

Precision U.S. Specialty Multi-Gauge

The U.S. Specialized Multi-Gauge is now the essential tool for any collector interested in U.S. stamps from the Classics through the Liberty Issue of 1954.

1. Specialty Perforation Gauge, Bureau Issues

Used to determine the perforation measurement of a stamp. This gauge is a variation based on the Kiusalas Specialist Gauge produced in the mid 1960's. It has various settings for perforations commonly believed to be the same. Thus, there are three "perf-10" measurements possible, 10-78, 10-79, and 10-80. The second set of numbers refers to the spacing between holes in thousandths of an inch. The dots of the gauge also matches the diameter of the pins that cut the perforations. Use the gauge the way you would any ordinary gauge. Make all measurements under magnification. The match should be exact along the entire length of the side being examined.

2. Standard Analog Perforation Gauge

Used to determine the fractional perforation measurement of a stamp (number of teeth or holes per two centimeters). If all perforations align on the horizontal dots, that's the precise perforation. If the point of alignment falls between the dots, the stamp has a fractional measurement.

3. Grill Pattern Gauge

Used to determine the grill type of a stamp. It is important to understand and determine the correct grill type, as many issues have several grill variants. For example, the 3 cent Washington issue of 1861 (Scott 64 and 65), was issued again and can be found with 7 grill variations. The grill classifications can be determined by the size of the grilled pattern, the shape of the grill point and which side of the stamp the apex of the point appears.

4. Go-NoGo Grill Size Gauge

Many of the later grill patterns are faint and can be hard to see. By examining the stamp with a bright light source at an extreme angle, one can use the go-nogo portion of the gauge to determine the correct classification of grill.

5. Cancellation Diameter Gauge

Used to measure the diameter of circles, datestamps, and any other marking or detail, which are traditionally scaled in millimeters. Place the scale over the object of interest until it is centered within the rings. Then read scale. Rings are at 10 mm increments. Major divisions are 1 mm and minor divisions are 0.5 mm.

6. Liberty Issues of 1954

Used to differentiate between the large hole and small hole perforation 10 varieties of this series.

7. Parallel Line Millimeter Gauge

Used for accurately measuring the height or width of coil stamps. It is also useful for verifying the parallel accuracy of coil cuts and edges as well as perforation spacing across perforation rows. This is typically used under magnification.

8. Go-No Go Frame Size Millimeter Gauge

For measuring the height and width of a stamps frame design. This is essential for determining if the stamp has been printed by a rotary or flat plate press. The gauges line width is 0.10 mm and is also helpful for determining the direction and ratio of paper shrinkage if present. It is graduated in 0.25 mm increments for the most common design sizes of the bureau era.

9. Go-No Go Rotary / Flat Plate Press Gauge

Used for quickly determining if a stamp has been printed by a rotary or flat plate press.

10. Vending and Affixing Machine Perforation Identifier

Also commonly called "private perms". Quickly identify the most common Vending and Affixing Machine Perforations.

11. Standard Millimeter Scale

Linear measurements of up to 240 mm (9.45 inches) are possible.

12. Guide Dot Locator

Platers and Specialists of these issues can locate the relative position of the guide dot for classification.

