.10
PFLW2	1st Large	Deep gold	2B	Bright	T	27.3.07		sheets type 6	1.30
PFLW3	1st Large	Gold	2B	V.Dull	O	3.07	4 (£1.76)	SP66	5.50

Enschedé

<i>CC No.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>		<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(c) Enschédé. Gravure. OFNP/PVA (white gum), Perf 15 x 14 (E1). A2(B) phosphor with blue fluor additive							
PFE1	1st	Gold	2B		21.9.06	VC pane DP369	1.05
			2B (S16)		21.9.06	DP369	8.50
			2B (I2)		21.9.06	DP369	22.50

<i>CC No.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Fluor</i>	<i>Matrix & Backing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
(d) Enschédé. Gravure. OFNP/SA. Kiss die-cut to simulate Perf 15 x 14 (E1). A2(B) blue phosphor. Translucent backing paper								
PSSE1	2nd	Bright blue, pale Queen's head, yellowish backing	CB	Dull violet	S/T	23.10.06	coils CPSAS1	1.50

Business Sheet Top Panels

Type 5



**Top Panel Type 5
– 2006 Walsall sheets
Matrix stripped
containing PIP NVIs**

CCNo.	Value		Sheet Type	Printer	Contents	Date	Pane	Price
(a) Small format (183 x 83mm) – Stamps in strip, matrix stripped, printing date on reverse. Printed by Walsall in gravure.								
BSS8	2nd	Bright blue	4	W	PSW2	12.9.06	SP72	10.00
BSF8	1st	Gold	4	W	PFW2	12.9.06	SP71	10.00

For business sheet top panels containing standard Machin NVI stamps see page Chapter 5A.

Type 6

**Top Panel Type6
– 2007 Walsall sheets
Matrix stripped
containing PIP Large NVIs
Printer's imprint below
barcode**



CCNo.	Value		Sheet Type	Printer	Contents	Date	Pane	Price
(a) Small format (183 x 83mm) – Stamps in strip, matrix stripped, printing date on reverse. Printed by Walsall in gravure.								
BSSL1	2nd	Bright blue	4	W	PSLW2	27.3.07	SP80	11.50
BSFL1	1st	Gold	4	W	PFLW2	27.3.07	SP79	12.00

(G) Pricing In Proportion Machins with Improved Security Features

As well as small format NVIs, Large PIP NVI values also received Improved Security features on stamps issued from February 2009. Improved Security PIP stamps come from 3 sources – sheet stamps and business sheets, both printed by De La Rue and booklets printed by Walsall.

Improved Security features mirror those found on other sheet, business sheet and booklet issues, details of which can be found in Chapters 3A & 5A on page 3A/18 and 5A/37.

Security Coding. Improved Security PIP 1st Large and 2nd Large from business sheets and booklets bear code letters in the top right corner, indicating their source, much in the same way as small format NVIs. However on PIP issues, due to their larger size, the positioning of code letter which replaces another in the wavy “ROYAL MAIL” wording overprint is different from small format stamps. On large format stamps it replaces an “A” in “ROYAL” on business sheets and an “R” in “ROYAL” on booklet issues. The code letters adopted are fairly intuitive and are listed below:

B = Business sheet
F = Definitive booklet of Four

The location of these codings are illustrated in the diagrams below. The code letter is highlighted in darker type and the word it is contained in slightly paler lettering, but this is enhanced to show the positioning – on the actual stamp it is simply part of the normal iridescent overprint. This is a very interesting development and as they are readily identifiable with the naked eye, each will be treated as a basic new stamp. Stamps from conventional sheets of 50 have no code letters and retain the correctly spelled “ROYAL MAIL” in these positions.



Code B
Business sheets



Code F
Books of Four

IMPROVED SECURITY PIP NVI VALUES AT POSTAL RATE CHANGES

(Dates given in bracket are those of initial availability)

<i>Effective</i>	<i>1st Large</i>	<i>2nd Large</i>
	(17.2.09)	(17.2.09)
7.4.08	52p	42p
6.4.09	61p	47p

De La Rue

CC	Value		Phos.		First		Price	
			Bands		Issued	Source	Single	Gutter

(a) De La Rue. Gravure, sheet printings. OFNP/SAN. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive. Iridescent security overprint. Type 1 security slits. Kiss die-cut to simulate perf. 15 x 14 (E1) . Translucent backing paper, rouletted on edges to facilitate separation.

PISLD1	2nd Large	Bright blue	2B	17.2.09	cyl D1D1(D1)	0.90	1.95
			2B (S17)	17.2.09	cyl D1D1(D1)	8.25	16.50
PIFLD1	1st Large	Gold	2B	17.2.09	cyl D1D1(D1)	1.05	2.25
			2B (S16)	17.2.09	cyl D1D1(D1)	12.50	25.00

CC	Value		Phos.		First		Price
			Code	Bands	Fluor	Issued	

(b) De La Rue. Gravure, business sheet printings. OFNP/SAN. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive. Iridescent security overprint. Type 1 security slits. Kiss die-cut to simulate perf. 15 x 14 (E1) . Translucent imperforate backing paper.

