Computer Vended Postage

By Newt Kulp For Central Florida Stamp Club October, 2019

Definition 1

- Valid Postage Generated by an Electronic Device and Printed on a "Label"
- This definition has issues since many forms of 'labels" not considered CVP are included.

Definition 2

- Valid Postage Generated by an Electronic Device Housed in an Authorized Postal Facility and Printed on a "Label"
- •This definition is the most valid.
- Scott has expanded this definition to include Personal Computer Postage

Production of a Label All Have Tagged Strips Applied to the Label

Computer Vended Postage Stamps

- Created by Kiosks housed in lobbies of selected Post Offices
- Over 1200 sites currently
- Depending upon the year and/or provider of the software/hardware either blank labels or labels with designs placed in Kiosk
- Customer either manually and/or with the help of the software determined the face value of the label(s)
- Kiosk printed labels and charged credit card inserted by the customer

Personal Computer Postage

- Various companies authorized to provide labels
- Customer creates an account with the vendor
- Vendor sends labels to customer
- Some come with design and value applied with costs pre-charged to customer account
- Others provide basic label and value/ design added by purchaser via software and Internet connection
- Cost charged to customer's account

Scott Numbering System

Computer Vended Postage Stamps

- CVP followed by a number
- Possibly a capitol letter for a minor variation of the design
- Possibly a small letter to designate various classes or services
- Example: CVP84, CVP87A, CVP75c

Personal Computer Postage

- Number (1, 2 or very recently 3) followed by CVP followed by a number
- Possibly another letter for minor variations of original design
- Example: 1CVP107 or 1CVP107A

Brief United States Historical Overview

- First available in Martin Luther King Jr Station in Washington, DC (from August 23, 1989) and White Flint Mall in Kensington MD (from September 1, 1989) to May 7, 1990.
- Special machines made available at the 20th Universal Postal Congress in Washington between November 13 to December 14, 1989.
- Developed by Technology Resource Department of the United States Postal Service
- Public comments for the most part were negative due to the design of the hardware and hard to use software

CVP1 to CVP30 All Similar In Design Each Label was Unique





Coil Stamps – Same Basic Design - CVP31 to CVP33 Machines Developed by ECA GARD Postage and Mailing Center

- CVP31 Type 1
 - Dull Gum
 - Prephosphored Paper
 - * In Front of Dollar Amount
 - Decimal Centered Vertically Between Dollar and Cents



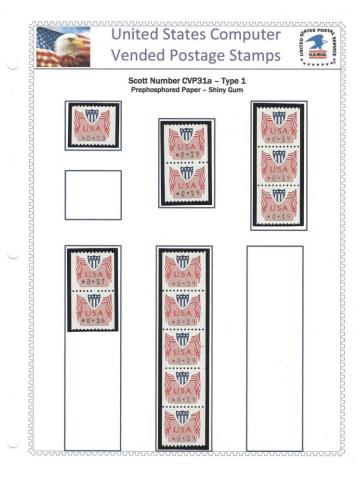


Coil Stamps – All Had Plate Number - CVP31 to CVP33 Denomination Determined by Customer

- CVP31a Type 1
 - Shiny Gum
 - Prephosphored Paper
 - * In Front of Dollar Amount
 - Decimal Centered Vertically Between Dollar and Cents



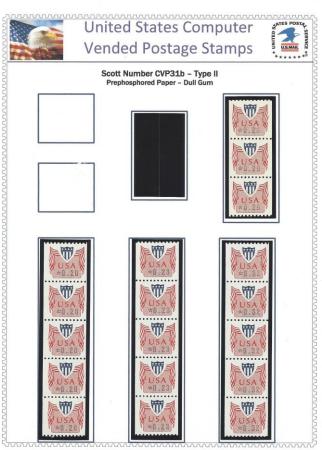




Coil Stamps – Same Basic Design - CVP31 to CVP33 Denomination Determined by Customer

