

# Sonic Imagery Labs Informational Datasheet

## Schermack Type III Perforations

### The Schermack Company

The Schermack Type III perforations were developed by the Schermack Mailing Machine Company before it became the Mailometer Company by acquisition. The Type III pattern was used in the Mailometer affixing machines from 1908 through 1927.

The Schermack Company of Detroit, Michigan has provided us with the most famous privately perforated coil, the Schermack Type III, and, of course two of the great rarities of 20th century U.S. philately are found only with the Type III perforations, Scott 314A, the four cent stamp of the Series of 1902 and Scott 482a, the two cent type Ia Washington imperforate. The name of the company went through several changes, from the original "Detroit Mailing Machine Company", to the "Schermack Mailing Machine Company", and after Schermack resigned to the "Mail-om-eter Company" and finally to the "Mail-O-Meter Company" or simply "Mailometer Company".

The Type III perforations are found on the following issues: Scott Numbers 314, 314A, 315, 320, 320a, 320b, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 368, 371, 373, 383, 384, 408, 409, 481, 482, 482A, 483, 484, 531, 532, 533, 534, 534A, 534B, 535, 575, 576, 577, 611, 631.

### Anatomy of a Private Perforation

Measurements of many Schermack Type III perforations show that horizontal spacing varies considerably. The average horizontal centering is about 20mm. While their horizontal spacing varies, their vertical dimensions remain fixed.

The upper part of the diagram to the right illustrates the perforation pattern of a Type III at the correct scale. If you have access to a laser printer and can scale the printing so that the millimeter scale on this data sheet matches a real millimeter gauge, then one could use this pattern as a quick Go-NoGo gauge.

The diagram on the lower right details the vertical dimensions. If possible, use a genuine Type III perforation as comparison gauge. Or use the procedure mentioned above. It is much more accurate than trying to make precise measurements with a millimeter gauge.

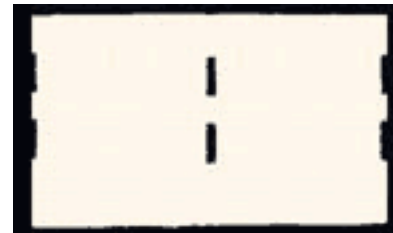
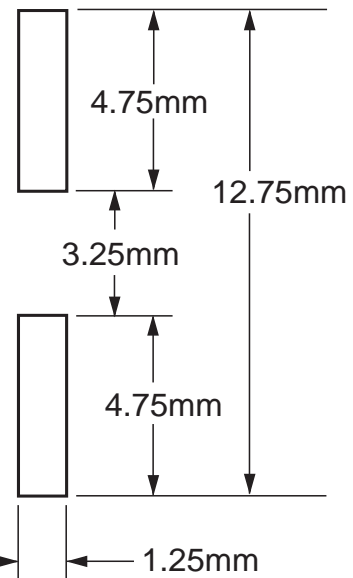
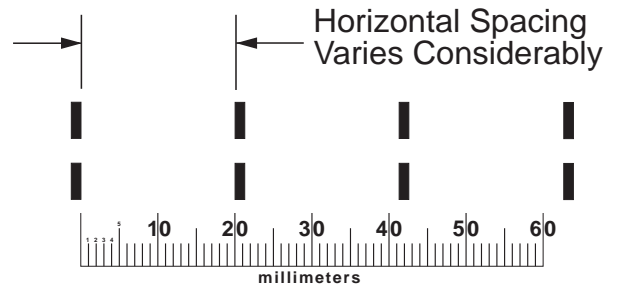
### Fakes

Many genuine issues produced with Schermack Type III perforations also have their fake counterparts. Under strong magnification (5X - 15X) examine the rectangular holes of a genuine Schermack perforation. Compare them carefully with the item in question. Fakes often show a very sharp, cleanly cut edge that is not indicative of the genuine.

More information and resources see:

<http://www.slingshotvenus.com/stamps/fakes.html>

<http://www.slingshotvenus.com/stamps/USSpecialtyPerf5.html>



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#### "Private Perforations"

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## Schermack Type I Perforations

### The variations of Type I

The Schermack Type I perforation identifier shown on the Precision US Specialty Multi Gauge have a several subtypes which due to space restrictions on the Gauge are not shown. Research indicates that imperforate sheets were perforated then cut into strips and then coiled. The Type I perforations are found on the following issues: Scott Numbers 314, 315, 320, 320a, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 368.



Schermack Type I (8 holes)

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