



Security Features on Our Banknotes

While counterfeiting is minimal in Fiji we have recently seen a spate of counterfeit notes being used for transactions.

In general we have found the counterfeits passed in Fiji are usually of poor quality and can be spotted quite easily if people take the time for a quick examination. Our appeal to the public is to at least check the main security features such as the *watermark* (i-taukei man), security thread and other foil features on paper notes when receiving them. These basic security features are easily identifiable within a few seconds for those well versed in the notes' security features and who know what to look for. For businesses that have ultra violet light sources, the notes will also emit special fluorescent features when placed against such light sources. This is a powerful recognition tool in low light conditions.



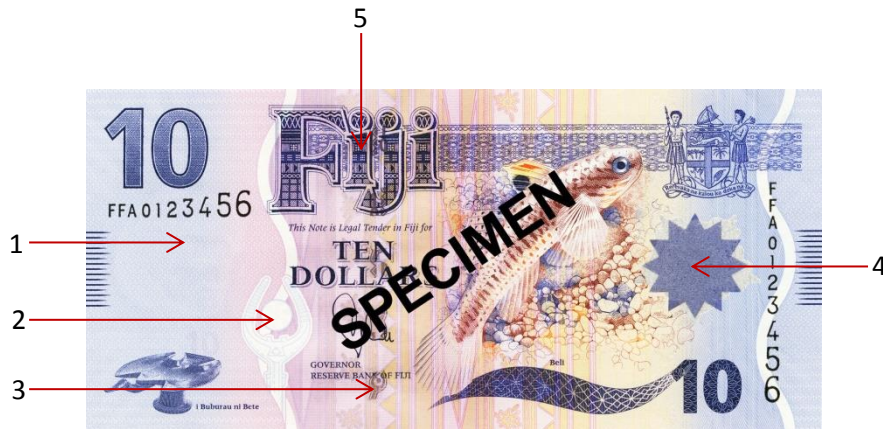
These security features will be missing on counterfeit notes. For cashiers who handle notes on a daily basis, “feel” of the note also becomes an important ally as the quality of the counterfeit paper is usually very different from that of real notes.

But often, as with supermarket checkout cashiers, roadside sellers, nightclub operators and other cash recipients who go through busy periods, they unfortunately do not make the necessary checks until later when they have a bit of time and are counting up the day or night's takings. It is at these times that they spot the counterfeits, which does indicate they know what to look for but just missed it the first time around.

Any counterfeit note found should be immediately forwarded to the police for investigation. The act of counterfeiting or being in possession of counterfeit notes is a serious offence and anyone caught will be prosecuted. Under the Crimes Decree, section 164, anyone found guilty of producing counterfeit notes can face a maximum life imprisonment and anyone found using a counterfeit banknote can face up to 5 years imprisonment.

Basic Banknote Security Features

Some of the basic security features to look out for on our new flora and fauna banknotes are:



1. Watermark



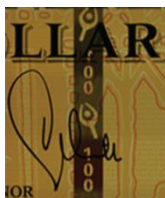
Present on \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations. Hold the banknote up against the light to see an outline (Watermark) of an *i-taukei* man and the denomination numeral.

2. See-through feature



Present on all denominations. Hold the banknote up against the light and you will find that the white circle inside the RBF logo *tagaga* on the front of the note is neatly filled in with the patterns from the back of the note.

3. Security Thread



Present on \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations. When viewed under normal light, the thread will appear as metallic dashes. Hold the banknote up against the light and you will find the thread appearing as a continuous line with the letters “RBF”, RBF logo *tagaga* and the denominational numeral clearly written on the thread.

The \$50 and \$100 banknotes have a colour changing thread. When the banknote is tilted, you will also find that the thread displays bright colours.

4. Foil



Present on \$10 denomination only. Features a foil with a star printed over it. Tilt the banknote to see a movement inside the star.

5. Raised Prints



Present on all note denominations. The left and right edges on the front of the note have raised line prints. Some designs across the front and back of the notes also have raised prints. These can be felt by running your fingers across the banknote.

6. Holographic Stripe



Present on \$50 and \$100 denominations only. Tilt the banknote at different angles to see the Fiji Coat of Arms, the letters “RBF”, RBF logo *tagaga*, the denominational numeral and flora & fauna design decorations. You will also find that the thread displays bright colours as and when the banknote is tilted.

7. Hologram



Present on \$20 denomination only. Tilt the banknote at different angles to see the image of the bird *Kacau ni Gau*, letters “RBF”, RBF logo *tagaga* and the number 20 inside the hologram. You will also be able to see different colours in the hologram as and when you tilt the banknote.

8. Polymer Clear Window



Present on polymer \$5 denomination only and appears in the same position as the watermark on \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations. Hold the banknote up against the light to see the clear window with an outline of an *i-taukei* man.

9. Fluorescent Features



Present on all denominations. Fluorescent features are present on both the front and back when the note is placed under an ultraviolet light. The RBF logo on the back of the note splits into two different colours when the back of the note is viewed under an ultraviolet light.

Tips on Caring For Your Currency

The RBF spends millions of dollars every year to replace worn out currency in circulation and to meet demand. We all should help save money for the nation by looking after our currency; keeping them cleaner and making them last longer. Some tips on caring for our currency are:

- Avoid stapling banknotes as they tear off from the holes created by staple pins. Use paper clips instead as these do not damage the banknotes.
- Store banknotes in cool and dry places. Water, moisture, excessive heat and dirt damage the banknotes.
- Keep the banknotes straight to help them last longer. Folding and crumpling damages them and reduces their life.
- If possible, keep banknotes in wallets and purses as this will prevent them from being damaged and also keeps them clean.
- Do not apply cellotape as this will damage and also destroy the look and feel of the banknotes.
- Do not write on the banknotes as writing destroys the look and feel of the banknotes. Writing on banknotes is also illegal.
- You can help save money for the nation by reusing coins that may be received as change from your shopping. Using idle coins means we have to order fewer coins and thus helps us save money.

Members of the public who may have damaged banknotes can have these assessed and exchanged for new ones by the RBF Tellers located in the Reserve Bank in Pratt Street, Suva. For those people out of Suva or overseas, they can also have their damaged banknotes exchanged for new ones and value paid to them by sending the damaged banknotes currency to the RBF using a Damaged/Mutilated/Old Design Banknote Claim Form which can be downloaded from the RBF website www.rbf.gov.fj.
