

Post and Go

– a simple guide, and stock summary

Norvic Philatelics January 2018

In the beginning....

The first Post and Go machines, manufactured by **Wincor-Nixdorf** (WN) were installed in The Galleries branch in Bristol coming into use on 8 October 2008. The size of all text on WN machines was changed to Type II gradually from 8 September 2010 to accommodate pictorial stamps.

Developments

By March 2015 all WN machines had been decommissioned following the gradual roll-out of machines manufactured by **NCR** the first of which was operative in Harpenden branch on 28 February 2014.

In parallel with the installations in Post Office branches, Royal Mail took Post and Go machines to various other locations, starting with **Hytech** Postal Vision or version 1 machines at Spring Stampex 2011. Hytech Next Generation (or version 2) machines with Type III text, also known as Royal Mail Series I, were first used at Autumn Stampex 2012, and then at a Christmas Pop-up Post Office in Camden Market in November.

Royal Mail series II machines were first used at Spring Stampex 2014.

The line of text at the foot of Post and Go stamps is known as the Datastring. For interpretation see Stuart Leigh's Checklist Introduction <http://tinyurl.com/yag3nqk5>

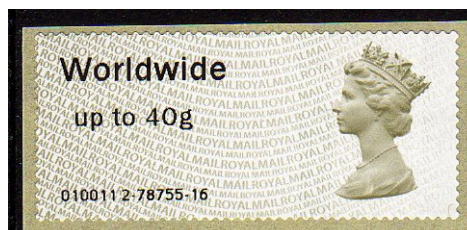
Also found in Stuart's introduction are:

- Photographs of all types of machine, including screen shots;
- font types (see next page);
- locations of Year Codes on stamp stock;
- locations of PO branches and dates of machine change;
- history of non-PO branch machines;
- colour changes.

Original type: Wincor-Nixdorf - Type I



Revised for pictorial stamps WN – Type II



New machines: NCR - Type IIA



Hytech Next Generation – Type III



Catalogues and Guides

The Stanley Gibbons' *Great Britain Concise Catalogue*, and John Deering in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, use the Types and distinguishing features shown below (SG). Stuart Leigh's excellent Check Lists do the same, but with more sub-types listed (SL). However, most types can also be identified by the characteristics in column 4 – the machine number in the Datastring.

This list excludes stamps from Presentation packs and Official FDCs (Types 1a, 2b)

Manufacturer & Type	SG type	SL type	Distinguishing features	Simple identification
Wincor-Nixdorf	I	1	Large bold text four part code with hyphens	M/cs numbered from 1 Large bold text
Wincor-Nixdorf	II	2	Smaller text; class 4mm apart four part datastring with hyphens	M/cs numbered from 1 Smaller text
		2a	As above but with new value, Euro 20g/World 10g in much larger type	
NCR	IIA	6	Similar but new typeface and 3.3mm apart. No hyphens in datastring.	M/cs numbered from 67
Hytech PV	<i>See below*</i>	3/4	First element of datastring 002011 or 002012	M/c 21-24 and 91-94
Hytech NG (v2)	III	4a	Smaller class, 2.6mm apart 4-part datastring with hyphens	M/c numbers 1 letter & 1 number (eg A4, B2)
Royal Mail II		5	Similar, class 2.4mm apart 4-part datastring with hyphens	M/c numbers 1 letter & 3 numbers (eg A004, B001)
Royal Mail II	IIIA (SG)	7	Similar, top line markedly smaller, 2.7mm apart.	Same.

** In SG's notes, the Machin & DJ stamps are described as type II, but the font was actually different. For simple identification the added inscriptions are the key, except for the first use: M/c 21-22 (Spring Stampex 2011, but no added inscription), 91-94 (Arnold Machin at Autumn Stampex 2011), 21-24 (Diamond Jubilee at Spring Stampex 2012)*

Why do I need more than a basic set?

