

Our collection of counterfeit £1 coins started back in the early 90's when a large confectionary vending company, operating more than 900 machines in the London area approached us, reporting that their machines were accepting counterfeit coins.

At the time, the vending company estimated that it was costing their operation over 125K per annum.

Their problem had begun when the cash handling company started to make deductions from their taking and returning the counterfeit coins.

We advised them that, to help, we would need samples of the counterfeits. When this is asked, normally only a few counterfeits are supplied however, to our surprise they issued us with two very large money bags, full to overflowing.

On checking the contents of the bags we found that not all were counterfeit £1's, at least half were counterfeit 50p's (the old type).

Due to the poor quality of the counterfeit, revising the acceptance window of the coin validators was very easy and totally stopped the acceptance of both the counterfeits. However, within months the coin validators were again accepting counterfeit coins.

Our investigations found that only counterfeit £1 coins were now being accepted. Closer inspection of the coins showed that they had been modified, some had been filed, while others now had a very faint impression of a genuine coin on one side of them.

It was at this point that we realised that whatever was done to stop or reduce the acceptance rate of the counterfeits, that the counterfeiters would come up with a better and more improved fake.

The following are examples of the early counterfeits. All at one stage in their life have been accepted by a vending machine.



F340 - This counterfeit is a lead disc wrapped in double glazing foil, much like a sweet.



F337 - This one is made from a molten lead/tin alloy. One side has been filed so that it will fit into the entry slot of a vending machine.



F338 - We collected this coin in 1994. Here you can see that the counterfeiter has started to imprint one side of a genuine coin into this mould. Still very poor and some filings needed to make it work in a vending machine.

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approved agents for :

wh münzprüfer
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- Electronic coin validators;
- Electronic change-givers;
- Cashless payment systems;
- Coin validator computer interfaces;
- Escrows;
- Hoppers;
- Anti pin systems;
- Steppers;
- Timers;
- Power supplies;
- Displays;
- Mechanical coin validators;
- Tokens.

News of the week

Being in the vending industry we know that like banks and shops most vending machines will accept genuine and counterfeit coins.

The only difference is that unlike the banks and shops the coin validator manufacturers are constantly working on ways to try and stop or reduce the acceptance rate of counterfeit coins.

Based on the numerous news articles that say, if it's rejected by a vending machine than it's a fake, we decided to carry out a test on £1 coins that had been accepted by a fruit machine.

A local working mans club provided us with 280 £1 coins that had been accepted by their fruit machines.

We put all the coins though a coin validator with a revised data file that has been designed to reject counterfeits.

This resulted in 13 coins being rejected.

We then visually inspected these coins and found that by looking at the rim inscription 9 were definite fakes. The other 4 coins looked genuine and would need a much closer inspection.

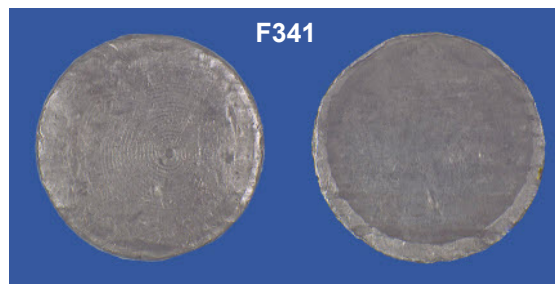
Based on the 9 definite fakes that means that 3.22% of the coins were counterfeits.

This figure is astonishing considering that we know our coin validator can only find 60-70% of the current counterfeits in circulation.

What would this figure be if we checked the takings of a supermarket?



F339 - This Rampant Lion counterfeit was collected at the same time as F338. As you can see the counterfeiters were still improving their techniques. The obverse side of this counterfeit is much flatter.



F341 - This is the lead disc without the wrapping.



This is an example of the old type 10p wrapped in foil.

Future editions will include information on:-

- Our counterfeit numbering and classification system;
- The basic steps needed to re-program a coin validator, and
- Much more information on both counterfeit and genuine coins.

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