- CVP31b Type II
 - Dull Gum
 - Prephosphored Paper
 - * In Front of Dollar Amount
 - Decimal Positioned Normally Between Dollar and Cents
 - Vertical Format

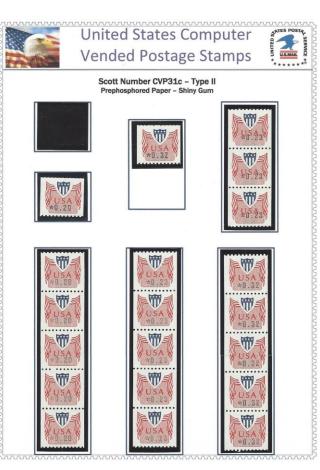




Coil Stamps – Various Designs - CVP31 to CVP33 Denomination Determined by Customer

- CVP31c Type II
 - Shiny Gum
 - Prephosphored Paper
 - * In Front of Dollar Amount
 - Decimal Positioned Normally Between Dollar and Cents
 - Vertical Format



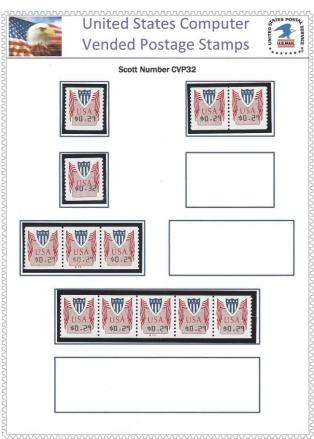


Coil Stamps – CVP31 to CVP33 This Format Printed by Unisys PMC Machines

• CVP32

- Shiny Gum
- Prephosphored Paper
- \$ In Front of Dollar Amount
- Decimal Positioned Normally Between Dollar and Cents
- Horizontal Format



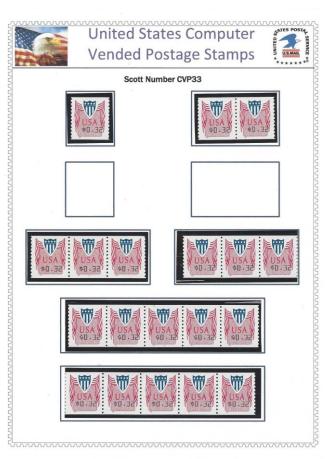


Coil Stamps – Various Designs - CVP31 to CVP33 Denomination Determined by Customer

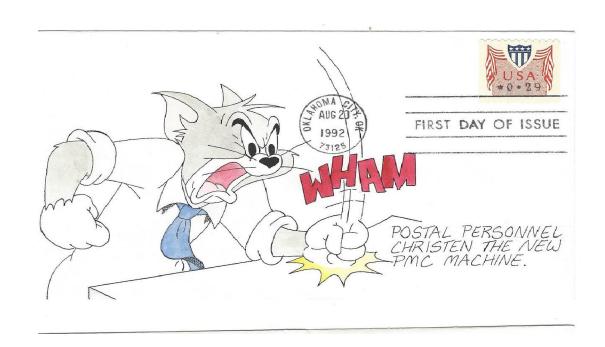
CVP33

- Shiny Gum
- Prephosphored Paper
- \$ In Front of Dollar Amount
- Decimal Positioned Normally Between Dollar and Cents
- Horizontal Format
- "1996" Below Design

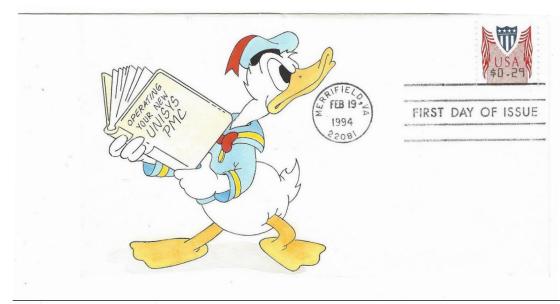




Coil Stamps – Various Designs - CVP31 to CVP33 Only Labels Pre-Announced Thus FDC



