

# Glossary of Philatelic Terms

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# Glossary

- Block** An unseparated group of four or more stamps at least 2-high and 2-wide. The stamps may be the same or different. If the stamps are different, the block is usually called “se-tenant”. Occasionally the stamps are staggered rather than in-line – for example, staggered blocks removed from minisheets. Blocks that are 1-high or 1-wide are called “strips”. Blocks that are 2-high and 1-wide or 2-wide and 1-high are called “pairs” – “vertical pairs” or “horizontal pairs”, respectively.
- Small blocks of gummed stamps contained in a booklet are often called “panes”. Large blocks of gummed stamps are called “sheets”. Sheets usually have a selvage around the edge. (See Pane.)
- Booklet** A small book containing stamps. The pages often have perforated cut lines enabling them to be removed and/or folded. Sometimes single page booklets are available bound together in what Australia Post calls a “cheque book”. Additional pages not containing stamps are sometimes included with a booklet. Booklets are not included in this catalogue. Some booklets are sold as “sheetlets” by Australia Post. (See Sheetlets section. Also see Pane, Prestige Booklet and Sheetlet.)
- Cancelled per Favour (CPF)** A separate un-affixed stamp or a stamp affixed to an article that has been hand cancelled by postal staff as a favour to the customer. (The stamps must be valid for postage and if affixed to an article their value must be equal to or greater than the Standard Letter Rate.) The postmark is usually of the circular type and in any position. Once the affixed stamp(s) have been cancelled, the article may or may not be put through the mail stream. Un-affixed CPF stamps are not valid for postage. Cancelled per Favour is also known as “Philatelic Postmarking”.
- Un-affixed CPF stamps may or may not have gum on the back. If they have gum they are known as CTO stamps.
- Cancelled to Order (CTO)** A separate cancelled stamp that has gum on the back. The postmark may be hand stamped, per CPF, or machine overprinted. After cancelling, the stamp is not valid for postage. (See Cancelled per Favour and Printed Postmark.)
- Collectable Stamp** A stamp that has been deemed not valid for postage by the issuing postal authority. Examples include:
- An individual fully imperforate or semi-imperforate stamp or minisheet cut out from its surround
  - A stamp with the integrated tab removed
  - A stamp with a superseded country or state name
  - A stamp with a superseded currency value
- Australia Post’s Guideline update in October 2007 deemed over 60 postage stamps as collectable stamps. They were previously valid for postage.
- Collectable stamps issued after 14<sup>th</sup> February 1966 are listed in this catalogue. They are identified with the abbreviation CS.
- Continuous Die Cut (CDC)** A die cut without any interruptions. (See Interrupted Die Cut, Die Cut and Kiss Cut.)

# Glossary

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<b>Cover</b>	An envelope.
<b>Die Cut</b>	The process that cuts through the stamp paper using a shaped die rather than a round punch. (See Continuous Die Cut, Kiss Cut and Interrupted Die Cut.)
<b>Double-sided Self-adhesive</b>	Two self-adhesive stamps that are “back-to-back” sharing the same backing paper. The stamps may be the same way up or inverted.
<b>First Day of Issue (FDI)</b>	<p>The ‘official’ date that Australia Post nominates for the release of a particular set of stamps. There is only one FDI for the stamp set. This date is specified in the Stamp Bulletin and on the Stamps website. Note that some variations of the set may become available for purchase before or after this date. The date these variations become available is referred to as the On-sale Date <u>not</u> the Date of Issue. (See On-sale Date.)</p> <p>Sometimes stamps are first issued outside Australia. e.g. The 2008 Olympic Gold Medallist sheetlets were printed in China and issued at the Olympex 2008 in Beijing. Their FDI in China was different from the FDI of sheetlets printed in Australia. The Australian sheetlets were first available in Melbourne on their FDI and were available at other locations some time after this. The China sheetlets were available in Australia two months after their release in Beijing.</p> <p>Australia Post offers a FDI cancellation service with a <u>printed</u> postmark up to one month after the FDI. First Day Covers are sold on (and up to one month after) the FDI with the postmark pre-printed. (In some cases the postmark does not touch the stamp!) The postmark is a record of the FDI, <u>not</u> the date that the cancellation was applied to the stamp or envelope.</p>
<b>Forged Cancellation</b>	<p>A postmark not applied by the postal system that is an attempt to create a rarity or to convert a stamp to a different category such as “CTO” or “used”. Forged cancellations are made to defraud the stamp collector and often contain incorrect information related to the place and date.</p> <p>These fake postmarks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hand-stamping a postmark on a stamp using a device and ink pad. This type of postmark is often just a small part of the circle across a corner of the stamp. This simulates a portion of a hand postmark without any text. (Some stamp clubs and dealers provide this service to convert a mint stamp (with gum) into a CTO stamp or an unpostmarked stamp (without gum) into a “fine used” stamp!)</li><li>• A facsimile of a postmark applied by a printer or photocopier to a stamp affixed to an envelope or sheet of paper.</li></ul>
<b>Fully Imperforate</b>	A stamp without perforations on all sides. (See Imperforate and Semi-imperforate.)
<b>Generic Base Stock</b>	Previously released stamps used in Souvenir Stamp Sheets and some Special Occasion Prestige Booklets. (See Reprint – Type 2.)
<b>Gutter</b>	The selvedge between two panes of stamps. It is often left blank or contains small areas of colour to assist the printing process. Occasionally sheets of stamps have gutters that contain special text and/or graphics related to the stamps. Only these are listed in this catalogue.
<b>Gutter Strip</b>	A strip of stamps from each pane that has the gutter in between.
<b>Imperforate</b>	A stamp without perforations on one or more sides. Unless the imperforate side is on the edge of the sheet or roll, or has a die cut or roulette cut, the stamps have to be cut out from the surround. When individual imperforate stamps are cut out from the surround some postal authorities deem them “collectable stamps”. (See Collectable Stamp, Fully Imperforate, Roulette Cut and Semi-imperforate.)
<b>Integrated Tab</b>	A tab that is not separated from the stamp by a perforation or cut. (See Printed Perforation.)

