

Introduction to the Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

By

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Introduction to the Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

by James H. Ford



Mexico's postage stamp issue of 1872 has a number of interesting characteristics amongst which are the transfer types illustrated in this guide. The lithographic process used to produce the 1872 issue created inherent flaws that were relatively constant from one sheet of stamps to the next. These repeating flaws, or transfer types, 9 or 10 types for each of the 5 values of stamps (6, 12, 25, 50 and 100 Centavos), are in addition to numerous other flaws that resulted from damage, dust particles and debris sustained by the lithographic stones and paper during the production of the stamps as well as varieties created by retouches to repair them.

Identifying the transfer type of an 1872 stamp is, in and of itself, a direct verification of authenticity. As with most postage stamps that are essentially expensive bits of colored paper, forgery and unauthorized reproductions are a fact of life.



The forgeries of the 1872 were not plentiful or difficult to identify - usually a crudely drawn, pudgy Hidalgo - with one exception: Those produced by Henry Flachskamm of the Standard Stamp Company of St. Louis Missouri in

about 1888 from lithographic stones prepared by expert printers from the original clichés obtained from Mexico City.



The St. Louis Forgeries, or unauthorized reprints as they are sometimes generously referred to as, are almost exact reproductions of the authentic 1872 stamps – except that they are a little too good and do not reproduce the transfer types of the originals but each value has 4 distinct transfer types of its own. In spite of having been identified and recognized in the literature for over 100 years, examples of these forgeries are still being passed off, in various venues, as authentic Mexico 1872 stamps.

The St. Louis forgers reproduced all 5 values of the 1872 issue including the more expensive 50 Centavos blue color error variety. In the Mexico 1872 section, the Scott Catalog briefly mentions the St. Louis Forgeries: "Counterfeits of these stamps are 24.5 mm high instead of 24 mm. The printing is sharper and more uniform than the genuine. Forged district names and consignment numbers exist."

Since they were produced with care from the original dies, the first indication that a 1872 stamp might be a St. Louis Forgery is if you find yourself thinking: "That is a nice looking '72." As a second indication, these forgeries are most often found in unused, mint condition but forged overprints and bogus cancellation are not uncommon. A third indication is that the forgeries tend to be about one-half a millimeter taller than the authentic stamps. It should be noted, however, that the height difference is not consistent. There is some overlap in the sizes some of the authentic stamps and the forgeries. Determining the transfer type is the most certain means of identification.

On the following pages, images and descriptions of the small flaws that constitute the transfer types have been assembled, in one place, from the body of philatelic literature to facilitate positive identification of the St. Louis Forgeries and the authentic Mexico 1872 Issue stamps. In time, a broader appreciation of transfer types and plate types may help reduce the negative impact forgeries have on philately.

References:

J. H. Barron, *Mexico: The 1872 Issue*, Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, May 20, 1915, pp 75, 76; June 15, 1915, pp 98-100; July 10, 1915, pp 110-111; August 5, 1915, pp 124, 125; September 1, 1915, pp 138, 139; October 1, 1915, pp 152-154. Reprinted in THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST, October 1, 1915, pp 5-8; October 15, 1915, pp 11-14; December 15, 1915, pp 63-70; January 15, 1916, pp 91-92. Reprinted in MEXICANA, January 1954, pp 23,24; April 1954, pp 25-27; July 1954, pp 33-36.

John K. Bash, *Mexico The 1872 Issue - The Transfer Types of the 50c and 100c*, The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 37, No.2 p55-59.

Franco Vannotti, in MEXICANA:

Notes on the 1872 Issue, April 1968, pp 466-472;

Plates of 12 Centavo, January 1984, pp 32-41;

Plates of 25 Centavos I, October 1984, pp 144-153;

Plates of 25 Centavos II, January 1985, pp 20-27;

25 Centavos Supplement, April 1985, pp 86-87;

6 Centavos (No. 1), October 1985, pp 198-202;

6 Centavos (No. 2), January 1986, pp 52-55;

6 Centavos (No. 3), April 1986, pp 85-91;

Further Notes on the 1872 Issue, July 1986, pp 139-146;

Further Notes on the 1872 Issue, Oct 1986 172-179.

Walton Eugene Tinsley in MEXICANA:

The 1872 Seis Centavos Reproductions, April 1992, pp 41-43;

The 1872 Reproductions, April 1993, pp 40-46.

Karl H. Schimmer, *Hidalgo Profile Issue 1872-1874 Handbook and Catalog*; Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society, International; 1994.

Friz Aebi, Mexico *The Hidalgo in Profile Issue 1872-1874*, Gold Medal Exhibit 2003-4, <http://exhibits.mepsi.info/1872issue/>, retrieved 10/1/2015.

Acknowledgements:

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Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 1

All 4 of the St Louis Forgery Transfer Types of the 6 centavo green Profile Hidalgo have a scratch between the oval portrait frame lines at about 2 o'clock.

In addition the outer frame line to the right of the CORREOS panel is bowed outward.

The characteristic of the SLF Type 1 is a spur or dot on the outer line over the O of CORREOS.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 2

All 4 of the St Louis Forgery Transfer Types of the 6 centavo green Profile Hidalgo have a scratch between the oval portrait frame lines at about 2 o'clock.

In addition the outer frame line to the right of the CORREOS panel is bowed outward.

The characteristic of the SLF Type 2 is that the O in CENTAVOS is broken at the foot.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 3

All 4 of the St Louis Forgery Transfer Types of the 6 centavo green Profile Hidalgo have a scratch between the oval portrait frame lines at about 2 o'clock.

In addition the outer frame line to the right of the CORREOS panel is bowed outward.

The characteristic of the SLF Type 3 is a break in the outer frame line to the left of CORREOS.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 4

All 4 of the St Louis Forgery Transfer Types of the 6 centavo green Profile Hidalgo have a scratch between the oval portrait frame lines at about 2 o'clock.

In addition the outer frame line to the right of the CORREOS panel is bowed outward.