CVP32



CVP31a

CVP35 – Florida Neopost Labels – May 1999 to Mid 2001 - Printed on Machines Developed by NCR



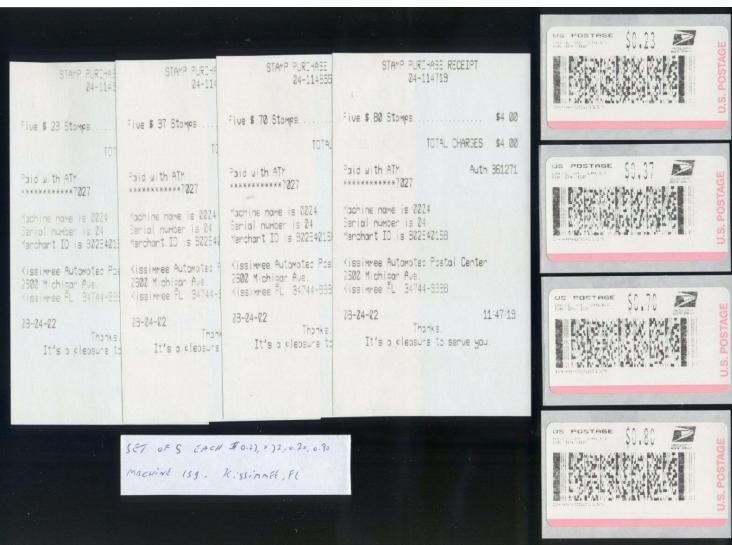
CVP 37 Neopost — Issue in Central Florida Only These 2 sets - Winter Park and West Palm Beach





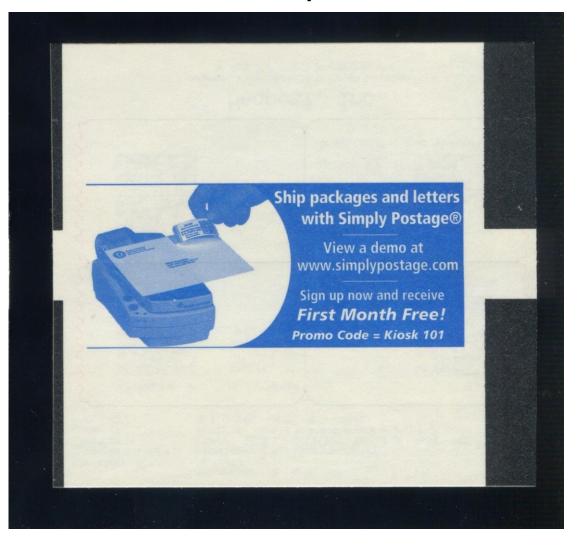
CVP 37 Neopost – Issue in Central Florida Only These 2 sets - Longwood and Kissimmee





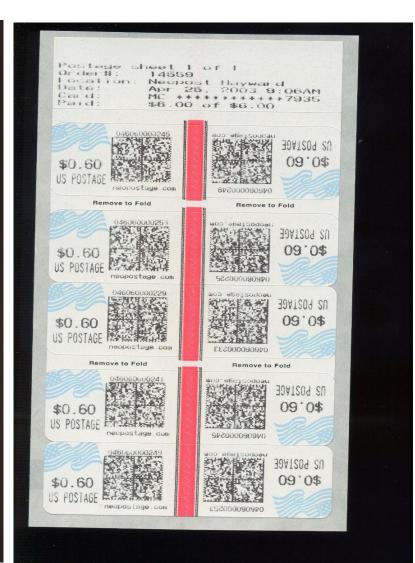
CVP 42 Neopost Hayward Machine Booklet Produced in Panes of 4 Stamps





CVP 43 to CVP 53 – Neopostage.com Labels







CVP48a - NEOPOST Booklet of 10 Stamps



CVP54 with CVP54a-d (Class Printed Under Barcode) First Labels Printed on an IBM/Pitney Bowes Machine



CVP56 to CVP56c – First Large Format Labels



CVP57 to CVP61 – Rate Not Selectable by Customer Determined by Class of Mail Selected





