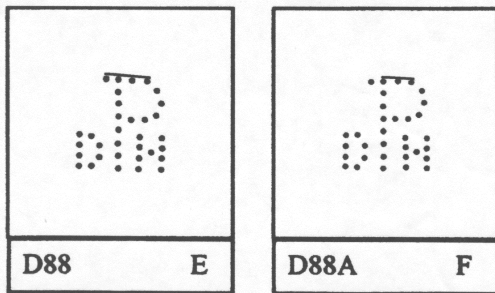

Are Perfin D88 and D88A the same perfin?

John Lyding

Referring to the Catalog of United States Perfins, I noted that there are two DPH perfins, D88 and D88A. Since checking a large number of perfins by trying to fit them on a catalog illustration is a slow and tedious process, I checked the hole count and measurements. No luck both patterns are listed as 4-11 1/2: (4); 8-16 (9). Next, I compared the two illustrations looking for a visual difference. I noted that the third hole from the left in the top of the letter "P" of pattern D88 appears to be lower than the corresponding hole of pattern D88A. Figure 1 is an enlargement of both patterns with a line added that is tangential to the second and fourth hole on the top of the letter "r". It may be noted that there is a small white gap between the line and the third hole on D88. On pattern D88 the tangential line not only touches the third hole it cuts into it.



I used some perfins from my collection to test my theory that the "lower hole" was the only difference. Since, other than the "lower hole, I was unable to note any differences in the catalog I compared perfins on a light table. To my mind, at least, the

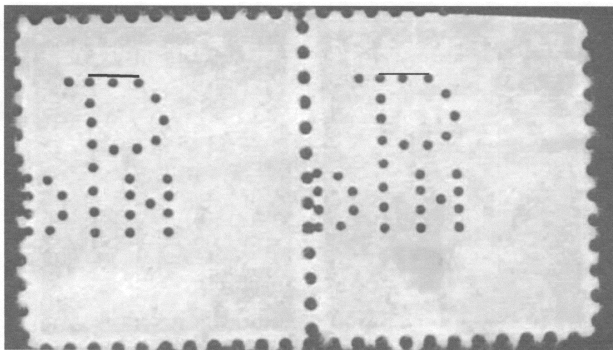


Figure 2 Enlargement of horizontal pair with tangential line added

theory was validated. I then proceed to sort the pile into two piles.

I don't know why, but when I came to the horizontal pair shown in Figure 2 I noted that one of the perfins had the "lower hole" and the other perfin did not. The added lines in Figure 2 illustrate this. This pair now has a place of honor in my collection. I then proceeded to check an of the other pairs in both stacks and found only one similar mixed pair.

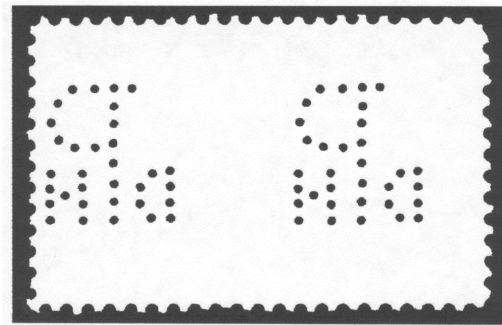


Figure 3 illustrates this perfin set on a 4.t Water Conservation commemorative. I have not added the tangential line to this illustration.

While any changes to the catalog are the purview of the Catalog Editor, I think that we may safely conclude that:

- The same perforator produced both patterns.
- The "lower hole pattern is to the left of a regular die.
- The other horizontal pairs indicate that there probably are more than two dies on the device.