In 2008 the first machines produced just 5 'values'

1st class to 100g, 1st Large to 100g, Europe to 20g, Worldwide to 10g and Worldwide to 20g

and these were produced in strips of 5. When the pictorial (Birds) stamps were issued in 2010 there were six designs, probably to facilitate fixing the stamps to first day covers in a 3 x 2 block. SG listed these by value rather than design which suggested to some that they should collect (for example) the Blue Tit in all five values, and so on for all the other designs. This is costly! An alternative was to have a collectors' set of 5 values (one for each of 5 designs) and then have the additional design as a second 1st class stamp.

New values

From 2011 machines were upgraded to provide the new **Worldwide 40g** value in addition to the original five. Strips of 6 were available from machines at Autumn Stampex in September: these

dispensed Birds 3 with the 6th value being 1st class, while Birds 4 was produced with the new stamp as number 6. The Machin was also sold at Stampex with the Arnold Machin anniversary inscription. Although the change was announced as 'from August', the new value was first produced from a post office Wincor-Nixdorf on 13 October (Broadway SW1); machines still only produced strips of 5. Eventually a 'Collectors set' option was introduced in post office machines, and the six stamps were dispensed in two strips of 3. As well as the Machin stamp, Birds 2 and Birds 3 were still in use, and a few offices still had Birds 1. So it is possible, as the SG *Concise* indicates, to get the new value in those sets and many collectors did. SG records the issue date for the Machin as 13.10.11.

The first **NCR machine** was installed at Harpenden and was operational from 28 February 2014. This has a different font and datastring (machines numbered up from 67), and dispensed six-strips of Machins including the Worldwide 10g and 40g values. This opened up a new range for collectors.

2nd class stamps

Royal Mail sold packs and FDCs of 2nd class (and 2nd class Large) Machin head stamps printed in blue, and loose stamps from Hytech NG (RM Series I) machines at Stampex on 20 February 2013, but the operational introduction of these was delayed. The first operational use was also from Hytech NG machines in the Christmas Pop-Up Post Office, starting at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 20 November where stamps printed with both MA12 and MA13 codes were in use.

A number of instances have occurred where 2nd class stock was installed in the 1st class roll in Post Office machines (including some Wincor-Nixdorf machines which never sold 2nd class) and vice versa. In some cases this was unintentional, but in others it was because supplies of the correct rolls were exhausted or not supplied. This also happened with the Winter Greenery (2014) and Winter Fur & Feathers (2015) issues and will probably happen again!

2014 Tariff change – three new values.

At the spring 2014 Tariff change, international rates were changed from weight steps of 20gr to just three: 20g, 60g and 100g. Consequently from 31 March the Worldwide 10g stamp was dropped in favour of a **Europe 60g** stamp, and the Worldwide 40g was replaced by **Worldwide 60g** and these were available from both Wincor-Nixdorf and NCR machines, bringing the total number of values for the former to eight. Inevitably there were some pictorial stamps available.

By this time Spring Blooms, three Farm Animals and three Freshwater Life sets had been issued, as well as the Union Flag and Robin, in addition to the four Birds series, and most of these were available at a few or a single post office and these are all catalogued with the extra values.

Initially Royal Mail overlooked the fact that they had not published a rate for Worldwide 10g (& Postcards), and the 97p 'Europe up to 20g' stamp continued in use being also available for the other services. In due course Royal Mail had machines changes to show the service as '**Europe 20g World 10g**' on two lines. The RMII machines were changed first, on 28 April at the BPMA and therefore also for museums and subsequent exhibitions. NCR machines were upgraded on 5 June. We were told that there was no intention to change Wincor-Nixdorf machines as they were quickly being replaced, but they too were upgraded, on 20 October 2014. This provided an additional stamp value on pictorial designs excluding the Birds, although the single-design rolls of Robin stamps were still available.