CVP75 – Various Denominations & Classes





CVP 75 – Pitney Bowes Varieties From 1¢ to \$16.50





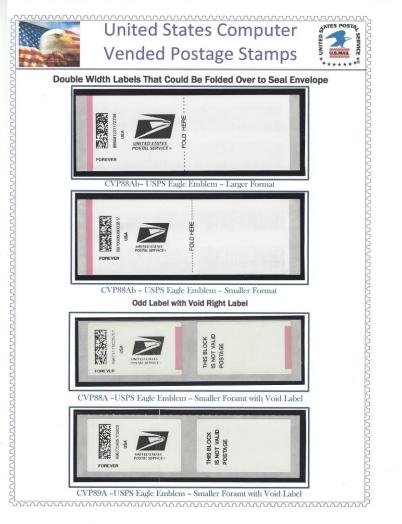
CVP79 – IBM Schaumburg IL Convertible Booklet Pane of 10



Machines Manufactured by IBM/Pitney Bowes Allowed Printing Designs, Added the Code APC, Added Color and Multiple Types of Labels in One Machine



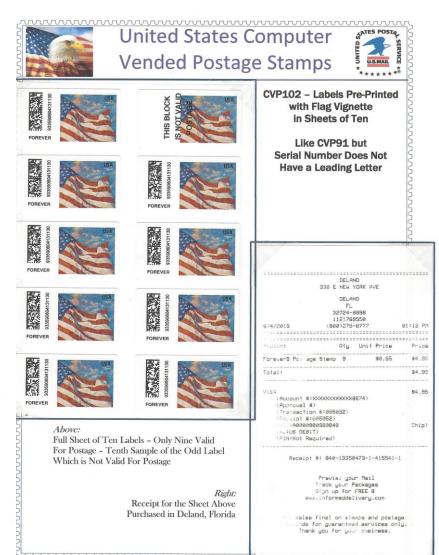




New Pitney Bowes Machine Allowed Preprinted Indicia and Individual Labels - 2012

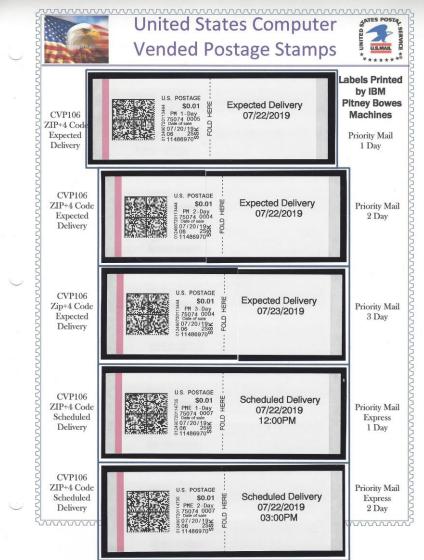






Newer Machines Also Provided the Ability to Print Individual Wide Format Labels - 2014





Identification Lettering on Label



From November 1, 2004 to November 14, 2014 the letters **APC** appeared on many labels. They stand for Automated Postal Centers