The characteristic of the SLF Type 4 is a spot of color at the top of the N. W. corner.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

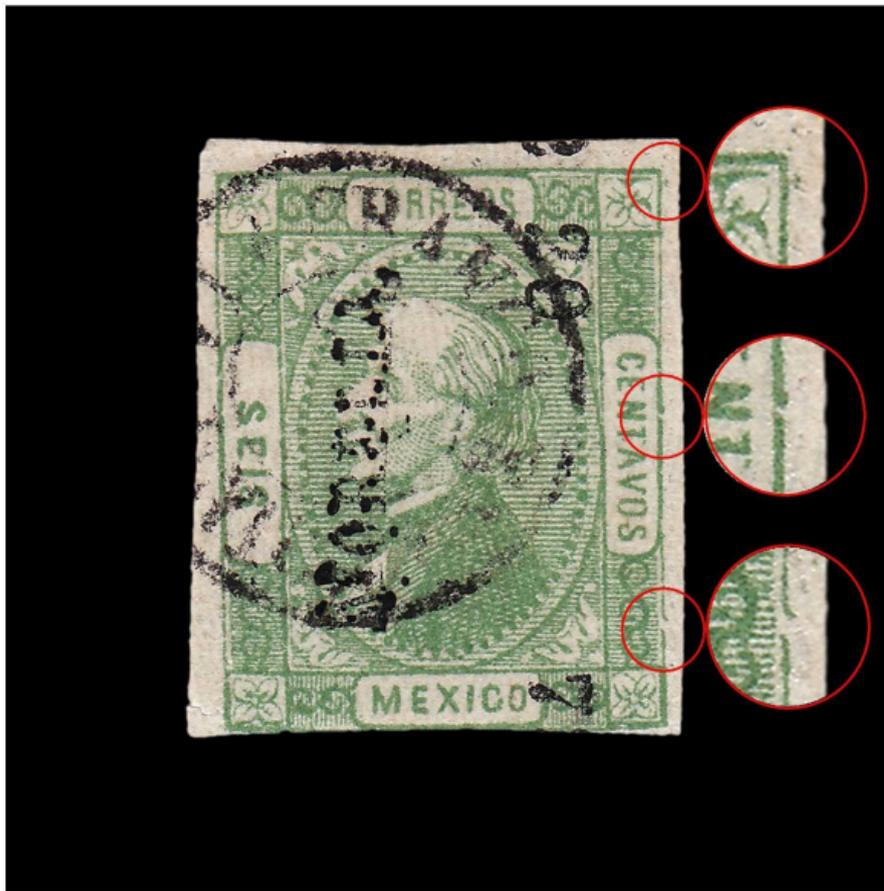
6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 1



There is a dot on the down stroke of T in CENTAVOS.

There is a mark on the inner frame line just above and to the right of the E in SEIS.

The outer frame line below the SEIS panel is weak.



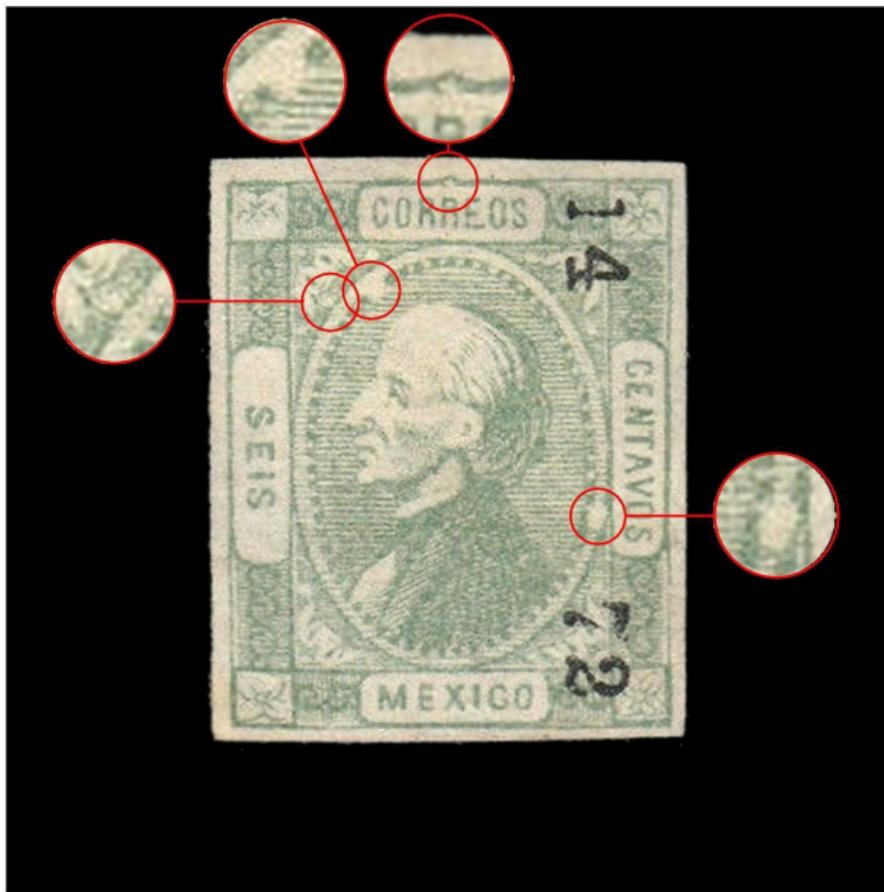
Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 2

There is a spot of color just down from the N.E. corner at 2 o'clock on the corner square.

The outer frame line to the right of the N in CENTAVOS is broken.

The outer frame line below the CENTAVOS panel half way down to the corner square is broken and bent outward.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 3

The upper frameline has a bubble or break above the second R of CORREOS.

There is a small white spot, or extra pearl, between the flower in the N.W. and the pearled oval at about 10 o'clock.

There are two white spots in the pearled oval, at 11 and 4 o'clock, either or both of which are retouched in later settings.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 4



There is a thickening and bend in the frame line outside T of CENTAVOS.

The V and 0 of CENTAVOS are joined at top.

The S.W. corner square has a spot on its frame at about 4 o'clock.

The line below I of MEXICO is damaged.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 5

The N.W. corner square has a white spot at 6 o'clock.

There is a spot of color on the curved line above and to the left of the C in CENTAVOS near the inner frame line.

The S.E. corner is split.



