

STRETCHED SERIAL NUMBERS

by Don Bradt (CM0000150)

Coupons with stretched serial numbers have been mentioned in three previous articles:

- Vol. 2, No. 1 Feb 1992 in article by Jerome Fourre,
- Vol. 3, No. 1 Feb 1993 in article by Jerome Fourre,
- Vol. 3, No. 3 Jul 1993 in article by Ghislaine Memme.

This article is an attempt to consolidate the information from the above articles pertaining to stretched serial number coupons and to add a couple of new observations. Coupons with stretched serial numbers are hereafter called stretched coupons in this article and Bilodeau catalogue numbers are used throughout. CTC S9 = Charlton 2nd edition CT-26-1 and CTC S13 = Charlton CT-26-2?

Stretched coupons are found in both the CTC S9 series (Figure 1) and the CTC S13 series (Figure 2). In both figures, the middle two coupons are stretched. If you take a normal S9 or S13 coupon (also S7 and S8) and compare the serial number spacing to text printed at 10 characters per inch you will see that the digits line up exactly. If you measure the space taken by the seven digits you get about 17.7

millimeters. The space used by the seven digits on a stretched coupon is 19.5 millimeters. It is interesting to note that this "stretched" serial number spacing is the normal spacing for S14 through S17 coupons and the S15 "compressed" serial numbers are the normal spacing of the pre-S14 series.

Another interesting point is that some of the prefix letters are also different sizes. This is easiest to see on the 10¢ coupons. The stretched coupons have a significantly fatter "B" in the prefix. See Figure 1.

All "accepted"(* in prefix) replacement coupons in the S9 and S13 series are also stretched coupons. See Figure 3.

The S9 series has two major stretched serial number ranges in the 10¢ coupons (BX5260280 - BX5434973 & BX8005086 - BX8104539) and one in each of the other denominations. These coupons are not too difficult to find, except for the \$1.00 denomination where there were less than 40,000 printed. There are also three small ranges in the 10¢ coupons with



Fig.1



Fig.2

STRETCHED SERIAL NUMBERS cont'd

serial numbers
B X 5 0 0 n n n n ,
BX962nnnn and
BX969nnnn. Using
the numbers from the
combined high/low
list at the end of this
article you can
calculate just how
scarce these coupons
are. All "nnnn" are
not stretched cou-
pons, i.e. there are
not 10,000 coupons
in these ranges. I
have not found any
S9 stretched coupons
for the other denominations outside the one range.



The S13 series (single letter prefix followed by an eight digit serial number) is more interesting. Each denomination has a single range of stretched coupons at the end of the series plus a number of coupons that are scattered singly or in small lumps throughout the serial number range of the S13 series. Possibly the Canadian Banknote Company (CBN) had already printed the new look S15 series but CTC was not quite ready to switch to them. They needed a few new coupons to tide them over and CBN printed these as a rush order.

The random S13 stretched coupons are even more interesting. Jerome Fourre spoke to a CBN public relations person at the CNA 92 show in Montreal and she said that the stretched coupons were replacement coupons. This conforms to everything I have discovered about them. I have even found three consecutive coupons (Figure 4) where the middle coupon is stretched and the other two are normal. In addition, the middle coupon is a slightly different size and the margins are different.

The high/low list at the end of this article is a combined list comprised of the best coupons from the following people: • D - Don Bradt • G - Gary Doran • J - Jerome Fourre • R - Roger Fox These code letters follow each coupon serial number in the list.

I've been ill for the last six years with CFS (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). In fact that was how I got into collecting CTC coupons. I needed a relatively inexpensive hobby that I could do at home that was physically undemanding and had no time constraints. So I was wrong about "inexpensive"... two out of three isn't bad. In addition to the well known symptoms of CFS, there are a few that are not so well known or understood. One of these is having trouble working with numbers. There are days when I can't sort ten coupons into ascending order of serial number! Anyway, I apologize in advance for any errors, omissions, inconsistencies, etc. in the following table. For me it was a real challenge and I spent several months producing it in small increments.