# Glossary

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- Interrupted Die Cut (IDC)** A die cut in which the continuous series of small peaks and valleys is interrupted by a 'wide valley' or straight edge. This is usually on the shorter side of a rectangular stamp. (See Continuous Die Cut, Die Cut and Kiss Cut.)
- Kiss Cut** A die cut that cuts through the stamp paper but not the backing paper that keeps self-adhesive stamps together. The cut can be straight resulting in an imperforate stamp or can have a continuous series of small peaks and valleys known as a "simulated perforation".
- Maxisheet** A large minisheet. (See Miniature Sheet and Sheetlet.)
- Miniature Sheet or Minisheet** Stamps surrounded by a large border that usually contains special text and/or graphics. Prestige booklet pages containing stamps, when removed from the booklet, are often referred to as minisheets. (See Prestige Booklet and Sheetlet.)
- Mint No Gum (MNG)** This term applies to two types of stamps:
1. A mint stamp that is only sold affixed to an envelope or paper. Once the stamp is removed from the paper to be put into an album, it loses the gum. e.g. metal foil stamps. (See the Specials section.)
  2. A stamp that have been through the post without being cancelled that has been removed from the envelope or paper. When removed it loses the gum. In some cases the stamp is not truly 'mint' as the invisible phosphor coating may have washed off during the removal process. (See Cancelled per Favour.)
- On-sale Date (OSD)** The date a stamp or variation is first available for purchase somewhere in Australia. i.e. The item is available at a Post Shop for sale over the counter or is in-stock and available for pick, pack and despatch from the Mail Order warehouse. Evidence of this date is found on the receipt or invoice for the items bought. Not all products are available everywhere in Australia at the same time, hence the OSD is the earliest date known for a particular product. (See First Day of Issue.)
- In most cases the OSD and the First Day of Issue (FDI) are the same. Occasionally stamps are sold 'unofficially' before the FDI. Many variations are sold after the FDI. e.g. Type 1 Reprints, special minisheets, self-adhesive variations, etc. Australia Post does not keep accurate records of the first date some products are sold, hence OSDs are often difficult to obtain.
- Stamps and variations are often available for order before the FDI and OSD. This is particularly applicable to those that are only available from Mail Order. Although the items can be ordered it does not mean they are in-stock and available for despatch.
- Overprint** An additional printing that was not part of the original printing.
- Pane** A block of gummed stamps. Australia Post's normal sheet of gummed stamps consists of two panes of 25 stamps separated by a gutter and surrounded by a selvedge. Panes of stamps are also found in older type booklets – many were imperforate around the edge.
- Paper** The medium upon which the stamp is printed. Paper type, colour, treatments and surface variations are a very specialised subject. Only the main basic colour variations are listed in this catalogue.
- Pen Cancellation** Cancellation of a stamp affixed to an article by hand with a pen instead of a hand or machine postmark. This may occur if the article has been through the mail stream and the stamp has not been cancelled. This type of cancellation is to prevent fraudulent reuse of the stamp.