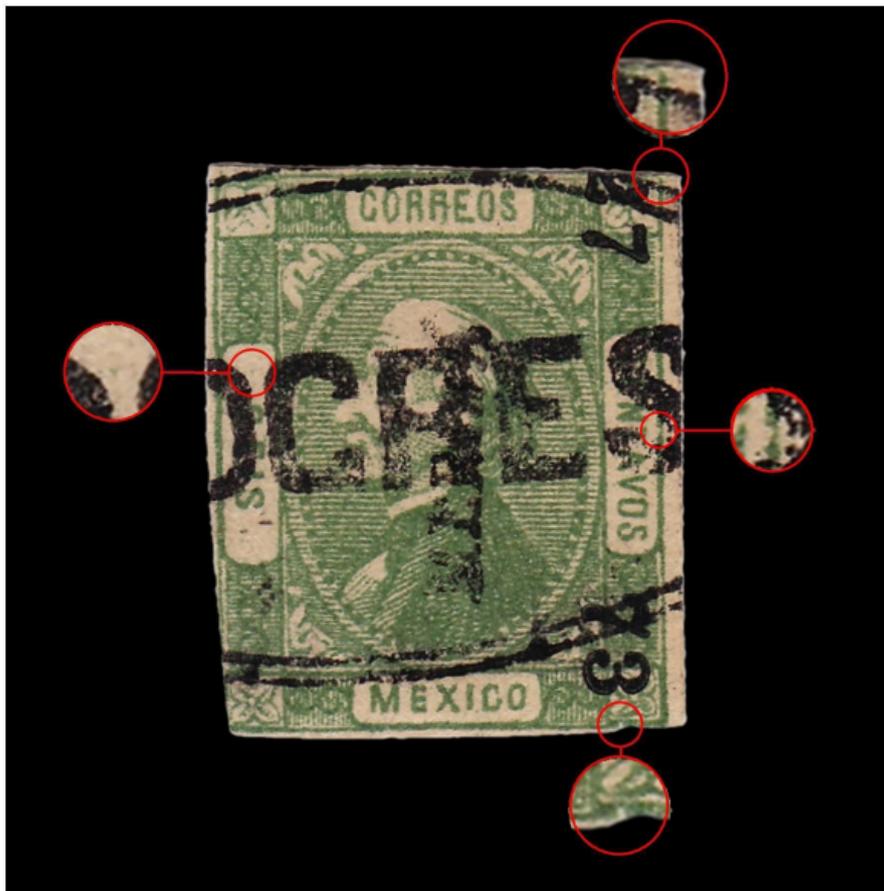
Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 6



There is a spot of color on the outside line of the S.E. corner square at 4 o'clock.

There are two colored dots that may appear as a dash to the bottom right of the O in MEXICO.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 7

The N.E. corner is broken.

There is a spot of color above the S in SEIS.

There is a cut in the outer frame line to the right of the T in CENTAVOS.

The S.E. corner square is broken at 7 o'clock.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 8



Hidalgo's shirt appears to be unshaded.

The S.E. corner square has a break at about 3 o'clock.

The S.E. Corner is split or frayed.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

6 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 9



There is a white break in the pearly oval above the M of MEXICO.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 1



The outer line under the left of the M in MEXICO shows a spot of color.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 2

There is a dot over the middle of the N.W. corner ornament.

There is a dot on the inner line above and to the left of D in DOCE.

The N of CENTAVOS is broken at the top.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 3



The E in Doce is broken or rounded off at the lower corner.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 4

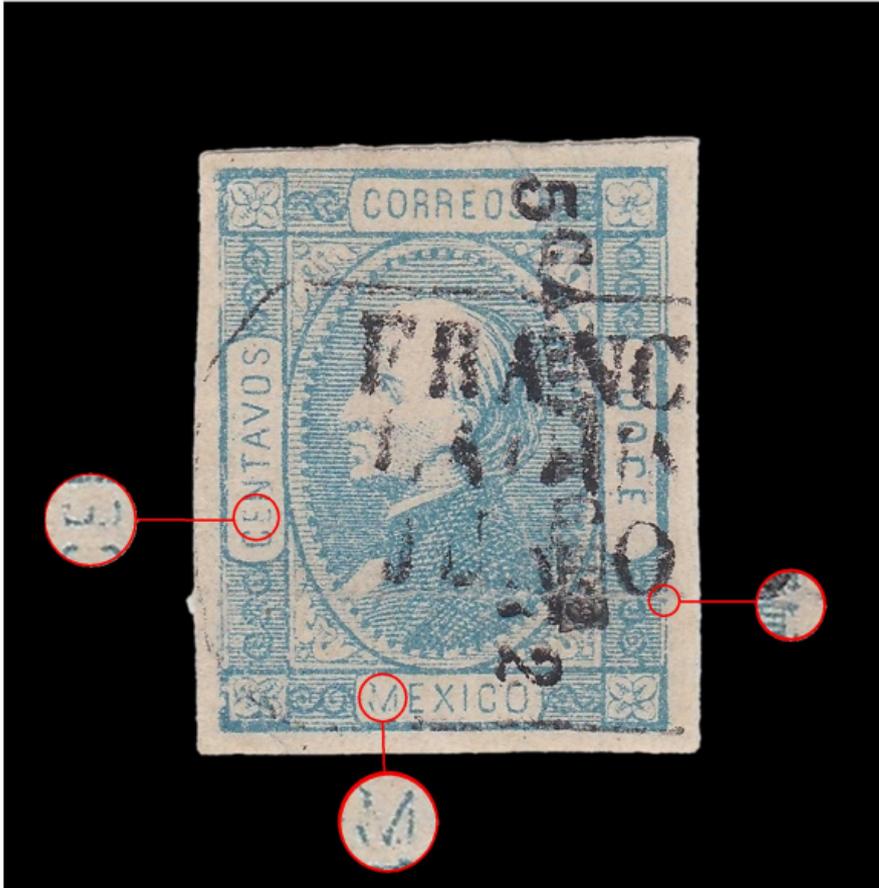


There is break in the vertical line of the N.W. triangle by the left of the lowest petal.

There is a dot on the vertical line to the right of the O in CENTAVOS.