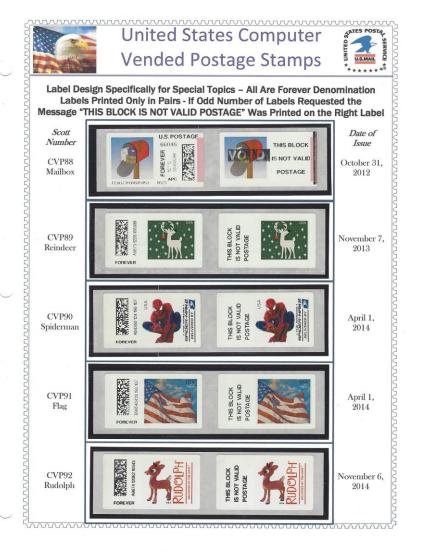


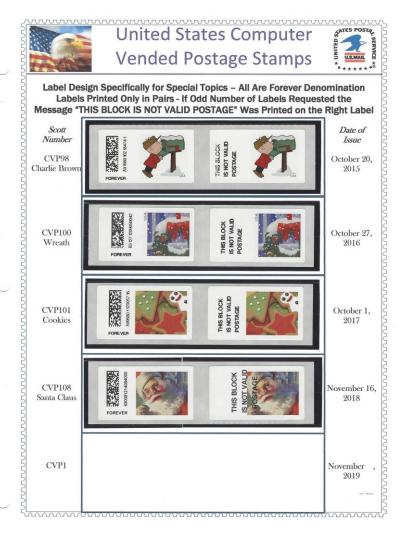
On November 14, 2014 the software was changed on all active machines to print **SSK** for Self Service Kiosks



On some labels dispensed by the machines the Post Office Department allowed the manufacturer to print their name somewhere on the label. Examples exist with Pitney Bowes (left), IBM, simplypostage.com, neopostage.com and others.

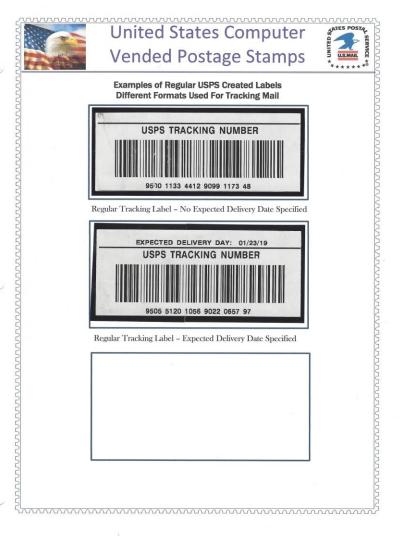
Examples Showing the Result of Ordering An Odd Number of Labels



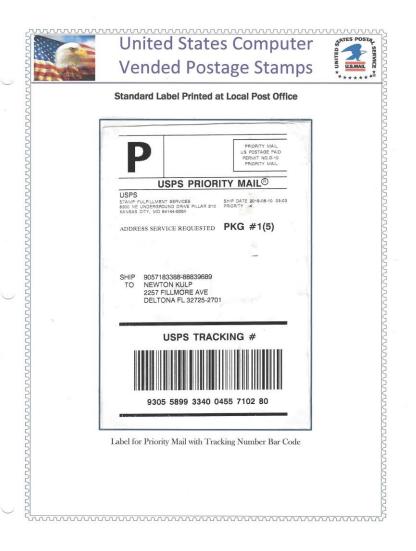


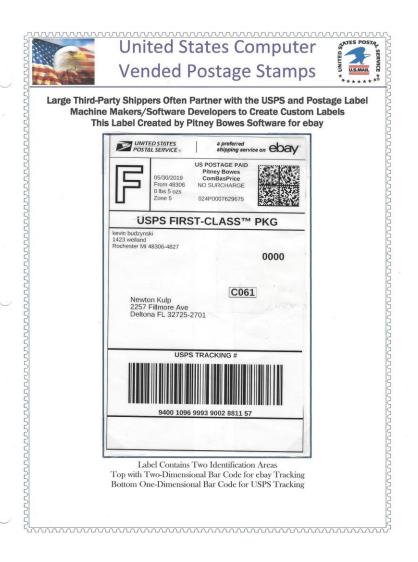
Labels That **Are Not** Computer Vended Postage Have One Dimensional Bar Code Instead of Two