Combined High/Low STRETCHED List

Bil. #	Low Serial	High Serial	Description	Bil. #	Low Serial	High Serial	Description
CTC S9-A		5 cents		C09823138-D	C09832363-D		Normal
AY2342736-D	AY7536692-D	Normal		C09832522-D	C09832851-D		Stretched
AY7540490-J	AY7639892-D	Stretched		C09833077-D	C10989899-G		Normal
AY7640281-J	AY9999784-J	Normal		CTC S14-B			
CTC S13-A				0010990266-D	0011601754-D		
A00745823-J	A01676786-J	Normal		CTC S13-C			
A01799591-G	A01799997-J	Stretched		C11602712-G	C12701505-G		Normal
A01832541-J	A05097066-D	Normal		C12702397-G	C12789968-G		Stretched
A05098012-D	A05099483-G	Stretched		CTC S9-D	50 cents		
A05100134-D	A05239913-D	Normal		DZ7325845-J	DZ8574810-D		Normal
A05240877-G	A05315884-R	Stretched		DZ8575052-J	DZ8704890-D		Stretched
CTC S9-B	10 cents			(but DZ8582283-G is normal)			
BX0005231-R	BX5004772-D	Normal		DZ8705272-G	DZ9999920-J		Normal
BX5005773-J	BX5009417-J	Stretched		CTC S13-D			
BX5011865-J	BX5259503-G	Normal		D06112046-R	D06124036-D		Normal
BX5260280-G	BX5434973-D	Stretched		D06129576-D	one only		Stretched
BX5436036-G	BX8004863-G	Normal		D06132632-D	D06178790-R		Normal
BX8005086-G	BX8104539-D	Stretched		D06228935-G	D06229131-R		Stretched
(but BX88095402-G is normal)				D06229806-R	D06517802-D		Normal
BX8105181-J	BX9627892-D	Normal		D06521936-D	one only		Stretched
BX9628223-D	BX9629387-D	Stretched		D06522741-D	D06551829-D		Normal
BX9630054-D	BX9697965-G	Normal		D06551830-D	one only		Stretched
BX9698116-G	BX9699931-G	Stretched		D06552532-D	D07176858-G		Normal
BX9700147-R	BX9999856-D	Normal		D07177000-G	one only		Stretched
CTC S13-B				D07177060-G	D07958254-D		Normal
B05784516-D	B06148708-J	Normal		D07959338-G	D07959574-D		Stretched
B06149233-J	one only	Stretched		D07961199-D	D08611735-G		Normal
B06149464-J	B06877795-J	Normal		D08614790-G	D08687811-D		Stretched
B06877801-J	B06877815-J	Stretched		CTC S9-E	\$1.00		
B06877876-J	B06878650-J	Normal		EZ6410357-J	EZ7709653-J		Normal
B06878778-J	B06878813-R	Stretched		EZ7711485-G	EZ7746540-J		Stretched
B06878920-J	B09731209-D	Normal		EZ7748816-G	EZ9999871-D		Normal
CTC S14-A				CTC S13-E			
0009733463-D	0010219923-G	Normal		E06891033-J			Normal
CTC S13-B				E06969812-G	one only		Stretched
B10222405-G	B12819060-G	Normal		E06970931-G	E07097978-G		Normal
B12821485-D	B12882293-G	Stretched		E07099372-G	E07099955-J		Stretched
CTC S9-C	25 cents			E07100973-G	E07339721-J		Normal
CY0720098-D	CY3219864-G	Normal		E07438169-J	E07580919-J		Stretched
CY3221016-G	CY3519801-D	Stretched		E07630502-J	E07868063-D		Normal
CY3520145-G	CY7669556-D	Normal		E07868169-D	one only		Stretched
CTC S13-C				E07869508-D	E07927777-G		Normal
C08542089-D	C09772131-G	Normal		E07928276-G	one only		Stretched
C09772837-G	C09772882-D	Stretched		E07944966-D	one only		Normal
C09773043-G	C09782326-G	Normal		E07948337-D	one only		Stretched
C09782677-G	C09782884-G	Stretched		E07956177-D	E07968250-J		Normal
C09783530-G	C09792119-G	Normal		E07968276-J	one only		Stretched
C09792523-G	C09792674-R	Stretched		E07968292-J	E08268346-J		Normal
C09795640-R	C09802410-D	Normal		E08309469-J	one only		Stretched
C09802504-J	C09812983-R	Stretched		E08388797-J	E08641358-G		Normal
(>4, but C09804188-D is normal).				E08642276-G	E08842907-D		Stretched
C09815458-R	C09822442-D	Normal		E08889586-J	one only		Normal
C09822637-D	C09822876-D	Stretched		E08891027-G	E08926884-G		Stretched