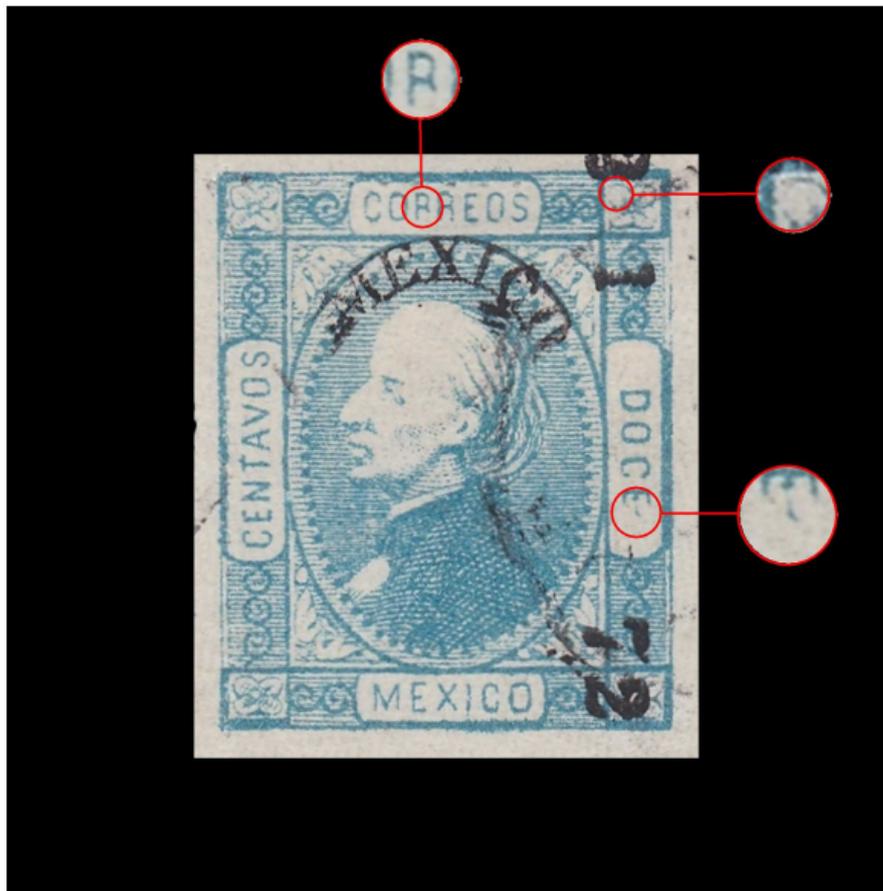
Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 1



The E of CENTAVOS and M of the MEXICO are broken and appear incomplete.

There is a spot of color on the outer frame line between the DOCE panel and the corner square.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 2

The last stroke of the first R of CORREOS is partially missing and the R resembles a P.

The upper left petal of the N.E. flower is not fully outlined.

There is a dash of color after the E of DOCE.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 3



There is a break in the frame line of the S.E. corner square at 6 o'clock.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 4



The outer frame line on the right side is weak both above and below the DOCE panel.

There is a small break at the bottom of the D in DOCE.

There is a small break in the left side of the O in MEXICO.

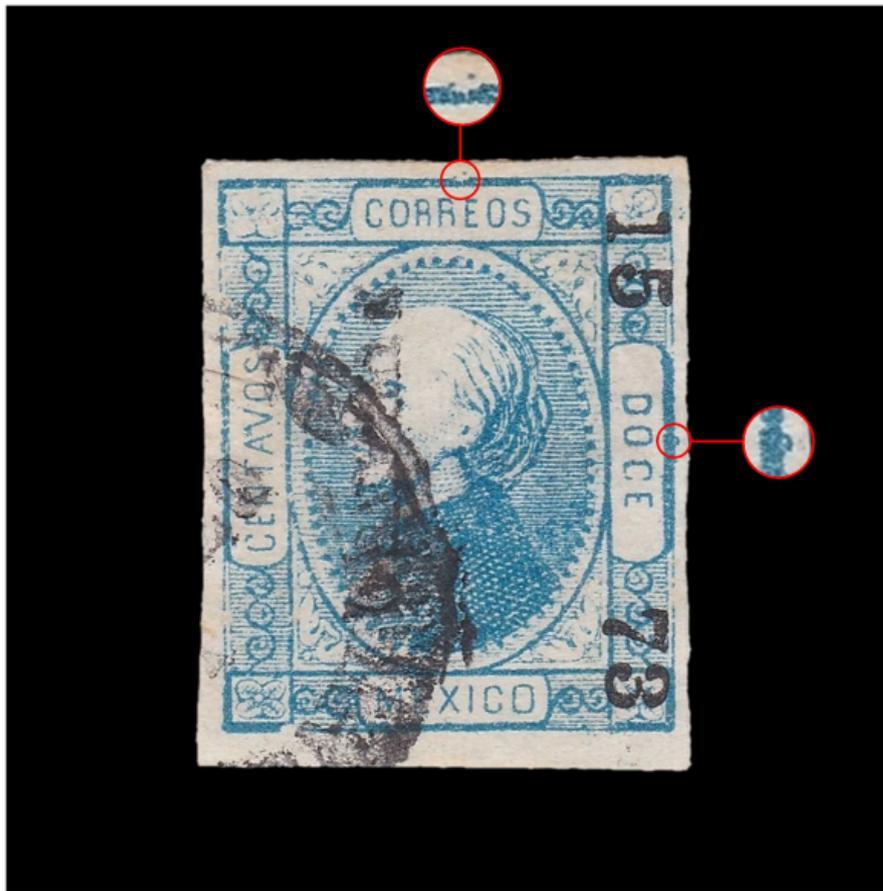
Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 5



The outer oval portrait line is broken or split where it touches the inside of the DOCE panel just above and to the left of the D in DOCE.

The curved panel line to the left of MEXICO is cut slightly above its middle.



