

As the years have past, the coin validator manufacturers have continued to make improvements to the validator measuring systems. In addition, they have continued to review and revise the data files in order to stop or reduce the acceptance rate of known counterfeit coins.

Today, most modern high quality coin validators: -

- Use a combination of measuring technologies such as inductive and optical sensors;
- Use multiple scanning techniques of the inserted coin;
- Have at least 12 or more measuring parameters;
- Use flash technology for software downloads to adapt the measuring systems and to transfer the latest coin data files.

However, as you can see by the pictures the quality of the counterfeits has also continued to improve.

Back in 2003, a gaming machine manufacturer contacted us and asked if we could do something about the counterfeit £1 coins their machines were accepting. We carried out tests on the sample they had provided and produced a new data file specifically for their validators.

Instead of carrying out a major reprogramming project, it was decided that as the coin validators came back for repair we would reprogram them using the new data file. In addition, every few months our customer supplied us with more samples of counterfeits, these were checked and where necessary the data file was revised.

It was from this customer that we noticed that not only was the counterfeit appearance improving but so was its metallic compound.



F177 - The counterfeiter has now managed to get a half decent image on both sides of the coin and even the beginnings of an inscription. While most has now disappeared, the counterfeiter has now also started to spray the coins gold.

Whilst we believe this coin was originally produced to be handed over a counter, it eventually ended up being accepted by a vending machine.



F036 - The spray tanning on this coin is much better, still slightly two toned with a brush finish, but the colour match is getting very good.

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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.

Reply to some questions

The following is in response to some questions raised by 'C' on <http://blog.alism.com/fake-one-pound-coins-part-one/>.

Question 1.

These might be a daft questions (so apologies in advance), but how come the fruit machines accepted those 13 coins in the first place if your validator can pick them up? Do those particular fruit machines just happen to use older/different/less effective coin validation methods?

Answer.

In all the years that I have been dealing with coin validators, I have never seen a validator that does not have a problem with counterfeits. The manufacturers use various measuring systems however, this only means that a counterfeit accepted by one make, may not be accepted by another, and vice versa.

The validator that we used for testing was the latest model and had a new data file. It took months of testing by both ourselves and the manufacturer in order to generate this new file.

We are now in a position to start offering the vending machine operators and manufacturers various solutions to reduce the acceptance rate of the counterfeits. However, while the banks are happy to keep accepting them, few will want to spend any money trying to reject them.

Question 2.

Plus, in your experience do fruit machines generally have more of a problem with counterfeit coins than other vending machines do?

Answer.

All vending machines have a problem and fact files 0002 shows that its not just gaming machines.

The question that I think we should be asking is, how did the counterfeits get into vending machines?

Is it by organized gangs targeting the machines or have they entered circulation by another means?

Based on recent information and a survey that I have carried out, I believe that: -

- The vast majority of the counterfeits are in the vending machines because unsuspecting members of the public are just spending the coins they have;
- Due to the high quality level of the counterfeits, I would assume that they are being produced to be handed out over the counter. The fact that some work in the vending machines is just a bonus.



F121 - To the untrained eye, this coin would pass as a genuine. We now know that the quickest and easiest way to establish if a coin is a fake, is to have a good look at the inscription.

If the counterfeiter eventually finds a way of mastering the inscription then we will be in serious trouble, or have they already mastered it!

To be continued.....

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