# Glossary

(Continued)

- Perforation** The rows of holes (usually round) punched into the stamp sheet between the stamp images to permit easy separation of the stamps. The gauge is measured as the number of holes in 20mm and by convention is shown as horizontal by vertical.
- Some perforated stamps of the same gauge have different hole sizes.
- The perforations often extend into the selvage by a number of holes or go completely across to the edge. If the perforation does not extend into the selvage it is referred to as a “flush perforation”.
- Personalised Stamp (P-stamp)** A stamp with a tab that has a customer’s photo or image printed on the tab. They are commonly known as “P-stamps”. On gummed P-stamps the tab is normally separated by a perforation. Self-adhesive P-stamps have an integrated tab that is part of the stamp. (In Australia, the tab must not be blank and must not contain the same image as the stamp.) The tab is usually rectangular but on some stamps it is square-shaped.
- Self-adhesive Personalised Stamps are currently supplied in sheets of 20 semi-imperforate stamps with integrated tabs. The righthand edge of the tab is imperforate. The tab may be removed to create a semi-imperforate stamp. Sometimes the righthand side of the stamp image has a printed simulated perforation.
- Personalised Stamps are also supplied in Souvenir Stamp Sheets, Special Event Sheets and Snapshot! Booklets. The sheets normally contain gummed stamps. The Snapshot! Booklets contain self-adhesive and/or gummed P-stamps and can have additional self-adhesive stamps and/or gummed stamps as well. (See Tab.)
- Postally Used** A stamp that has been used for postage. It has been affixed to an article sent through the mail stream and hand or machine cancelled with a postmark. The postmark can be of any type and in any position.
- Prestige Booklet** A small bound booklet containing many pages related to a particular stamp issue, special subject or occasion. The pages containing the stamps in these booklets are often removed to form a ‘minisheet’ collection. (See Minisheets section.) Some prestige booklets are known as “fun packs” when they contain pages aimed towards children.
- Printed Perforation** An image of a perforation that has been printed on a stamp. In some semi-imperforate self-adhesive Personalised Stamps with integrated tabs, the printed simulated perforation indicates the edge of the stamp image and separates it from the tab. In some imperforate gummed stamps the perforation is printed around the edge rather than rows of holes.
- Printed Postmark** A simulated postmark that is printed or machine cancelled on a stamp. This is usually done by overprinting a whole sheet of stamps at once. Some simulated postmarks are not dated. Some are dated but the date is not related to the date of printing. (See Cancelled to Order.)
- Most Australian First Day Covers contain printed postmarks. The date on the postmark is the issue date of the stamp but may have been printed before or after this date. (See First Day of Issue.)

# Glossary

(Continued)

## Reprint

A stamp that has the same image design as the original that has been printed after the original issue date. They are also known as “previously released stamps”. There are 3 main types of reprints.

**Type 1:** Stamps that are reprinted as stocks get low or to replace stamps that have been withdrawn due to a printing error. In Australia from 1988 they are usually indicated by koala or kangaroo reprint symbols on the selvage. (1 koala = 1<sup>st</sup> reprint, 2 koalas = 2<sup>nd</sup> reprint, 1 kangaroo = 5<sup>th</sup> reprint, 1 kangaroo & 2 koalas = 7<sup>th</sup> reprint, etc. 2 kangaroos normally indicate the 10<sup>th</sup> reprint, but sometimes they indicate the 9<sup>th</sup> reprint where there was no space for 1 kangaroo and 4 koalas. Occasionally the number of koalas or kangaroos does not match the reprint number and sometimes they are omitted.) Occasionally these reprints have differences from the original, particularly perforations and image variations.

**Type 2:** Stamps that are released in a different format well after the original issue and are not related to it. The format includes Souvenir Stamp Sheets (SSS), Special Event Sheets (SES), Special Occasion Prestige Booklets, folders, minisheets, sheetlets, etc. The stamps are usually “generic base stock” stamps but occasionally they are previously released stamps related to the subject of the sheet. In many formats the stamps have a tab attached with an image related to the subject of the booklet or sheet. The tab may also contain a customer’s photo or image (i.e. a P-stamp). The stamps are usually identical to the original stamp and therefore not listed in this catalogue unless they have a variation, such as perforation, image, layout, etc. (See Sheetlet.)

**Type 3:** Stamps that have an additional year code in the image corresponding to the reprint year to distinguish them from the original stamp. This occurred in Australia from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007 however not all reprints released after this date have this year code. (See Image section.)

(Australia Post does not keep records of the on-sale dates of many reprints and will not cancel reprints with their on-sale date by the FDI cancellation service. See First Day of Issue.)

## Roulette Cut

A line of small cuts in the stamp paper between rows of stamps to permit easy separation of the stamps. The cuts are usually done with a roulette wheel. Stamps with a roulette cut on one or more sides are classified as imperforate. (See Imperforate.)