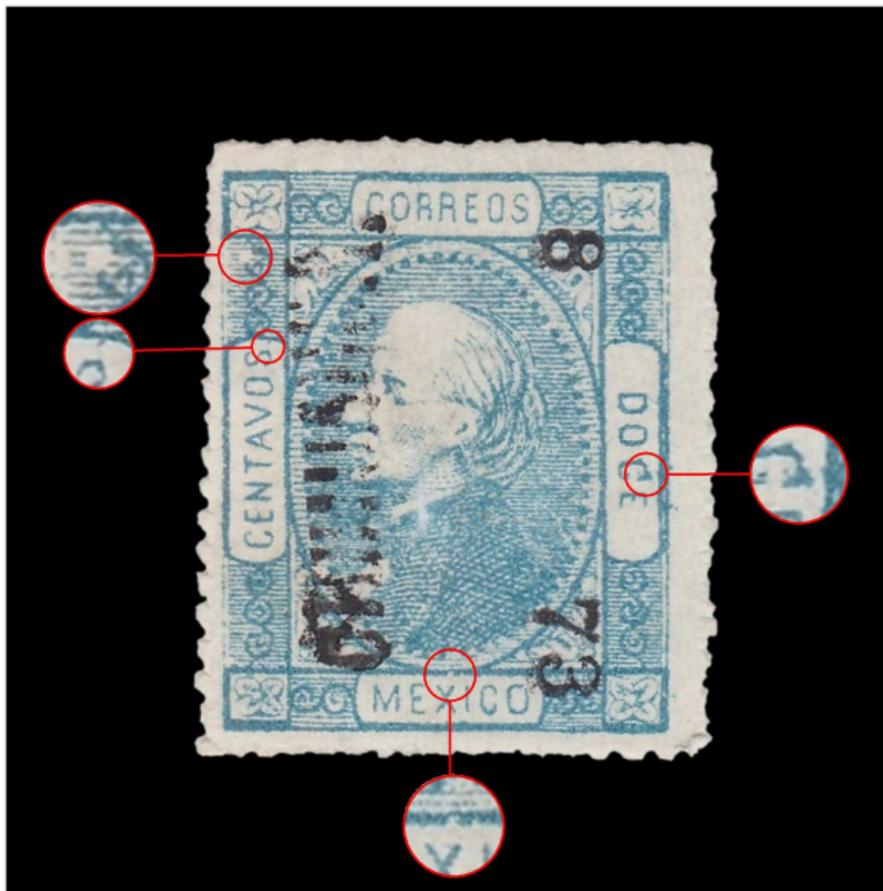
Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 6

There is a flaw in the outer frame line above RE of CORREOS.

The outer frame line above the DOCE panel is weak.

There is a spot of color on the outer frame line to the right of the O in DOCE.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 7

There is a white flaw on the upper circle just below the N.W. corner square.

There is a dash of color at the knee of the S in CENTAVOS on the curved panel line.

The C in DOCE has a large serif on its head.

There is a flaw in the inner frame line above the X of Mexico.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 8

There is a break in the E of CORREOS,
just below the middle.

The upper left arm of the X of Mexico is missing.

There is a flaw in the outer frame line just to the
right of the MEXICO panel.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 9

There is a spur on outer frame line above the S of CORREOS.

There is a white spot that breaks the frame line at the upper left corner the N.E. corner square.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

12 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 10



There is a spot of color between the D and O in DOCE.

There is a flaw on the shirt that resembles a button.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 1

There is an indentation in the outer frame line over the first R in CORREOS.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 2



There is a spot of color on the frame of the S.E corner square at 11 o'clock.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 3



The C in MEXICO resembles a G due to a dot on its lower right outside curve.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 4



There is a small dot on the upper petal of the flower in the S.E. triangle.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 1

The bottom curved line of the CENTAVOS panel is damaged. In early printings the line appears doubled and broken. A retouch in later printings removed the extra line.

There is a dot on the outer frame between the N and C in VEINTICINCO

There is a small gap in the lower right outer frame line; it doesn't quite touch the VENTICINCO panel.

The lowest stroke of the E in MEXICO is curved in the center.





Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 2

There is a short down stroke from the inner ornamental circle to the left of CORREOS.

There is a small spot of color in the second O of CORREOS.

The outer frame is weak, or broken, over the A in CENTAVOS.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 3



There is a dot on the outer frame over the second I of VEINTICINCO.

The second N of VEINTICINCO is defective but not in all printings. It was retouched in late 1873.

The oval line left of CO in VEINTICINCO is broken.

The upper part of the C in MEXICO is broken.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 4

There is a small dot on the curved line at the upper right side of the CORREOS panel.

There is a large dot on the oval frame at 11 o'clock.

There is a thin line or spike from the outer frame toward the left arm of the V in CENTAVOS.

There is a small notch at the bottom left of the first leg of the M in MEXICO



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 5

The extreme upper right corner is flawed or broken.

There is a dot in the middle of the C in CORREOS.

There is a mark on the outer frame to the right of the O of VEINTICINCO.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 6



The left frame line is broken to the left of the T of CENTAVOS.

The inner frame line does not join the oval over the C of MEXICO

There is a break in the frame of the S.E corner square at about 11 o'clock.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 7

The outer frame line over the E in CORREOS is notched or broken.

The outer frame line is cut under the N.W. corner square.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 8



There is a spot of color on the inner frame line to the right of the V in CENTAVOS.

The oval portrait frame is broken to the right of the C in CENTAVOS.

There is a thin diagonal line at the left of the M in Mexico that runs from the middle of the curved panel line toward the lower left of the M.

The lower right leg of the X in MEXICO is broken or jagged.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

25 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 9

The left frame line of the N.W. corner square is broken at 10 o'clock.

The second leg of the A in CENTAVOS is broken.

The second N in VEINTICINCO is broken twice and resembles an M.