2015 Tariff change – more new values.

The next rationalisation of international postal tariffs eliminated the 60gr weight steps, and the stamps for these were replaced by **Europe up to 100g** and **Worldwide up to 100g** stamps. By now all non-permanent designs up to and including Freshwater Life had been used for the earlier

changes, but the three British Flora sets of 2014 were still available in some offices and duly appeared with the new values. This brought the number of values available for the Machin head and some others to 11 first and 2 second class:

2nd class up to 100g, 2nd Large up to 100g.

1st class up to 100g, 1st Large up to 100g,

Europe up to 20g, Europe 20g/World 10g, Europe up to 60g, Europe up to 100g,

Worldwide up to 10g, Worldwide up to 20g, Worldwide up to 40g, Worldwide up to 60g,

Worldwide up to 100g

Collecting

What people collect is entirely a matter of personal preference. At one extreme enthusiasts try to find all the variants of every stamp, in all values. Many collect only the basic 1st and 2nd class values, while others prefer a simplified collection somewhere in between.

This is why we have, where we could, stocked single 1st class stamps rather than Collectors sets and single examples of the added values – E20/W10, E60, E100, W60, W100 – for pictorial sets which were originally issued with other values.

Our current stock.

As with Machin Security Stamps, when Post and Go (or Faststamps as they were called) were first produced, there was no catalogue listing. When Stanley Gibbons catalogue editors did compile a listing it was fairly straightforward, with one catalogue number assigned to each of the five original values. While we were waiting for Gibbons to produce the first entries, we set about our own numbering system, partly because we wanted to list the stamps logically in our stock. So those available from Post Offices and elsewhere with no additional inscriptions were allocated **FS numbers**.

The localised or commemorative inscriptions (variously and incorrectly described as either underprints or overprints by some) to stamps sold at Stampex and international exhibitions, are in the **FT series**.

Stamps issued from machines at the BPMA, Postal Museum, local stamp fairs and exhibitions, and military and other museums and attractions are listed in **FV series**. We stock very few of these.

Even within these parameters mistakes were made (Hong Kong International Exhibition stamps are mistakenly listed as FT09 and FT21 instead of in the FV series with those from Australia and PhilaKorea. For this reason, we have produced this list of current stock, identified where relevant by SG numbers and SG & SL types. All these and some FDCs are listed in our webshop (<http://tiny.cc/pandgo>), but the order they appear is governed by the software and isn't always as logical as we would like, so using the Norvic # shown in column 1 will take you to those stamps, while stocks last. We also have some Bureau Packs, Maximum Cards, and Birds covers signed by the artist.

After 2018 we will stock no more new Post and Go stamps, so the last ones to be added will be the Game of Thrones, Mail by Sea and Mail by Bike, and winter issues.

