



QUICK GUIDE

to the security features
of euro banknotes

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ECB-EN



ЕВРОПЕЙСКА ЦЕНТРАЛНА БАНКА
BANCO CENTRAL EUROPEO
EVROPSKÁ CENTRÁLNÍ BANKA
DEN EUROPÆISKE CENTRALBANK
EUROPÄISCHE ZENTRALBANK
ЕВРОПАН КЕСКУПАНК
ЕВРОПАЙСКИ КЕНТРИКН ТРАПЕЗА
EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

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EVROPSKĀ CENTRĀLNĀ BANKA
EUROOPAN KESKUSPANKKI
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EUROSYSTEM

www.euro.ecb.eu

INTRODUCTION



Do you know the security features of euro banknotes? This guide tells you all about them. It provides an overview of the most important security features on each of the euro banknotes – from €5 up to €500. To check a banknote, you only need to refer to the relevant page.

Most, but not all, of the security features on each of the seven banknotes are the same. The differences are described on pages 18 and 19.

Some useful tips on what to do if someone tries to pay with a suspect banknote are given on page 23.

Remember: always check several security features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one that you know is genuine.

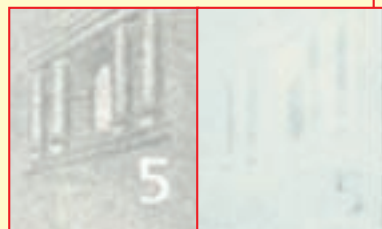
Further information on euro banknotes and coins can be obtained from the European Central Bank or from your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.

FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

The banknote paper consists of pure cotton, which should feel crisp and firm (not limp or waxy).

RAISED PRINTING

Intaglio or raised printing produces a tactile effect which is used in the main image and in some other parts on the front of the banknote.



WATERMARK

The watermark is produced by varying the thickness of the paper. It can be seen by holding the banknote against the light. The transitions between the light and dark parts of the image are smooth.

Put the banknote on a dark surface and the light areas become darker. This effect is very easy to see in the value watermark.



SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“5”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



SECURITY FEATURES

Euro banknotes include some high-tech security features. Always check several features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one you know to be genuine.



€5



HOLOGRAM STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.



GLOSSY STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – a gold-coloured stripe will appear on the back of the banknote. It shows the value and the € symbol.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

- The paper itself does not glow.
- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
- On the front, the flag of the European Union looks green and has orange stars. The signature of the ECB President turns green. The large stars and the small circles in the centre glow.
- On the back, the map, bridge and value numeral appear in yellow or green.

FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

The banknote paper consists of pure cotton, which should feel crisp and firm (not limp or waxy).

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EZB EKT EKP 2002

1








Romanesque architecture
127 mm x 67 mm Red

€ 10

WATERMARK

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SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“10”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

HOLOGRAM STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.

GLOSSY STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – a gold-coloured stripe will appear on the back of the banknote. It shows the value and the € symbol.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

- The paper itself does not glow.
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FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

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Gothic architecture
133 mm x 72 mm Blue



WATERMARK

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SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“20”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



SECURITY FEATURES

Euro banknotes include some high-tech security features. Always check several features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one you know to be genuine.



€20



HOLOGRAM STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.



GLOSSY STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – a gold-coloured stripe will appear on the back of the banknote. It shows the value and the € symbol.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

- The paper itself does not glow.
- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
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Renaissance architecture
140 mm x 77 mm Orange



€50



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SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“50”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



HOLOGRAM PATCH

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.



COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER

Tilt the banknote. On the back, the value numeral will change colour from purple to olive green or brown.

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RAISED PRINTING

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Baroque and rococo architecture
147 mm x 82 mm Green

SECURITY FEATURES

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€100



WATERMARK

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SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“100”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



HOLOGRAM PATCH

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.



COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER

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SECURITY FEATURES

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€200

Iron and glass architecture
153 mm x 82 mm Yellow-Brown

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SECURITY THREAD
The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“200”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

HOLOGRAM PATCH
Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.

COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER
Tilt the banknote. On the back, the value numeral will change colour from purple to olive green or brown.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

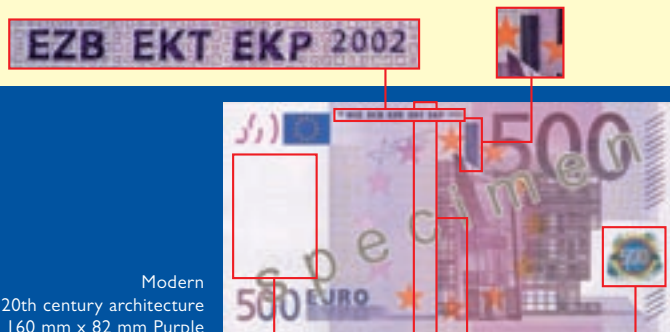
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RAISED PRINTING

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Modern
20th century architecture
160 mm x 82 mm Purple



WATERMARK

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SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“500”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.

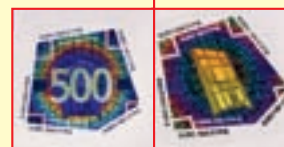


SECURITY FEATURES

Euro banknotes include some high-tech security features. Always check several features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one you know to be genuine.



€500



HOLOGRAM PATCH

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.



COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER

Tilt the banknote. On the back, the value numeral will change colour from purple to olive green or brown.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

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- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
- On the front, the flag of the European Union looks green and has orange stars. The signature of the ECB President turns green. The large stars and the small circles in the centre glow.
- On the back, the map, bridge and value numeral appear in yellow or green.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOW AND HIGH DENOMINATIONS

LOW DENOMINATIONS

€5, €10 and €20

HIGH DENOMINATIONS

€50, €100, €200 and €500



There is a **hologram stripe** on the front...

...and a **glossy stripe** on the back.

There is a **hologram patch** on the front...

...and a **colour-changing number** on the back.



CONTACT DETAILS

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPECT BANKNOTE



Ideally, before this happens, you should ask your supervisor about the company's policy on counterfeits. However, if you are handed a suspect banknote, here are some tips on how to react:

- Do not get into an argument with the customer;
- Tell him/her that you need to speak briefly to your supervisor or a security officer, but ensure that the customer can always see the banknote, in order to avoid any complaints;
- Get your supervisor or the security officer to speak to the customer;
- Make a mental note of the customer's appearance;
- If at all possible, do not return the banknote to the customer;
- If he or she leaves by car, make a note of his/her number plate and the car;
- Contact the police;
- Hand over the suspect banknote without delay to your supervisor or security officer for forwarding to the police;
- Do not try to be a hero – make sure you are safe at all times.

Since counterfeit banknotes are completely worthless, be vigilant.

It is a criminal offence to pass on a banknote which you believe or know is a counterfeit.

For more information on what to do in your country, please refer to your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.