

GAS BAR VARIETIES

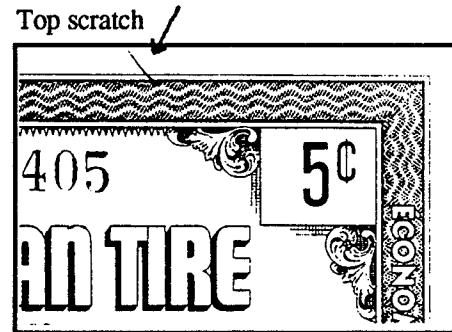
by Don Bradt

SOME KNOWN AND ACCEPTED GAS BAR VARIETIES

Don Robb and I have pooled our information on three of the accepted gas bar varieties. They are: top scratch, bottom scratch and hook. The scratch varieties are described in the last two editions of the Bilodeau Guide, which shows that top and bottom scratch varieties actually fit together. We have found that the varieties only occur in certain serial number ranges:

Top Scratch

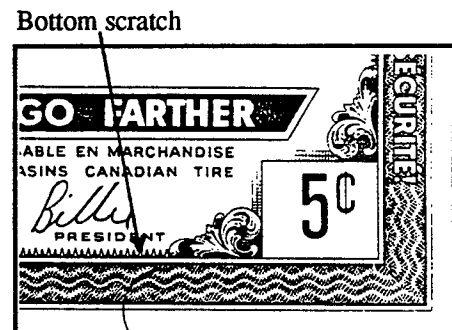
CTC 8-A4	5 cents	S084nnnn, S094nnnn, S104nnnn S124nnnn, S134nnnn, S144nnnn.
CTC 7-E2/V	25 cents.	V034nnnn, V049nnnn.
CTC 7-E1/U	25 cents.	U065nnnn, U075nnnn, U079nnnn U085nnnn.



Note that all the known top scratch 5 cent coupons have an "inverted S" prefix. It should also be pointed out that there are not 10,000 coupons with a scratch in each of the above serial number ranges. You will find many coupons in the nnnn range that do not have the scratch. I have made no attempt to find out how many coupons in each range actually have a scratch. Has anyone found a top scratch with serial number S114nnnn? There should be one more serial number range since there are seven known ranges for the bottom scratch and they should occur in pairs.

Bottom Scratch

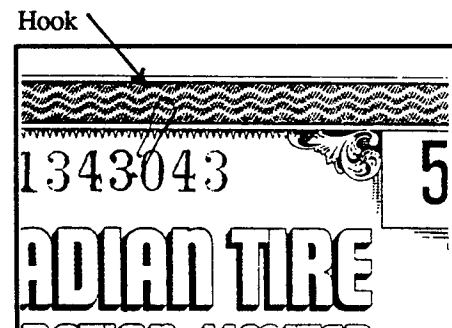
CTC 8-A5	5 cents	S093nnnn, S103nnnn, S113nnnn S123nnnn, S133nnnn, S143nnnn S149nnnn.
All the 5 cent bottom scratch varieties have a small serif S prefix.		
CTC 7-E3/V	25 cents	V033nnnn, V043nnnn.
CTC 7-E2/U	25 cents	U053nnnn, U055nnnn, U074nnnn U084nnnn, U087nnnn.



Note that there is one more known range for the U bottom scratch than for the top scratch. Anyone have anything different here? The 25 cent V prefix is the rarest of the three scratch types.

Hook

CTC 8-A6	5 cents	S104nnnn, S114nnnn, S124nnnn S134nnnn.
All the 5 cent hook varieties have a large serif S prefix.		
CTC 7-E7/V	25 cents	V049nnnn.
CTC 7-E3/U	25 cents	U053nnnn, U055nnnn, U075nnnn U085nnnn.



The 25 cent V prefix hook is the rarest of all the varieties described here. I know of only two that exist. Note that there is some overlap in the serial numbers. V049nnnn, for example, contains both hook and top scratch varieties. It appears that these defects in the printing plates appeared near the end of V prefix 25 cent coupons, and continued through the 5 cent coupons and then the U prefix 25 cent coupons.