Norvic #	Stamp	values	M/c	Type	SG	Source
FS001L	Machin	1st	WN	I	FS1	Ludgate Circus
FS01a	Machin	1st	WN	II	FS1a	Norwich
FS01N.3s	Machin	1st/2nd	NCR	IIA		8 stamp set to 40g
FS01n.3-40	Machin	10/40g W	NCR	IIA		Leighton Buzzard
FS01u	Machin	1st	RMII	IIIA		Stampex
FS01.97	Machin	E20/W10	WN	II	FS3a (bold)	Farringdon
FS01n.3-97	Machin MA13	E20/W10	NCR	IIA	FS3c	Trowbridge
FS01.3	Machin MA13	1st	WN	II	FS1a	Ludgate Circus
FS01.3-97	Machin MA13	E20/W10	WN	II	FS3a (bold)	Kidderminster
FS01.3t1	Machin MA13	1st	RMII	IIIA		York stamp fair
FS01h.3	Machin MA13	1st	HYT	III		York stamp fair
FS01h.3	Machin MA13	1st	HYT	III		Stampex
FS01h.3s	Machin MA13	CS40	HYT	III		Stampex
FS01m	Machin	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA?		Abbey Wood
FS01m.3	Machin MA13	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA?		Abbey Wood
FS01u.3	Machin MA13	1st	RMII	IIIA?		Stampex
FS01N.4	Machin MA14	CS60	NCR	IIA	FS1c,2c,3c,3dc,5d,5fc	Norwich
FS01N.4a	Machin MA14	CS100	NCR	IIA	FS1c,2c,3c,3e,5d,5g	Norwich
FS01N.5	Machin MA15	CS100	NCR	IIA	FS1c,2c,3c,3e,5d,5g	Norwich
FS01.6	Machin MA16	CS100	NCR	IIA	FS1c,2c,3c,3e,5d,5g	Norwich
FS01P	Machin	1st	HYT	III	FS1b	Camden pop-up
FS02b	Birds 1	1 st				Bureau pack
FS04ac/an	Birds 3	1st	WN	II	FS16 x6	Norwich & Croydon
FS04b	Birds 3	1 st				Bureau pack
FS04z	Birds 3	1st	WN	II	FS16 x6	Walsall - pre-release
FS05	Birds 4	1st	WN	II	FS21 x6	Bath
FS05b	Birds 4	1 st				Bureau pack
FS06b	Sheep	1 st				Bureau pack
FS07h	Pigs	1st	HYT	III	(as FS33 x6)	Stampex
FS07b	Pigs	1 st				Bureau pack
FS07N	Pigs	1st	WN	II	FS33 x6	Norwich
FS07N6	Pigs	CS	WN	II	FS33-5/6-8	Norwich
FS07N36/c	Pigs	CS	WN	II	FS33-5/6-8	Norwich
FS08b	Cattle	1 st				Bureau pack
FS08h	Cattle	1st	HYT	III	(as FS45 x6)	Stampex
FS08n	Cattle	1st	WN	II	FS45 x6	Norwich
FS09b	Flag	1 st				Bureau pack reprint
FS09h	Flag	1st	HYT	III	(as FS39)	Stampex
FS09	Flag	1st	WN	II	FS39	Ludgate
FS09.3	Flag	1 st	WN	II	FS39	
FS09-60	Flag	CS60	WN	II	FS39,40-1/b/3/4b	Paignton
FS09-60p	Flag	60g pair	WN	II	FS41/4b	Truro
FS09t	Flag	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS39)	York stamp show
FS09u	Flag	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS39)	Stampex GB/JE m/c
FS09h.3	Flag MA13	CS40	RMII	IIIA	(as FS85)	Stampex GB/JE m/c
FS09h.3	Flag MA13	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS85)	Stampex GB/JE m/c
FS09h.3x	Flag MA13	CS40	RMII	IIIA	(as FS85)	Salisbury
FS09uh	Flag	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS39)	Europhilex GG/GI m/c
FS09m	Flag	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA	(as FS39)	Abbey Wood

