

## April 1, 2008 – Blotter Bits

### *How do I tell if a bill is counterfeit?*

The first sign that a bill is a counterfeit is the fact that it just doesn't feel right. Often it may feel much more thin than a normal worn bill. Another clue is if the bill is a little bit smaller or larger than your other bills. The US Treasury cuts bills to be exactly the same size and at-home counterfeiters typically are not that exact.

There are also safety measures that are built right into the bill. Most of us are familiar with the brown marker that is used to detect if the paper is authentic and the markers are pretty accurate. However, some counterfeiters alter legal bills of smaller denominations to look like larger amounts, tricking the special marker. To verify the denomination of the bill, a blue light can be held up to the security thread, another security feature, to check the color of the thread. Each denomination's security thread glows a different color under blue light. This security thread cannot be altered by counterfeiters.

For more information on the security features in your paper money, visit <http://www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney>.