Labels That Aren't Computer Vended Postage

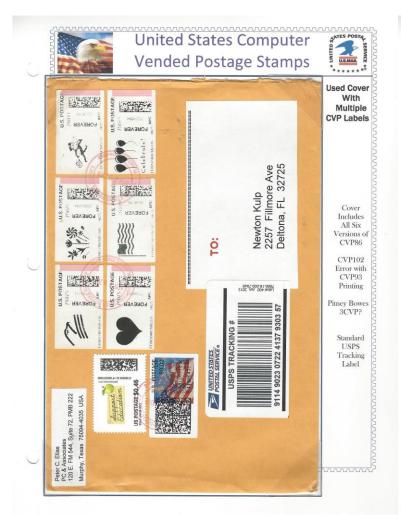


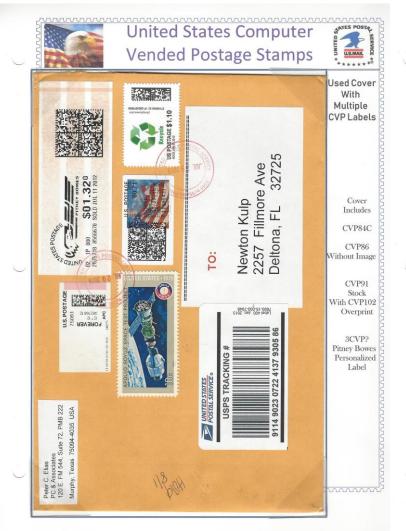


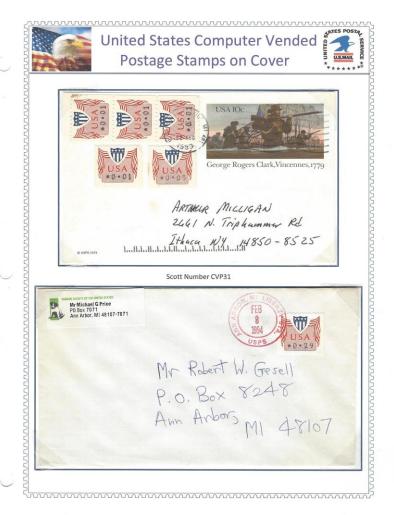
Not CVP Label – Generated by Private Machine



Envelopes with Computer Vended Postage







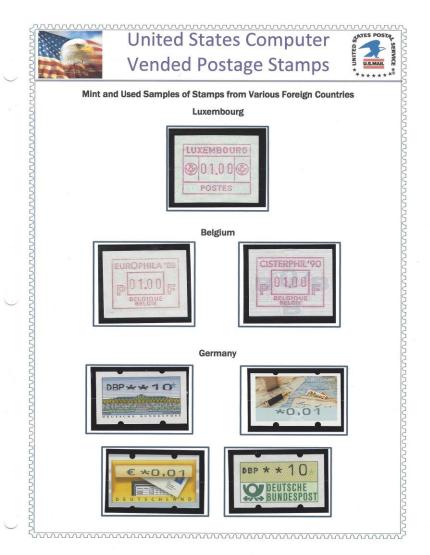
Errors Are Numerous Due to Human Intervention















Current Locations with Self-Service Kiosks Within Greater Orlando Area

College Park
 Dixie Village
 Winter Park

Orlo Vista Aloma Maitland

Pine Castle Goldenrod Windermere

Altamonte Springs Alafaya Trail Airport Regional

Longwood Sand Lake Wekiva Springs

South Creek Apopka Oviedo

Lake Mary Kissimmee Saint Cloud

Deland Port Orange Daytona Beach

Image







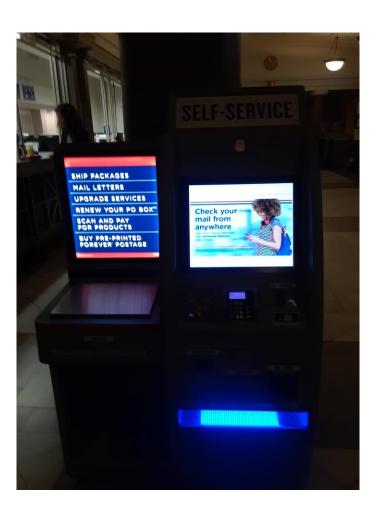




Kiosks In Deland and National Postal Museum







Sources of Previous Issued Computer Vended Labels

- Ebay
 - pc_elias
 - stampczar
 - Buystamps
- Delcampe
 - pcelias
- Hipstamp
 - cmee12
 - mikey1st