FS10.2x	Robin	1st	HYT	III	FS51a	Camden pop-up
FS10.3x	Robin	1st	HYT	III	FS51a	Stafford stamp show
FS10.3xs	Robin	CS40	HYT	III	FS51a/2a/3a/4a/5a/6a	Stafford stamp show
FS10.3	Robin	1st	WN	II	FS51	Trafalgar Square
FS10.3n	Robin	1st/CS40	WN	II	FS51-6	Norwich
FS10.3-60	Robin	1st/CS60	NCR	IIA	FS51b/2b/3b/3da/5b/6da	Truro
FS10n.3-97	Robin	E20/W10	NCR	IIA	FS53c	Truro
Norvic #	Stamp	values	M/c	Type	SG	Source
FS11b	Machin	2 nd pair				Bureau pack
FS11.3hs	Machin	2nd	RMII	IIIA	FS93/4	Christmas pop-up
FS11.3h	Machin	2nd	RMII	IIIA	FS93	Christmas pop-up
FS11.4n	Machin MA14	2nd	NCR	IIA	FS93a/4a	Pair
FS11.5	Machin MA15	2nd	NCR	IIA	FS93a/4a	Pair
FS11.6	Machin MA16	2 nd pair	NCR	IIA	FS93a/4a	
FS11.7	Machin CL17S	2 nd pair	NCR	IIA	FS93a/4a	
FS12b	Ponds					Bureau pack
FS12h	Pondlife	CS40	RMII	IIIA	(as FS59-61/2-4)	?
FS12-60	Pondlife	60g	WN	II	FS61b, FS64b	Paignton
FS13	Lakes	1 st x6	WN	II	FS65x6	Norwich
FS13-60	Lakes	60g both	WN	II	FS67b/70b x6	Paignton
FS13b	Lakes					Bureau Pack
FS14b	Rivers					Bureau Pack
FS14h	Rivers	CS40	RMII	IIIA	(as FS71-3/4-6)	Stafford stamp show
FS14-60s	Rivers	60g both	WN	II	FS73b/76b x6	Paignton
FS15h	Spring Blooms	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS95 x6)	Stampex
FS15h	Spring Blooms	CS40	RMII	IIIA	(as FS95-7/9-101)	Stampex
FS15-60cs	Spring Blooms	CS60	WN	II	FS95-7/8,100/2	Norwich
FS15-60	Spring Blooms	60g both	WN	II	FS98/102	Norwich
FS15-60s	Spring Blooms	E20/w10, 60g both	WN	II	FS97b,100/2	Norwich
FS15-97	Spring Blooms	E20/W10 used	NCR	IIA	FS97b x6	Old St London
FS15b	Spring Blooms					Bureau Pack
FS16b	Symbolic Flowers					Bureau Pack
FS16c	Symbolic Flowers	CS60	RMII	III	(as FS103-8)	Stampex
FS16c-1	Symbolic Flowers	1st	RMII	III	(as FS103 x6)	Stampex
FS17	Poppy	CS60	NCR	IIA	FS103-8	Norwich
FS17.5	Poppy	1st	NCR	IIA	FS103	Norwich
FS17.5m	Poppy	1st	RMII	IIIA	FS137	Abbey Wood
FS17.7	Poppy	1st	NCR	IIA	FS103	Norwich
FS18.n	Winter Greenery	CS60	NCR	IIA	FS111-16 x2	Norwich
FS18.n2	Winter Greenery	2nd pr	NCR	IIA	FS109-10 x2	Norwich
FS18.ww	Winter Greenery	E20/W10	WN	II	FS113a	Carmarthen
FS18.w	Winter Greenery	CS60	WN	II	FS111a/2a/3a/4a/5a/6a x2	Kidderminster ?
FS18-7	W Greenery 17	Set 8	NCR	IIA		Stevenage