PISLD2	2nd Large	Bright blue	B	2B	Dull	31.3.09	sheets Type 6A	1.15
PIFLD2	1st Large	Gold	B	2B	Dull	31.3.09	sheets Type 6A	1.40

Walsall

CC	Value		Code	Bands	Fluor	First		Source	Price
						Issued	Booklet		

(c) Walsall. Gravure. booklet printings. OFNP/SAN. A2(B) Phosphor with blue fluor additive. Iridescent security overprint. Type 2 security slits. Kiss die-cut to simulate perf. 15 x 14 (E1) . Opaque backing paper.

PISLW1	2nd Large	Bright blue	F	2B	Bright	31.3.09	4 (£1.64)	SP101	1.10
PIFLW1	1st Large	Gold	F	2B	Bright	31.3.09	4 (£2.08)	SP99	1.35

Business Sheet Top Panels

Type 6A



Top Panel Type 6A
– 2009 De La Rue sheets
Matrix stripped
containing Improved
Security PIP Large NVIs
No Printer's imprint

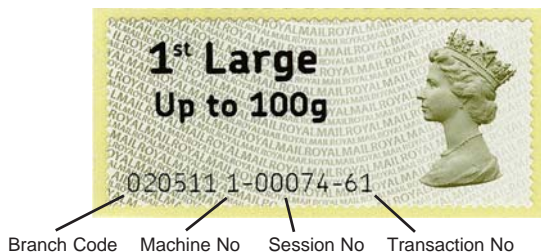
<i>CCNo.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Sheet Type</i>	<i>Printer</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Pane</i>	<i>Price</i>
(a) Small format (183 x 83mm) – Stamps in strip, matrix stripped, printing date on reverse. Printed by De La Rue in gravure.								
BSSL2	2nd	Bright blue	6A	D	PISLD2	31.3.09	SP106	11.50
BSFL2	1st	Gold	6A	D	PIFLD2	31.3.09	SP104	12.00

(H) Post & Go Machines



In a fascinating development in the history of printing and selling stamps, in 2008 Royal Mail introduced a new concept to make stamp sales more convenient and faster. From the beginning of October they started installing a series of “Post & Go” automatic kiosks inside main post offices up and down the UK. The machines are self-service and totally automated, allowing you to weigh and then vend appropriate labels for application to both inland and overseas mail if you wish to post them immediately. Similar systems had been trialled at limited locations since 2004. However, the difference with Post & Go is the possibility of buying **stamps** from the same system that can then be taken away and used in any post box at an unspecified time in the future. Collectors initially referred to these as “FastStamps” and they still have this designation in some quarters..

The system thermographically prints the relevant NVI tariff onto a pre-printed base stamp – they come in five values: 1st Class, 1st Large, Europe up to 20g, Worldwide up to 10g and Worldwide up to 20g. These stamps are panoramic in format, measuring 56 x 25mm and bear a Machin head at the right. To the left is a larger area where the machine prints the service that the stamp serves, with a series of code digits below which indicate the branch in which they were printed, the machine from which they came (in some offices there will be multiple machines installed), the session number



and the number of the transaction in that session. Quite how this information helps the purchaser is unclear, but it could prove to be useful as a diagnostic tool for Royal Mail or Nixdorf, the manufacturer of the ProPostal 2000 kiosk that produces them in case of problems.

The base stamp, printed by Walsall Security printers, bears a swirly security pattern which acts as an underprint similar to those commonly seen on banknotes, made up from the words “Royal Mail”, all in an olive-brown colour similar to that used for the Millennium Machins. There are two phosphor bands, positioned either side of the Queen’s head, measuring approximately 9mm in total width, the right edge of which runs off into the right hand perforations. Surprisingly there is no obvious fluor additive in these bands, although this is difficult to determine for certain as initial copies use a paper has very bright fluor additive itself, something which could conceivably cause problems with automatic sorting and facing equipment. They are perforated all round at a gauge of 14½ and printed on self-adhesive stock, with a yellowish Kraft backing paper, which is similar to that seen on Machin self-adhesive coils. Stamps can be vended singly or in vertical strips of up to 5 in length. It is possible to produce multi-value coils in any combination of the 5 values if you select the appropriate rates. Complete coils when installed in a machine bear 1,000 base stamps.

Four of the values were first available on 8th October 2008 at the main post office in Bristol. However, due to teething problems, one function of the two initially installed ProPostal machines wasn’t actually activated until the following day, meaning that the day of issue for the Worldwide 10g was actually 9th October. True First Day Covers of the 1st, 1st Large, Europe 10g and Worldwide 20g do exist dated 8th October and Worldwide 10g dated 9th October. Examples of covers bearing all five values are known cancelled on the 8th October, but these were cancelled by favour on or after 9th October.

In response to the huge interest in these stamps from collectors, in March 2009 Royal Mail decided to make them available from philatelic sources as well as from individual machines. However, to do this, it was deemed unviable to set up one or more Nixdorf ProPostal machines to simply churn out their philatelic requirements. Instead they took the chance to print the entire stamp, including the black tariff and codings at the foot entirely by gravure as opposed to just the base stamp as found on stamps vended by machines. The result is a set of all five values, produced in a different printing method, making them entirely new and highly collectable.

