

Circulating Coinage of the United States



In 1909, Abraham Lincoln became the first president featured on our coins in honor of his 100th birthday. The Lincoln penny obverse showed the image of Lincoln designed by **Victor David Brenner** that is still used today. From 1909 to 1958 the reverse featured two sheaves of wheat. From 1959 to 2008, the reverse is an image of the Lincoln Memorial **designed by Frank Gasparro** to commemorate Lincoln's 150th birthday. In 2009, the Mint issued four different pennies throughout the year as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial One Cent Program. The "Union Shield" theme is the current design of the U.S. one-cent coin. The U.S. Mint first issued this design in 2010. **Sculptor:** Joseph Menna, **Designer:** Lyndall Bass



Jefferson took his place on the obverse of the nickel in 1938 with Monticello, his Virginia home, on the reverse. These **designs, both by Felix Schlag**, continued until 2003. In 2004, the Mint commemorated the bicentennials of the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark Expedition with the Westward Journey Nickel Series. The "Return to Monticello" theme is the current design of the U.S. five-cent coin. The U.S. Mint first issued this design in 2006. The obverse (heads) shows an image of Thomas Jefferson based on a **Rembrandt Peale portrait**. The image of Monticello on the reverse (tails) is a more detailed depiction of the design used from 1938 to 2003.



The “Roosevelt” theme is the current design of the U.S. 10-cent coin. The U.S. Mint first issued this design in 1946, soon after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Mint released it on January 30 of that year to honor his birthday. The obverse (heads) shows Roosevelt’s profile. The torch, olive branch, and oak branch on the reverse (tails) represent liberty, peace, and strength. Obverse and reverse by John Sinnock.



In 1932, George Washington **designed by John Flanagan** replaced Liberty on the obverse of the quarter. The design honored Washington’s 200th birthday. From 1932 to 1998, the reverse was an eagle. In 1975 and 1976, the Mint celebrated the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence with a colonial drummer. From 1999 to 2009, the reverse had 56 State and Territories Quarters Program. America the Beautiful Quarters® Program (2010-2021), General George Washington Crossing the Delaware Quarter (2021) The American Women Quarters Program is the current program (2022 to 2025). The obverse shows a new portrait of George Washington. The reverse honors American women. Washington, originally sculpted by **Laura Gardin Fraser** for the 1932 quarter.



The “Kennedy” theme is the current design of the U.S. 50-cent coin. The U.S. Mint first issued this design in 1964, a year after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The obverse shows an image of Kennedy based on a portrait prepared for his presidential medal. The Presidential Seal appears on the reverse. **Obverse: Sculptor** Gilroy Roberts, **Reverse: Sculptor:** Frank Gasparro



Dwight D. Eisenhower dollar (1971-1977), head left of President Eisenhower, commander of America forces in WWII, reverse Apollo XI insignia. Designer: Frank Gasparro. **Susan B. Anthony dollar** (1979-1981,1999) in recognition of Susan B. Anthony’s lifelong struggle to achieve women’s right to vote. Reverse American eagle landing on the Moon designed by Frank Gasparro. The United States Mint honors our **nation’s presidents** by issuing \$1 coins featuring their images in the order that they served. The program began in 2007 with Presidents Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison. **Native American \$1 Coins** honor and recognize the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development and history of the United States. **American Innovation \$1 Coin** program showcases an innovation, innovator, or group of innovators from each State or territory.

Bicentennial Coins and US Currency



Bicentennial set has a colonial drummer on quarter designed by Jack L. Ahr, Independence Hall by Seth G. Huntington and a combination Liberty Bell and moon by Dennis R. William on the quarter, half dollar and dollar, respectively. The double date, 1776-1976 appears on obverse.