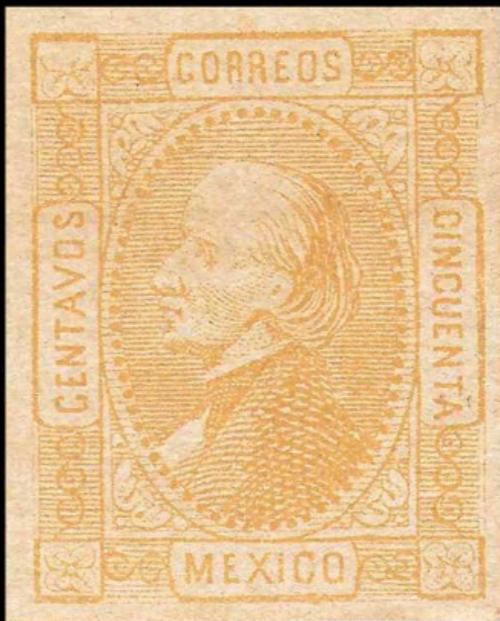


Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 1



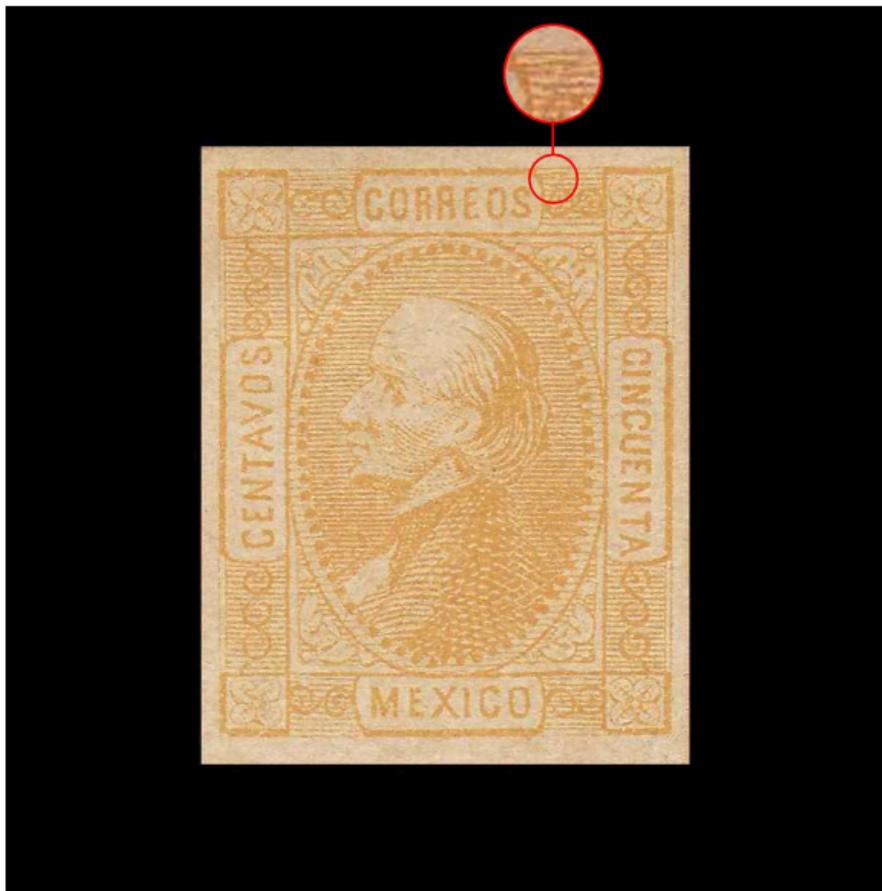
The outer frame line above the CENTAVOS panel is very weak and fragmented or completely missing.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 2

There is no discoverable mark;
the transfer type is determined by elimination.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 3

The three top lines, below the outer frame line, to the right of the CORREOS panel are slightly thickened and somewhat wavy at the beginning.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 3

The three top lines, below the outer frame line, to the right of the CORREOS panel are slightly thickened and somewhat wavy at the beginning.

Generally the transfer types of the blue error stamps are exactly the same as those of the normal 50 Centavos yellow stamps.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 4



The lower part of the second C in Cincuenta is broken.

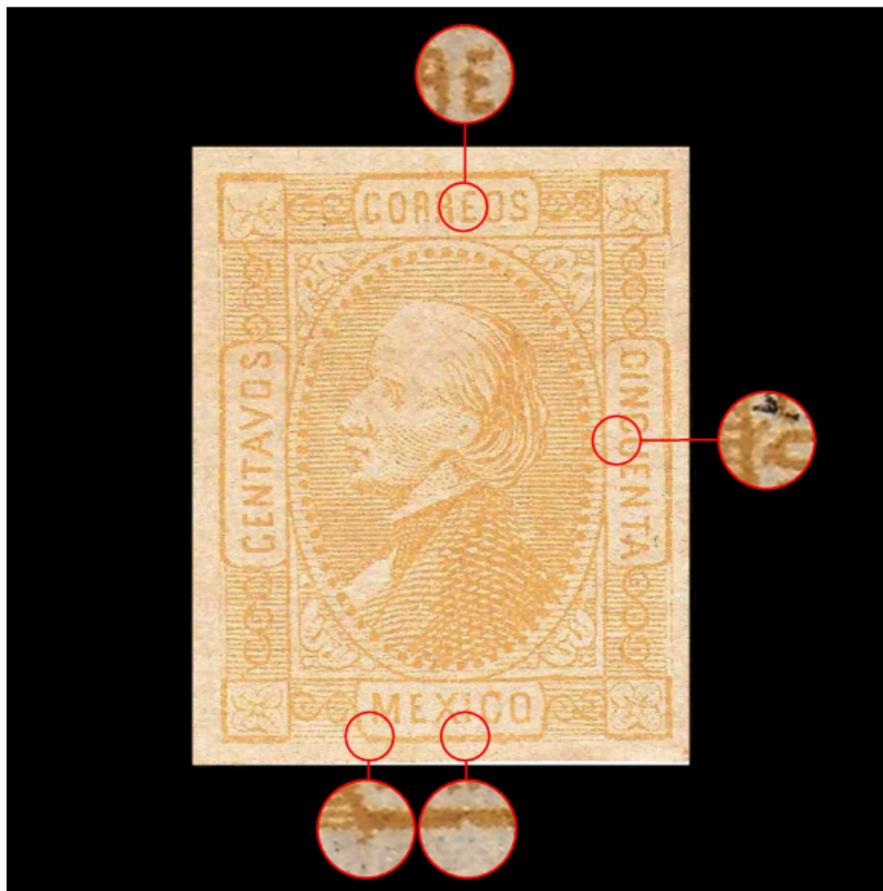


Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 1

The lower tip of the C of CORREOS is broken or bent inward.

There is a nick in the outer frame line to the right of the first N of CINCUENTA.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 2

There is a dot on the vertical stroke of the E of CORREOS above and to the left of the center stroke.

There is a dot to the left of CU of CINCUENTA and a second dot on the base of the U.

There is a spur on the lower left corner of the MEXICO panel frame line below first stroke of the M.

There is a nick in line below the I of MEXICO.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 2

There is a dot on the vertical stroke of the E of CORREOS above and to the left of the center stroke.