Thermographically Printed Text. Initially it was believed that Post & Go stamps vended from machines had the tariff and various codings printed onto the stamp by inkjet at the time of sale. However, it is now known that the stamp paper is actually thermographically sensitive which when passed over a heated print head turns black, leaving the text effectively “burnt” onto the stamp, much in the same way as the earliest forms of fax machines and some current shop tills and credit card voucher printers. The result is a sharp clean image that is imprinted on the stamp very quickly with little sign of blurring or dot pattern making up the characters.

Gravure Printed Text. The new gravure printed versions, however, are readily identifiable by the make up of the characters which show the familiar gravure cell struc-



**Thermographically printed version
with no screening on edges**



**Gravure printed version
with screening dots clearly visible**

(Enlarged to 750% of original size)

ture, with a series of dots clearly visible around the edges of every character. The figures in the coding at the bottom of the stamps appear appreciable thicker and deeper in colour. The biggest giveaway of their source, however, is that being gravure printed it is not possible to change the coding information along the bottom from copy to copy. Instead each value bears the same coding on every example – Royal Mail decided to use the code for the Bristol office as this was where Post & Go stamps were first issued – so they are instantly recognisable. We illustrate all five values below so this coding can be seen.



Codes found on all gravure printed Post & Go stamps

In other respects the stamps are very similar to those available from machines. The paper is still thermographically sensitive and is supplied on the same yellowish coloured waxy backing. The stamp paper, however, is duller in fluorescence under UV, allowing a clearer differentiation between the paper and the phosphor bands. The colour of the Queen's head and underlying Royal Mail security pattern is also in a slightly deeper shade than found on initial machine versions (although later versions appear closer to the gravure printed types and are quite distinctive in shade).

Walsall appear to have had major problems with phosphor band synchronisation as these vary wildly from well synchronised, to short at top and short at bottom. They are priced with this in mind and collectors should be aware that in some cases well synchronised bands are amongst the most elusive variants to find.

To date gravure printed versions are only available as individual stamps, guilloined apart. No coil strips, either as five of the same value or se-tenant, are known. To conveniently package the set of five they were sold by Royal Mail in a presentation pack style folder and were not available as single stamps.

<i>CC No.</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Bands</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Price</i>
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(a) Walsall. Gravure printed backing, text thermographically printed . FCP/SAN. Kiss die-cut to simulate Perf 14½ . A2(B) phosphor with blue fluor additive

PGTF1	1st	Olive-brown	2B	8.10.08	Coils PGC1, PGCS1	1.10
			2B (I2)	8.10.08	Coils PGC1, PGCS1	–
PGTF2	1st	Greyish olive	2B (S17)	3.09	Coils PGC1, PGCS1	5.25
PGTFL1	1st Large	Olive-brown	2B	8.10.08	Coils PGC2, PGCS1	1.50
			2B (I2)	8.10.08	Coils PGC2, PGCS1	–
PGTFL2	1st Large	Greyish olive	2B (S17)	3.09	Coils PGC2, PGCS1	6.00
PGTE200	Europe 20g	Olive-brown	2B	8.10.08	Coils PGC3, PGCS1	1.50
			2B (I2)	8.10.08	Coils PGC3, PGCS1	–
PGTE201	Europe 20g	Greyish olive	2B (S17)	3.09	Coils PGC3, PGCS1	5.50
PGTW100	Worldwide 10g	Olive-brown	2B	9.10.08	Coils PGC4, PGCS1	1.70
			2B (I1)	9.10.08	Coils PGC4, PGCS1	–
PGTW101	Worldwide 10g	Greyish olive	2B (S17)	3.09	Coils PGC4, PGCS1	6.00
PGTW200	Worldwide 20g	Olive-brown	2B	8.10.08	Coils PGC5, PGCS1	2.35
			2B (I1)	8.10.08	Coils PGC5, PGCS1	–
PGTW201	Worldwide 20g	Greyish olive	2B (S17)	3.09	Coils PGC5, PGCS1	6.75

(b) Walsall. Gravure printed backing and text. FCP (Duller)/SAN. Kiss die-cut to simulate Perf 14½ . A2(B) phosphor with blue fluor additive

PGGF1	1st	Olive-brown	2B	31.3.09	Packs	8.50
			2B (S17)	31.3.09	Packs	1.45
PGGFL1	1st Large	Olive-brown	2B	31.3.09	Packs	11.00
			2B (S17)	31.3.09	Packs	2.25
PGGE200	Europe 20g	Olive-brown	2B	31.3.09	Packs	8.50
			2B (S17)	31.3.09	Packs	1.95
PGGW100	Worldwide 10g	Olive-brown	2B (S16)	31.3.09	Packs	2.20
			2B (S17)	31.3.09	Packs	–
PGGW200	Worldwide 20g	Olive-brown	2B	31.3.09	Packs	–
			2B (S16)	31.3.09	Packs	2.50
			2B (S17)	31.3.09	Packs	–