US Currency

\$100 Ambassador Benjamin Franklin & Independence Hall

\$50 President Ulysses Grant & US capitol

\$20 President Andrew Jackson & White House

\$10 Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton & Treasury Department

\$5 President Abraham Lincoln & Lincoln Memorial

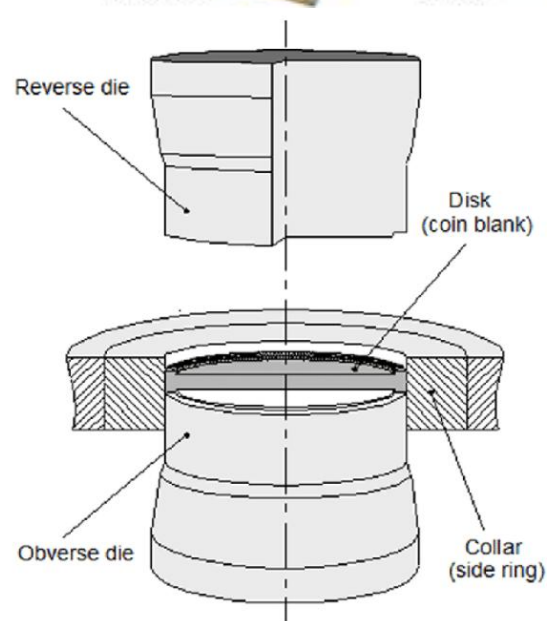
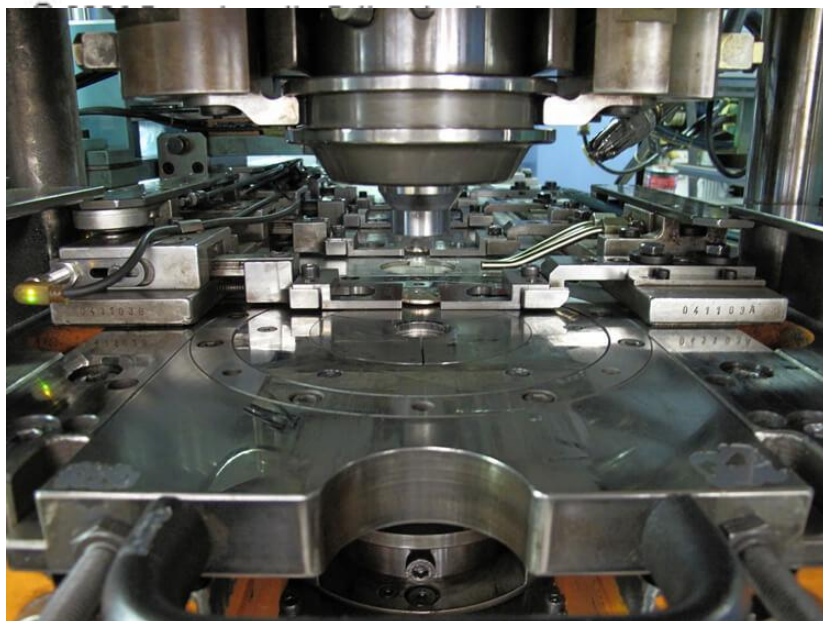
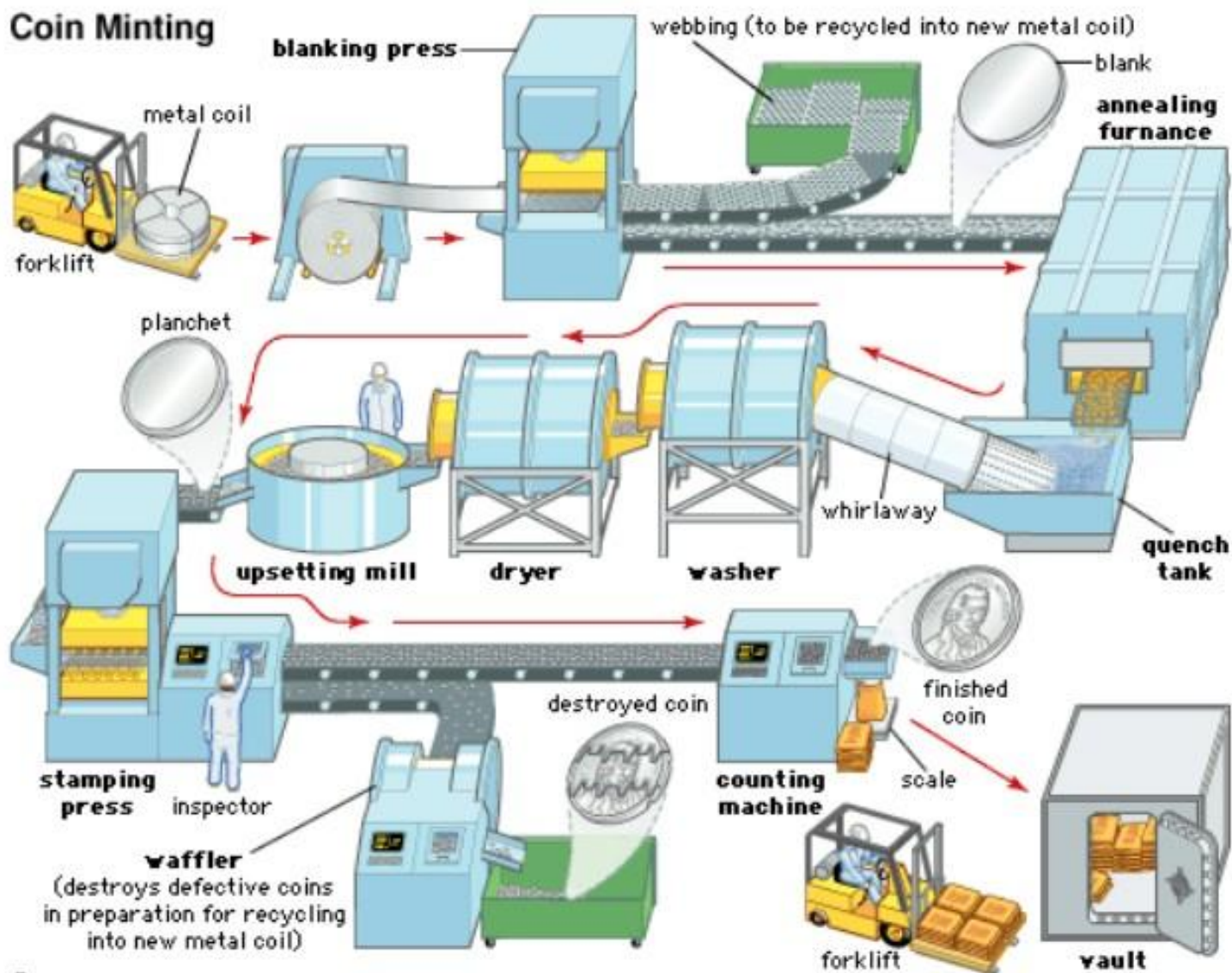
\$2 President Thomas Jefferson & Declaration of Independence

