

Counterfeit Corner

■ By Kerre Corbin, Currency Counterfeit Specialist

What should I do with the foreign counterfeits I receive?

I am frequently asked this question, especially when statistics are being discussed. Many countries receive counterfeits from neighbouring countries as well as global currencies (such as US dollars and euros), but are these notes included in the counterfeiting statistics reported by central banks?

First, someone must examine the foreign note to determine if it is counterfeit, which should be done by an expert with the proper training in printing processes and security features.

Any high-quality counterfeits, such as offset or intaglio, should be sent to the country responsible for issuance, to determine authenticity. This is important for two reasons: accuracy and investigative information. The suspect counterfeit note may in fact be genuine or have a production defect that should be corrected. Does the counterfeit contain a new technique for simulating a security feature that should be examined and recorded? The counterfeit may be a note that the issuing country has not seen yet.

This is all vital information that not only assists with the counterfeit investigation but can contribute to the central bank's assessment of how the security features are being simulated and how the public authenticate banknotes.

Second, countries should be reporting their foreign counterfeit statistics to Interpol, which is in turn shared with each respective country to include in their annual statistics. This will ensure a more accurate indication of the counterfeits that are circulating outside of your country.

If you aren't reporting statistics to Interpol, contact the respective central bank to inform them of the counterfeits. But that is easier said than done... the central bank may not even be the institution that examines/ documents the counterfeit information, as is the case in the US, where the US Secret Service compiles all the counterfeiting statistics.

My question to all the counterfeit banknote examiners out there – would you like to join a private LinkedIn group specifically designed for you to share information? Contact me to join the Counterfeit Banknote Examiners Discussion Group.

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IQ Structures and Hueck Folien Launch Nanoswitch™

On July 20, 1969, more than 500 million people around the world watched the Moonlanding, the 'great leap for mankind' - a technical feat that opened new horizons for humanity.



55 years later, IQ Structures (IQS) and Hueck Folien have paid homage to this historic event with a unique design to ring in a new era of banknote security stripe solutions - Nanoswitch™, which was launched at the Banknote Conference in a highly entertaining presentation, against a backdrop of the iconic David Bowie soundtrack of 'Ground Control to Major Tom', by Michael Ritschewald, Business Development Manager at Hueck Folien, and Robert Dvořák, Managing Director of IQS.

The two companies also announced Nanovista™, the brand name for a portfolio of high security features which will be launched by IQS and Hueck Folien, Nanoswitch being the first.

Humans' senses have always been the elementary tools for our perception of reality, say the two companies. The more senses we involve, the more intense the perception. Nanoswitch addresses the two most distinctive ones – sight and touch – combining colour with a 3D object. The visual attraction of the transforming 3D-colour object together with the unexpected haptic experience gives Nanoswitch unique authentication properties.

'The authentication is entertaining, fast and unambiguous, with great potential for attractive designs', says Robert Dvořák. 'The integration of nanofabricated optical security elements with partial ColorSwitch™ provides Nanoswitch with extraordinary resistance to counterfeiting and imitation, creating the highest level of banknote protection'.

ColorSwitch by Hueck Folien offers six vibrant colour shift variations that

provide an intuitive security feature in movement as design elements are highlighted. The shades are based on high-precision thin-film technology and change colour when the banknote is tilted. Nanoengineered optical structures, developed by IQ Structures, provide a distinctive visual appearance and maximum security.

When the partner of the most secure currencies collaborates with the most innovative technology partner, and 30 years of experience meet advanced nanofabrication, the result is Nanovista, say IQS and Hueck Folien – with unique features and support right from the design stage to the finished banknote.

'Our aim is to create the most advanced and safest banknote solution in the world', stated Michael Ritschewald.

'There is hardly anything more valued by a country than its national currency. One third of the world's currencies already bear the high-security solutions from Hueck Folien. Together with IQ Structures, we are breaking new ground in banknote protection', added Martin Bergsmann, CEO of Hueck Folien.

IQ Structures, located in the Czech Republic is a supplier of anti-counterfeiting protection based on nanostructures and its technologies protect more than a billion documents every year. As for Austrian-based Hueck Folien, it has been working with central banks and security paper mills for more than 30 years and one third of the world's currencies already carry its high-security threads and foils, including the euro and the Swiss franc.