[This dot is very faint on this blue error example. Generally the transfer types of the blue error stamps are exactly the same as those of the normal 50 Centavos yellow stamps.]

There is a dot to the left of CU of CINCUENTA and a second dot on the base of the U.

There is a spur on the lower left corner of the MEXICO panel frame line below first stroke of the M.

There is a nick in line below the I of MEXICO.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 3



There is a break in the outer frame line to the right of the second C of CINCUENTA.

There are two dots in the inner frame just below the lower left end of the CINCUENTA panel.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 4

There is a break in inner frame line where it should touch the oval under the OR of CORREOS.

There is a small white flaw on the lower left side of the bottom circle in the lower left side panel above the S.W. corner square.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 5

There is a spur on the lower right corner of the N.E. corner square.

There is an extra line extending from the top right circle at about 2 o'clock.

There is a break in the inner frameline to the left of the C of CINCUENTA

There is a nick in outer frame line of the S.E. corner square at about 4 o'clock.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 6



There is a dot just above the base of the first stroke of second N of CINCUENTA.

There is a dot on the inside of the lower frame line below the lower left tip of the X in MEXICO.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

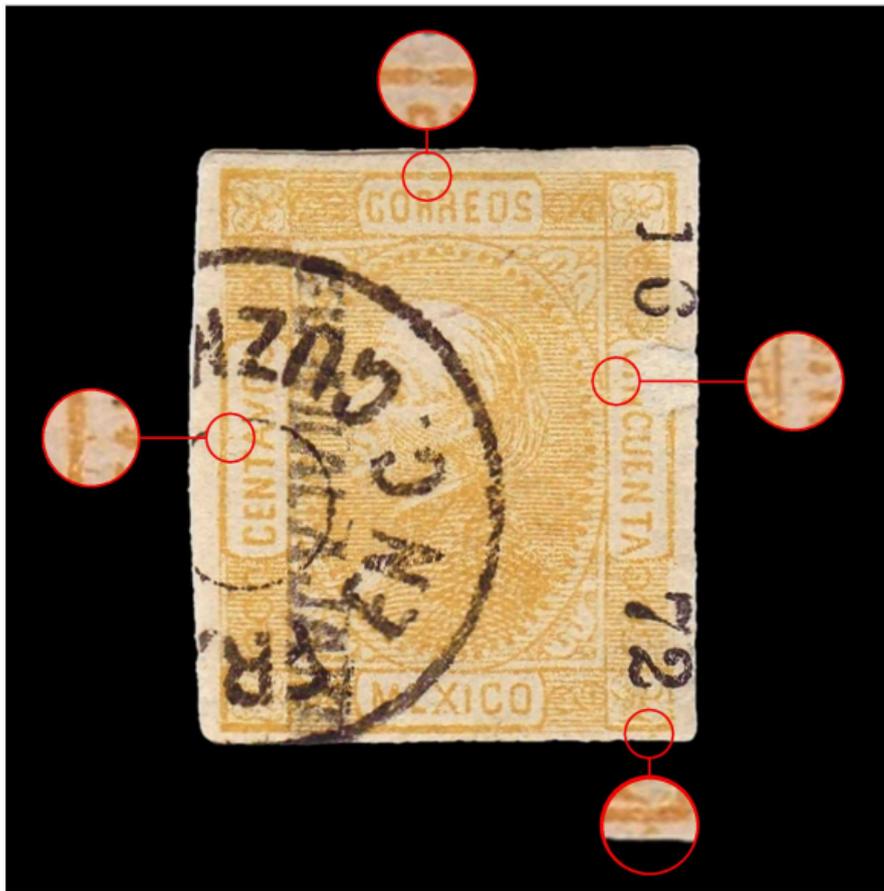
50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 7



There is a break in the oval frame to the left of the I of CINCUENTA.

There is a lump on the frame line to the right of the U of CINCUENTA.

There is a dot inside the U of CINCUENTA.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 8

There is a small flaw on the frame line over the first R of CORREOS.

There is a faint dot to the left of the IN of CINCUENTA.

There is a dot to the left of the A of CENTAVOS very close to the frame line.

There are two small dots just beneath the S.E. corner square.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

50 Centavos 1872 profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 9

There is a break in frame line to the right of the first N of CINCuenta.

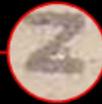
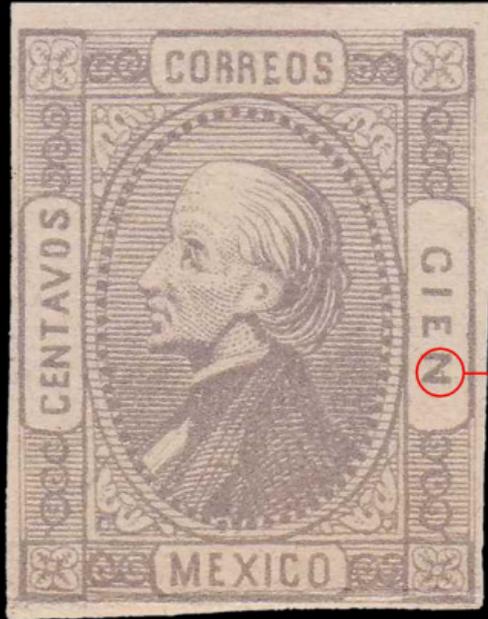
There is a dot between the U and E of CINCuenta.

There is a white spot on the frame of S.E. corner square at 8 o'clock.