\$1 President George Washington & Great Seal of United States

The \$1 and \$2 date from 1963 and 1976 and do not have new security features of watermarks, micro printing, and variable coloring.



Coin Minting



MODERN COIN PRODUCTION

Step One: Blanking

To make blanks, the Mint buys coils of metal 1,500 feet long. The coil is first fed through a machine that straightens the metal and then into a blanking press. The blanking press punches out the blanks like a cookie cutter at a rate of 14,000 blanks per minute.

Step Two: Annealing

In an oxygen-free annealing furnace the blanks are heated to temperatures up to 1,600 degrees. The lack of oxygen prevents tarnishing. They are then dropped into a quench tank filled with “slippery” water to quickly lower the temperature. The slippery water is a mix of water, citric acid powder, and lubricants that keep the blanks from sticking together.

Step Three: Washing & Drying

The blanks are washed to restore their original color. The cleaning solution is a mix of cleaning and anti-tarnish agents. The dryer steam dries the cleaned blanks before they move to the upsetting mill.

Step Four: Upsetting

Upsetting creates a raised rim by feeding the blanks into a groove slightly narrower than its diameter. This pushes the metal up around the edge to form a rim. The rim protects the final coin from wear and makes it stackable. A blank with a rim is called a planchet. Special proof and uncirculated planchets are burnished by placing them in a drum with cleaning agents and small metal pellets to smooth and polish the surface.

Step Five: Striking

The press forces the obverse and reverse dies together against the planchet to strike both sides of the coin at once. Circulating coin presses strike the coins with 35 to 100 metric tons of pressure. A collar placed around the planchet forms the edge design, whether smooth, reeded, or lettered. A circulating coin press strikes 750 coins per minute.