Websites Dedicated to Computer Vended Labels

- Hosted by Peter Elias of Texas
 - Arguably the Dean of US CVP related information
 - Site also includes links to Exhibits Related to CVP topics
 - Includes the ability to purchase samples of CVP labels
- https://photostamps.webs.com
 - General information about CVP labels and related items
- https://photostamps.webs.com/apc.htm
 - Mostly labels from APC machines
- https://photostamps.webs.com/atm.htm
 - Mostly labels from SSK machines

Computer Vended Postage Part 2 – Foreign Illustrations

By Newt Kulp For Central Florida Stamp Club April 20, 2023

Universal Postal Union (UPA) Definition

- Postage stamps that are printed by electronic stamp vending machines.
- Became valid postage "stamps" during the UPU Congress in Hamburg held in 1984.
- Commonly called "Frama" labels after the company that pioneered them – Frama AG of Switzerland.
- First label machines used in Switzerland in 1976 which were valid for domestic mail only.
- By late 1980's and early 1990's machines could be found world wide.

Frama Label Machine Characteristics

Mark One Machines

- Produced until the late 1980's
- Single color background image printed on a continuous roll of security paper
- Denomination printed directly in red ink
- User choose the face value of the label(s)
- Inserted the correct amount of coins or in some countries a pre-paid "credit card"
- Machine dispensed the labels one at a time a cutter in the machine would cut them from the continuous roll just before dispensing them.

Mark Two Machines

- Introduced in late 1980's and still in use in some countries today
- Worked like the Mark One Machines but had the capability to use multi-colored labels of varying designs and varying widths
- At One Time Over 150,000 Frama Machines in Over 50 Countries were in Use
 - Many have discontinued the Frama manufactured machines
 - Many now use machines developed by themselves or in cooperation with other countries or commercial companies.

United States History

- United States Never Used the Frama Machines Developed Their Own – Initially Not Very Successfully
 - First labels introduced August 23, 1989 at the main post office in Washington DC with additional machines installed Kensington, MD on September 1, 1989 and other locations in Washington notably at the UPU Congress.
 - Saw limited use and were withdrawn from all locations by March 1990.
 - In 1992 introduced a new machine that dispensed coil like stamps. These machines were in use until mid 1999.
 - Have experimented with various machines, label formats, machine manufacturers and software developers over the years
 - If have examples of some of the labels you could sell them and buy a nice set of mint Zeps

Foreign History

- Many Contracted with Frama initially
- As the labels became more popular, countries started to develop their own machines and corresponding labels
- Later in this presentation I will be illustrating how several countries progressed from the Frama to their own machines/labels
- Unlike the US most countries published the date of introduction of a new design – thus FDC could be prepared.
- Worked with collectors by providing various types of special issue services
- To the best of my knowledge, except for US labels, Scott does not include these labels in their catalogues
- Stanley Gibbons and Michal include them for most of the countries

Other Names for Computer Labels

- Automatenmarken or ATM
- Computer Vended Postage
- Autopost
- Post and Go

- Frama Labels or Postage Label
 Vending Labels
- Machine Labels

- Germany
- United States
- Western European Countries
- Great Britain and Commonwealth Nations
- Most Other Countries

Stanley Gibbons Catalogues

Let Us Now Review a Few Labels From Various Foreign Countries

Australia

- Used FRAMA machines from Feburary 1984 to June 30, 2003
- Australia Post very friendly to collectors
 - Published first day of issue well in advance
 - Provided to collectors what is called Capital Labels
 - Set of 9 labels with 6 state capitals, 2 territories and generic label cancellations
 - So called because instead of machine numbers had Post Code of capital
 - Provided to collectors button sets
 - Set of 27 labels (as above) with face value of post card, domestic first class and international first class printed on the labels along with the Post Code of the location
 - Not sure why called button sets
 - Provided official FDC envelopes
 - Sold without labels or cancellations
 - Also sold with various labels with cancellations
 - Provided Machine(s) at major stamp events
 - Labels created with overprints of events on current label
 - Event covers created with overprinted labels