Norvic #	Stamp	values	M/c	Type	SG	Source
FS19	Working Sail	1st/CS60	RMII	IIIA	(as FS117-20/2-3)	Stampex
FS19c	Working Sail	CS100	NCR	IIA	FS117-9/21-2/4	Norwich
FS19n100	Working Sail	100gr	NCR	IIA	FS121/4	Norwich
FS20	Heraldic Beasts	CS100x36	RMII	IIIA	(as FS125-30 x6)	Europhilex
FS20d	Lion, solo	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS125)	Stampex
FS21	Sea Travel	1st	RMII	IIIA	(as FS131 x6)	Stampex
FS21	Sea Travel	CS100	RMII	IIIA	(as FS131-6)	Stampex
FS23	Postal Heritage	CS100	RMII	IIIA	(as FS151-6)	Stampex
FS23d	TPO digital	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA	FS173a-8a	Stampex
FS25	Hibernating An.	Set 8	RMII	IIIA	FS143a-50a	Norwich MC
FS27	Machin 50	1st	NCR	IIA		Yeovil
FS27a	Machin 50	CS100	NCR	IIA		Yeovil
FS27x	Machin 50	CS100x36	NCR	IIA		Yeovil
FS28	Mail by Air	CS100x36	RMII	IIIA		Stampex
FS28	Mail by Air	1st	RMII	IIIA		Stampex
FT04	Stampex2014 Machin	CS40	HYT	III		Stampex
FT04.3	Stampex2014 MachinMA13	1st	HYT	III		Stampex
FT05/s	Europhilex 1d black Machin	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA		Europhilex
FT07	500 Years RM Machin	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA		Stampex
FT09b	Coronation Flag MA13	CS40	HYT	III		Stampex
FT09b1	Coronation Flag MA13	1st	HYT	III		Stampex
FT09h	Hong Kong Flag	1st	RMII	IIIA	Printed in Hong Kong	Hong Kong Ex
FT10-1	First WW Cent Poppy	1st	RMII	IIIA		Stampex
FT21h	Sea Travel HK digital	1st	RMII	IIIA	Printed in Hong Kong	Hong Kong Ex
FT22	Autumn Stampex M50	1 st x6	RMII	IIIA		Stampex
FV02	Robin MA12 BPMA	1st	HYT	III		BPMA
FV02.3	Robin MA13 BPMA	1st	HYT	III		BPMA
FV03a	84th Perth M	1st	HYT	III		Scottish Congress
FV03b	84th Perth Flag	1st	HYT	III		Scottish Congress
FV05a1	Australia Machin	1st	HYT	III	Printed in Australia	Australia Stamp Expo
FV06a	Postage Due BPMA Flag	1st	HYT	III		BPMA
FV07	Philakorea Machin	1st/CS60	RMII	IIIA		Philakorea KR print
FV07.3	Philakorea Machin MA13	CS60	RMII	IIIA		Philakorea KR print
FV07a	Philakorea Flag	CS60	RMII	IIIA		Philakorea KR print

FV08	Philakorea Machin	CS60	RMII	IIIA		Philakorea GB print
FV08a	Philakorea Flag	CS60	RMII	IIIA		Philakorea GB print
FV10	NMRN Machin	1st	RMII	IIIA		Royal Navy
FV10a	NMRN Flag	1st	RMII	IIIA		Royal Navy
FV20	Steam GWR 175 TPO	1 st digital	RMII	IIIA		Swindon Ry Mus
FV21	MoDefence Machin	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA		Abbey Wood
FV21.3	MoDefence Machin MA13	CS100	RMII	IIIA		Abbey Wood
FV21a	MoDefence Flag	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA		Abbey Wood
FV23	EARM Machin	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA		EARM
FV23a	EARM TPO digital	1st/CS100	RMII	IIIA		EARM
FV24	88th Perth Thistle digital	1 st digital	RMII	IIIA		Scottish Congress
FV25	Mail by Rail digital	1 st digital	RMII	IIIA		Postal Museum
Norvic #						
	Stamp	values	M/c			
Isle of Man						
FSM01	Treskillion	All 0..45				
FSM01	Treskillion	4 values				
Guernsey						
FZG01	Flag	Local Letter	GG01		None	Stampex February 2015
FZG02	Flag	CS	B002		Spring Stampex 2015	ditto
FZG04	Flag	GY Letter	GG01		HM Q Longest Reign	Stampex February 2017
FZG05	Flag	GY Letter	GG01		500 yrs Postal History	Stampex February 2016
FZG06	Lighthouses	GY Letterx6	GG01		None	Ditto
Jersey						
FZJ01	Flag	Local Letter	J001		None	Stampex February 2014
FZJ01	Flag	CS	J001		None	Stampex February 2014
FZJ02	Flag	CS	B001		Philakorea 2014	Jersey Post HQ Aug 14
FZJ05	Flag	CS	B001		None	Jersey Post HQ June 14
FZJ08	Flag	Local Letter	JE01		Spring Stampex 2015	Stampex February 2015
FZJ09	Animals	CS	JE01		None	Stampex February 2015
FZJ11	Flag	Local Letter	JE01		HMQ Longest Reign	
FZJ12	Shells	Loc Let x6	JE01		None	Southern England Stamp Show Farnborough March 2017
FZJ13	Jersey Arms	Loc Let x6	JE01		Southern England Stamp Show 2017	
FZJ13		CS	JE01			