There is a break in the lower frame line near the lower right corner of the Mexico panel.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

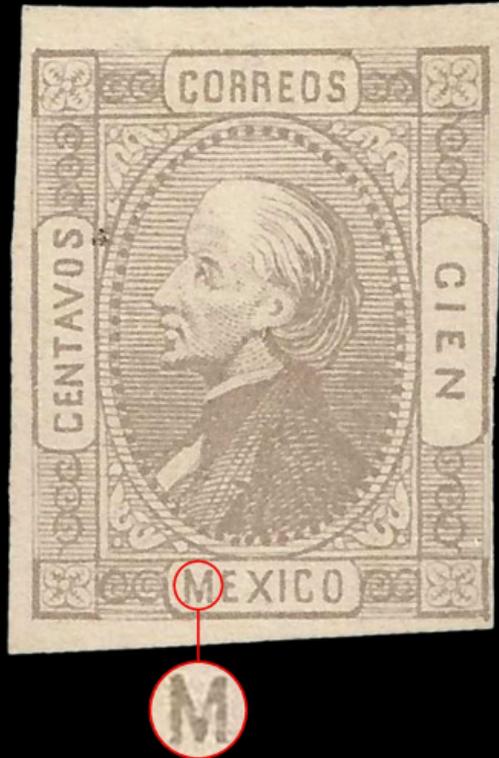
100 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 1



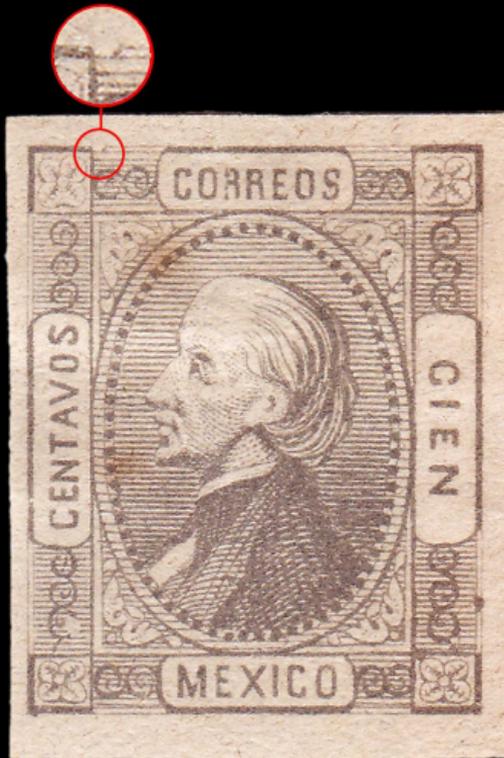
There is a small dot between the second and third strokes of the N in CIEN.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 2



The M in MEXICO is weak;
There is a small flaw at the base of the first
stroke of the M in MEXICO.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 3

The upper frame line has a small break just to the right of the N.W. corner square.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos St Louis Forgery Transfer Type 4



There is a dot of color, usually with a white center, on the S.E. corner square at 7 o'clock.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 1

There is a small break in lower right end of the CORREOS panel near the knee of the S.

There is a dot on bottom of the I of MEXICO



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 2

There is a notch in the outside frame at the extreme N.W corner.

There is a break in, or a white spot on, the inner frame line just before it joins the CENTAVOS panel.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 3

There is a dot above the left side of the C of CORREOS.

There is a small break in the inner frame line beneath the CENTAVOS just to the right of the middle circle.

There is a dot on the extreme S.W. corner.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 4



There is a dot left of the N of CIEN near the inside frame line.

There is a break in the outer frame line to the left of the E of CENTAVOS.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 5

There is a dot on the bottom of the first O of CORREOS

There is a break in the inner frame line below the CENTAVOS panel to the right of the top of the middle circle.





Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 6

There is a spur on the frame line above first R of CORREOS pointing toward the right side of the R.

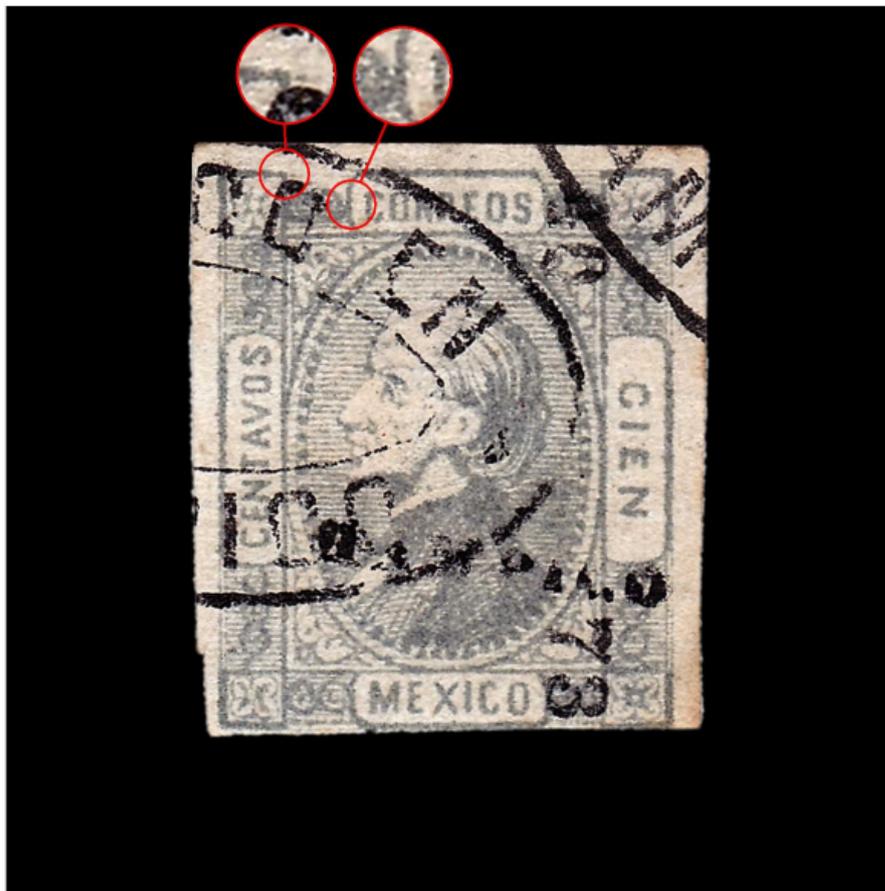
There is a dot just to the right of the extreme S.W. corner.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 7



There are two dots above the C of CIEN very close to the top of the CIEN panel.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 8

The N.W. corner square is thin at the upper right and the frame line to the CORREOS panel is thin and broken.

There is a nick in the center of the left curved end of the CORREOS panel.



Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 9

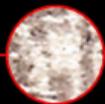
There is a break in the middle of the curved line to the left of **CORREOS**.

There is a break in the frame of the N.E. corner square a little past 3 o'clock.

There is a spur at the lower end of the **CENTAVOS** panel that points at the top of the **C**.

Mexico 1872 Issue Transfer Types

100 Centavos profile Hidalgo Transfer Type 10



There is a white spot on the oval frame line just above and to the left the C of CIEN.