

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 it's metallic compound.



**F177** - You can see how 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, you can see that the counterfeiter has started to spray the coins gold.

We are convinced that the spray tanning is an attempt to make it easy to hand over at a counter, as opposed to changing the metallic compound of the coin so that it is accepted by a vending machine.

So whilst we believe that is was originally produced to be handed over a counter, it has eventually ended up in a vending machine.

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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 a reply 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.

As far as I am aware, all makes and models of coin validator have problems with counterfeits. The various measuring systems used by the manufacturers means that a counterfeit accepted by one make/model, may not be accepted by another, and vice versa.

The validator that we used for testing with had a new data file, which has taken ourselves and the manufacturer months of testing to generate.

We are now able to start offering it to the vending machine operators and manufacturers however, while the banks are happy to keep accepting counterfeits few will want to spend any money trying to stop 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 and the counterfeiter attempting to produce a single coin for all outlets.

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