Editor's Note: Since publication of this document, the U.S. government issued a redesigned $10 note in March 2006 and has modified its plans for future denominations. Please visit the Currency Redesign Timeline page for more information.

The new $20 design retains three important security features that were first introduced in the 1990s and are easy for consumers and merchants alike to check: watermark, color-shifting ink and security thread.

Security Thread

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the security thread, or plastic strip, that is embedded in the paper and runs vertically up one side of the note. If you look closely, the words "USA TWENTY" and a small flag are visible along the thread from both sides of the note.

Color-Shifting Ink

Look at the number "20" in the lower right corner on the face of the bill. When you tilt the note up and down, the color-shifting ink changes color from copper to green.

Watermark

Hold the bill up to the light and look for the watermark, or faint image, similar to the large portrait. The watermark is part of the paper itself and can be seen from both sides of the note.

The New Color of Money: Safer. Smarter. More Secure.

Newly designed currency — with the addition of subtle background colors — will be issued beginning with the $20 note in late 2003. New designs for the $50 and $100 notes will follow in 2004 and 2005. The introduction of new currency designs is part of an ongoing effort by the United States government to stay ahead of currency counterfeiting and to protect the economy and your hard-earned money.

For more information about new currency designs visit www.moneyfactory.com/newmoney