## Self-adhesive

A stamp containing an adhesive on the back that does not have to be moistened to adhere to paper. The adhesive is sometimes known as a pressure sensitive adhesive. Self-adhesive stamps are often referred to as “peel and stick”. They are die cut to facilitate removal from the backing paper.

## Selvage

The border at or around the edge of a pane of stamps. It may contain text and/or graphics. The selvage between two panes is called the gutter.

## Semi-imperforate

A stamp that has at least one imperforate side and one side with perforations. (See Imperforate and Fully Imperforate.)

## Semi-perforate

Semi-imperforate.

## Se-tenant

Two or more different stamps joined horizontally or vertically. Two se-tenant stamps are referred to as a “se-tenant pair”.

# Glossary

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<b>Sheetlet</b>	<p>A small page of stamps containing fewer stamps than what is normally considered a sheet of stamps. (Australia Post's usual sheet of gummed stamps contains 50 stamps in 2 panes of 25, separated by a gutter.) The selvedge of a sheetlet may contain text and/or graphics. Souvenir Stamp Sheets (SSS) and Special Event Sheets (SES) are sheetlets that often contain stamps that are not related to the subject of the sheetlet.</p> <p>The difference between a minisheet, maxisheet, stamplet, booklet page and sheetlet is sometimes not clear. If the page has a perforated cut line enabling it to be folded it is usually called a booklet page. (This is found on many booklets of self-adhesive stamps.) Australia Post sometimes refers to these unfolded pages as "sheetlets"! (See both Minisheets and Sheetlets sections.)</p>
<b>Simulated Perforation</b>	<p>The perforation on a stamp that has been die cut. Most self-adhesive stamps are die cut with a simulated perforation. (See Printed Perforation.)</p>
<b>Simulated Postmark</b>	<p>See Printed Postmark.</p>
<b>Snapshot! Booklet</b>	<p>A Special Occasion Prestige Booklet containing P-stamps.</p>
<b>Special Occasion Prestige Booklet</b>	<p>A prestige booklet issued to commemorate a special occasion, subject or event. It usually contains stamps related to the occasion, subject or event. Occasionally the stamps may have tabs attached. If it contains P-stamps it is called a Snapshot! Booklet. (See Snapshot! Booklet.)</p>
<b>Souvenir Stamp Sheet (SSS)</b>	<p>A sheetlet of stamps issued as a souvenir of a particular subject, topic or event. They usually contain "generic base stock" stamps and occasionally previously released stamps related to the subject of the sheet. The stamps usually have tabs attached containing images related to the subject. They may also contain P-stamps with a customer's photo or image on the tabs. Sometimes they are issued at the same time or close to the issue date of the stamps they contain and hence form part of that issue. (See Reprint – Type 2.)</p>
<b>Special Event Sheet (SES)</b>	<p>A Souvenir Stamp Sheet issued at an event. They often contain Personalised Stamps with a customer's photo taken at the event using the mobile P-stamp facility.</p>
<b>Stamplet</b>	<p>A small sheetlet, usually containing only one stamp. (See Sheetlet.)</p>
<b>Strip</b>	<p>Three or more stamps in-line 1-high or 1-wide, joined horizontally or vertically. If the strip has only two stamps it is called a "pair".</p>
<b>Tab</b>	<p>An extra piece attached to a stamp containing text and/or graphics. Tabs may be joined to the stamp with or without perforations. If the tab is joined without perforations it is known as an integrated tab. If an integrated tab is removed, it creates an imperforate collectable stamp.</p> <p>A stamp with a tab that has a customer's photo or image printed on the tab, is known as a Personalised Stamp or P-stamp. (See Personalised Stamp.) If the tab contains a photo it is often referred to as a "photo tab". Occasionally Australia Post issues tabs with a 'generic' photo. These stamps and tabs are not P-stamps. They are usually issued in Special Event Sheets or Snapshot! Booklets.</p>
<b>Unofficial Cancellation</b>	<p>Cancellation of a stamp affixed to an article, applied by postal staff or postal sub-contractors that is contrary to postal guidelines or regulations. The article has usually gone through the mail stream.</p>
<b>Variation</b>	<p>A different version or format in which the stamp was issued (usually compared with the original single gummed sheet stamp). Variations are produced on purpose.</p>
<b>Variety</b>	<p>A stamp containing an error, flaw or mistake. This can be due to a retouch, misprint, ink fault, process error, etc. These are usually unintentional.</p>
<b>Year Code</b>	<p>The year of issue in tiny lettering included in the image of a stamp. This first appeared in Australia on the Sports stamps issued on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1989. Additional year codes were also included in most Type 3 reprints from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007. (See Reprint – Type 3.)</p>