

B9 • Compound Perforations

B9a • Determining the Coleman Classification Number

Edwin C. Coleman (1902-1975) was a collector who developed a system for classifying compound perforations of this, the 1906 Pictorial Issue, and the previous 1901–1905 Preference Prints of the Double Eagle definitive issue. After decades of collecting and research, he produced the “Coleman Classification Table.” For existing perforations, he assigned a single digit for a particular perforation and the letter “M” for “mixed” (multiple) perforations. See the “Coleman Classification” table below.

To determine the Coleman classification number for a particular stamp, one begins at the top, then, right, bottom and finally left. The 45 heller value shown here is perforated $5\frac{1}{4}$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$. The Coleman number is shown below:



$5\frac{1}{4} = (5)$
 $9\frac{1}{4} = (2)$ **5322** $12\frac{1}{2} = (3)$
 $9\frac{1}{4} = (2)$

Coleman Classification	
0	Imperf
1	$6\frac{1}{2}$
2	$9\frac{1}{4}$
3	$12\frac{1}{2}$
4	$10\frac{1}{2}$
5	$5\frac{1}{4}$
6	$11\frac{1}{2}$
7	$13\frac{1}{2}$
M	Mixed

More examples on which to practice:

20(H) Sepia
 $12\frac{1}{2} : 12\frac{1}{2} : 6\frac{1}{2} : 6\frac{1}{2}$



Coleman Number = 3311

5K Dark Blue
 $12\frac{1}{2} : 6\frac{1}{2} : 12\frac{1}{2} : 6\frac{1}{2}$



Coleman Number = 3131

30(H) Green
 $6\frac{1}{2} : 9\frac{1}{4} : 12\frac{1}{2} : 9\frac{1}{4}$



Coleman Number = 1232

B9b • Coleman Classification Examples



1133	1331
3123	3321

6(H) Brown
 Rows: $6\frac{1}{2}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$
 Columns: $12\frac{1}{2}$: $6\frac{1}{2}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$

$6\frac{1}{2}$: $6\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$
1122



3(H) Olive-yellow

$6\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$
1232



5(H) Deep Green

$6\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$
1232



10(H) Carmine

$6\frac{1}{2}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$
1332



25(H) Deep Blue

$9\frac{1}{4}$: $6\frac{1}{2}$: $6\frac{1}{2}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$
2112



40(H) Orange

$9\frac{1}{4}$: $9\frac{1}{4}$: $6\frac{1}{2}$: $12\frac{1}{2}$
2213



45(H) Red

B9b • Compound Perforations Containing Perf 10½

Coleman Classification	
0	Imperf
1	6½
2	9¼
3	12½
4	10½
5	5¼
6	11½
7	13½
M	Mixed

Coleman ID for Stamps in Block		
3324	3423	3324
2344	2443	2344
4324	4423	4324
2324	2423	2324
2344	2443	2344



2(H) Violet, Block of Fifteen

Columns, Perforations (Left to Right): 10½, 12½, 10½, 12½
 Rows, Perforations (Top to Bottom): 12½, 9¼, 10½, 9¼, 9¼, 10½

B9b • Compound Perforations with Scarce 10½

10½ : 12½ : 12½ : 9¼

4332



1(H) Black

10½ : 9¼ : 9¼ : 10½

4224



1(H) Black

12½ : 10½ : 12½ : 10½

3434



2(H) Violet

10½ : 12½ : 12½ : 10½

4334



3(H) Yellow Olive

10½ : 10½ : 12½ : 12½

4433



3(H) Yellow Olive

9¼ : 12½ : 10½ : 9¼

2342



5(H) Deep Green

12½ : 12½ : 10½ : 9¼

3342



5K Grey-blue

10½ : 12½ : 9¼ : 10½

4324



40(H) Orange • "Kozarac"

B9b • Block with Extra (Mixed) Perforations

Coleman Classification	
0	Imperf
1	6½
2	9¼
3	12½
4	10½
5	5¼
6	11½
7	13½
M	Mixed



40(H)	
1M32	123M
3MM2	32MM
MM32	M23M

40(H) Orange, Block of Six
Columns, Perforations (Left to Right):
9¼, Mixed (= 6½ and 12½), 9¼
Rows, Perforations (Top to Bottom)
6½, 12½, Mixed (= 6½ and 12½), 12½



5(H)	
32M2	33M2
M222	M322

5(H) Deep Green, Block of Four
Columns, Perforations (Left to Right):
9¼, 9¼, 12½
Rows, Perforations (Top to Bottom):
12½, Mixed (= 6½ and 9¼), 9¼

B9b • Compound Perforations

Coleman Classification	
0	Imperf
1	6½
2	9¼
3	12½
4	10½
5	5¼
6	11½
7	13½
M	Mixed

Coleman ID for Stamps in Block	
2113	2211
1133	1231
3123	3221
2113	2211



6(H) Brown

Columns, Perforations (Left to Right): 12½, 6½, 9¼
 Rows, Perforations (Top to Bottom): 9¼, 6½, 12½, 9¼, 6½

Coleman ID for Stamps in Block	
3323	3223
2332	2233



2(H) Violet

Columns, Perforations (Left to Right): 12½, 12½, 9¼
 Rows, Perforations (Top to Bottom): 12½, 9¼, 12½