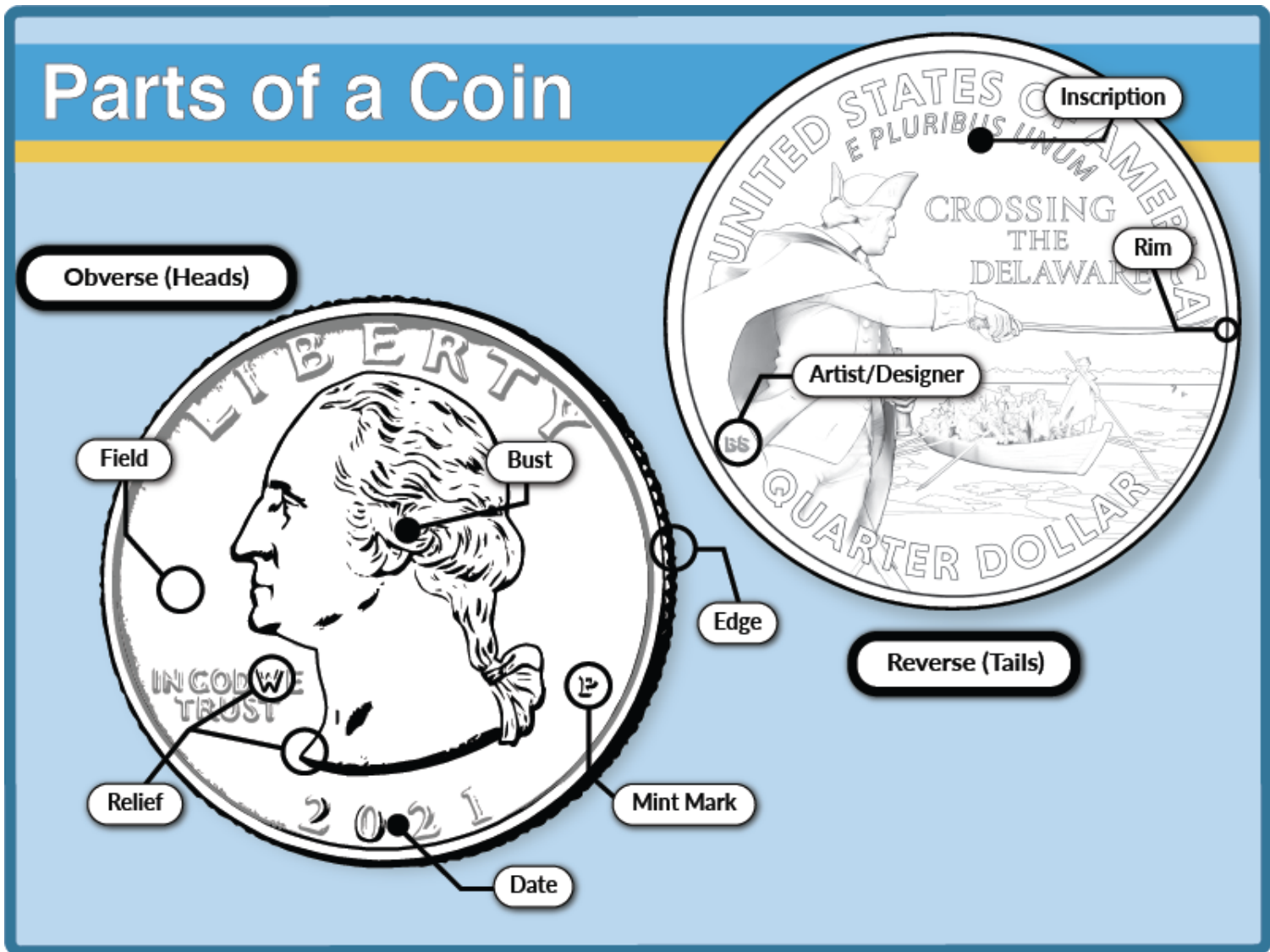
Step Six: Bagging & Packaging

After they pass inspection, circulating coins are counted and weighed. The coins fall through a counting machine before they are dumped into bulk storage bags. Robots and automated machines package numismatic coins into blister packs, lenses, and other packaging

Collecting Terms

Obverse: The front (or “heads”) side of a coin, made on anvil die

Reverse: The back (or “tails”) side of a coin, made with hammer die



Reeding: a series of ridges on the edge of a coin to prevent shaving.



Clad Coinage: Coins that have a core and outer layer made of different metals, usually a copper core and nickel plating.. Since 1965, all circulating U.S. dimes, quarters, half dollars, and dollars have been clad.



Type Set: A collection of coins based on denomination

Date Set: A collection of coins based on a year

Coin Storage



Types of Coin Storage: 1) 2x2 cardboard holders, envelopes, plastic flips, 2) plastic tubes, capsules or slabs, 3) albums or trays.

When choosing a coin storage method, consider factors like protection, accessibility, cost, and organization capabilities, with options like coin flips (plastic holders), 2x2 cardboard holders, plastic tubes, coin albums, and sleeves each having their own advantages and disadvantages:.

Coin Flips (Plastic Holders, Slabs): Pros: Affordable, readily available, compact, easy to label, good for basic protection, allows viewing both sides of the coin, convenient for handling and displaying. **Cons:**

If not airtight like most **slabs**, may offer the limited protection for high-value coins.

2x2 Cardboard Holders: Pros: Very inexpensive, readily available, good for basic protection, easy to label, compact storage. **Cons:** Can absorb moisture, may not be suitable for high-value coins, not as protective as hard plastic holders, can damage coins if not handled carefully.

Plastic Tubes: Pros: Excellent protection for large or delicate coins, can be airtight, good for storing multiple coins together, ideal for protecting from scratches and fingerprints. **Cons:** May be difficult to access individual coins, not as easily labeled, can be bulky to store.

Coin Albums: Pros: Highly organized, allows for easy viewing of entire collection, can be aesthetically pleasing. **Cons:** Can be expensive, may require specific holders for each coin type, potential for damage if not handled carefully. Most common albums show only one side of coins.

Sleeves, or Envelopes, Trays: Pros: Affordable, good for storing loose coins, can be labeled easily. **Cons:** Minimal protection, can easily get damaged, not ideal for high-value coins, may not be suitable for long-term storage.

U.S. Mints

The Mint's four production facilities are in **Philadelphia** (1792), **San Francisco** (1852), **Denver** (1896), and **West Point**, New York (1938 as a depository, minting pennies 1973-1986, officially a branch mint 1988).

The U.S. Mint makes the nation's circulating coins, as well as bullion and numismatic (collector) coins. San Francisco specializes in proof coins and West Point in bullion coins. Philadelphia had no mint mark until 2017 then used a P, S for San Francisco, D for Denver, W for West Point, Charlotte, North Carolina; Dahlonega, Georgia; New Orleans, Louisiana, Carson City, NV, and Manila, Philippines were also past mints.