Australia

Example of Capital Set

Example of Some of a Button Set



Australia

Example of Capital Set FDC

Example of Cover from Event









Left – Belgium early Frama labels issued at various philatelic events

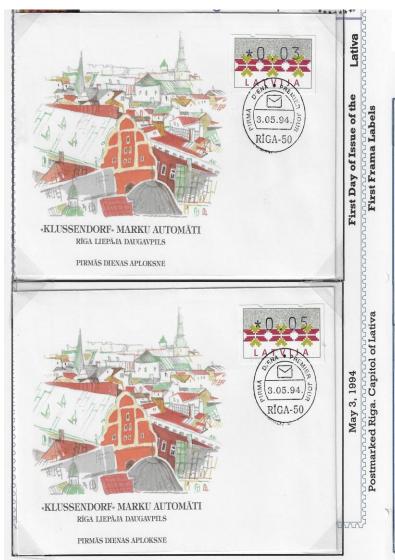
Right – Canada pane of labels – one set from the 2010's issued in panes of five labels which are referred to as Kiosk labels

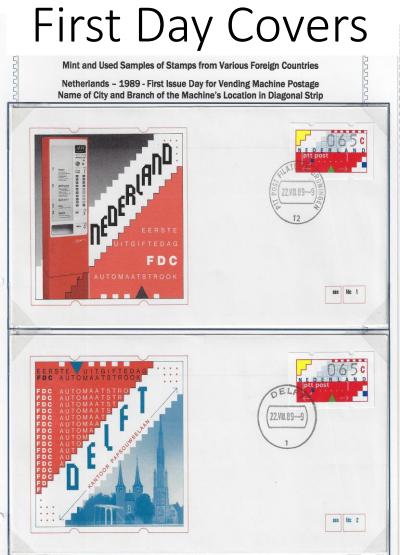






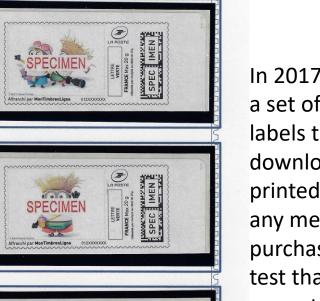














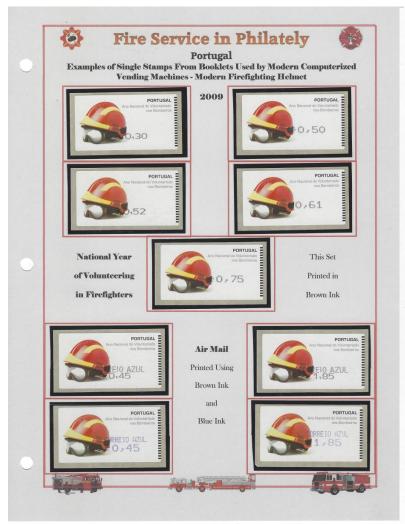


In 2017 France issued a set of 34 "Minions" labels that could be downloaded and printed at home on any medium the purchaser chose. To test that they printed correctly one could choose to print a test set. The test set looked just like the real set except the word "SPECIMEN" appeared as shown.

From Frama Mark 1 Machines to Today's Machines



Computer Vended Postage From Foreign Countries **Topical Subjects**









Four-label panels from multi-year set of 100 Historical Irish Artifacts Starting in 2017 and being issued eight labels per year





Thought For You To Collect

- Do you collect a specific county?
- Have you in your collection most of the stamps you can afford?
- Not sure as how to proceed and expand that country's collection?
- Why not do some research and see of your country issues computer vended labels (or what ever your country calls them).
- Most labels are cheap to inexpensive.
- Available on eBay, Hipstamp, Delcampe and other computer related sources.
- One eBay search on Frama yielded 3800+ hits, ATM search found 7000+ results.
- Also there are a few dealers that carry them.

The End

Any Questions?