



**THE
INTERNATIONAL
GUIDE
TO**

**STAMPS &
STAMP
COLLECTING**

DOUGLAS & MARY PATRICK

Includes the answers to
1200 questions most often
asked about **Stamps....**

ROULETTING

777. What is rouletting? Rouletting is a method of cutting tiny slits in sheets of postage stamps between the rows to facilitate separating the stamps. Rouletting does not remove or punch out paper; it merely cuts slits that are sometimes so ragged or minute they must be viewed under a magnifying glass to determine the type.

778. What is the difference between rouletted and perforated stamps? Rouletted stamps have slits cut between the rows. Perforated stamps have holes punched out of the paper.

779. Are perforated stamps ever confused with rouletted stamps? Yes. Virtually every country that has issued perforated postage stamps has produced some with rough perforations. These stamps

should be examined very carefully to see if the paper was cut for perforations and left in or intentionally slit for rouletting.



Rough perforations

780. How many different types of rouletting have been used as separations? Nine different types of rouletting have been used, and one referred to as “perce en lignes obliques” is said to have been used. Dr. R. Maresch and Leslie Davenport, both internationally known philatelists, deny its existence. The following are the nine types of rouletting:

<i>English Names</i>	<i>French Names</i>
Arc roulette (sometimes called serrated roulette or perforation)	Perce en arc
Archer roulette	No popular French name
Line roulette	Perce en lignes
Line roulette in color	Perce en lignes de couleur
Pin roulette (also called Ziz-Zag roulette)	Perce en pointes
Rhomboid or double-pointed tooth roulette	No popular French name (German source)
Saw tooth roulette	Perce en scie
Serpentine roulette	Perce en serpentine
Diamond or lozange roulette (Madeira)	Perce en croix

English, French, and German philatelists do not agree on all the names for rouletting. Some day an international group of stamp collectors may decide on uniform names for each type of roulette. Meanwhile the accompanying descriptions and illustrations form a composite of universal thinking.

781. What is an arc roulette? An arc roulette, or arc rouletting (French, "perce en arc"), is a type of separation in small curves. Arc-rouletted stamps in singles appear with edges concave on one side and convex on the opposite sides.



Arc roulette

782. What is the Archer roulette? The Archer roulette is a series of slits in wavy lines between rows of postage stamps. It was the first method to facilitate separating postage stamps. In 1847, before most countries had introduced adhesive postage, an Irishman named Henry Archer invented a rouletting machine.



Archer roulette

783. What are the Gladstone or Treasury roulettes? The Gladstone or Treasury roulettes are the Archer-rouletted postage stamps of Great Britain. The rouletting was done at the British Treasury while William Ewart Gladstone served as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

784. What is a line roulette? Rouletting in lines consists of a number of straight cuts pierced in the postage stamp paper between rows of stamps. This method has been used for economy, speed, and emergency. The first three denominations of Israel in the 1948 issue were line-rouletted in a limited quantity as an emergency.

785. Why do colored lines show on some rouletted stamps? Some postage stamps made with colored lines showing the rouletting were produced in one printing operation to lower costs. Printers' notched rules slit the paper as the stamps were being printed. When printers used this method, the notched rules and the surface of the printing plates were inked at the same time, producing colored lines. The French term is "perce en lignes de couleur."



Line roulette in color

786. What is a pin roulette? A pin roulette, or "perce en pointes," is a series of pin holes to separate the stamps. These are sometimes mistakenly called pin perforations (a perforation has the paper removed).



Pin roulette (Perce en pointes).
Pin perforated is not an accurate name.

787. What are the rhomboid, or double-pointed tooth, roulettes? The rhomboid, or double-pointed tooth, roulette consists of diamond-



Rhomboid, or double-pointed tooth, roulette, has no French name.

shaped microscopic slits. It is a rare type, with no French name, listed by the editors of Senf catalogues published in Germany. Mexico employed the rhomboid roulette from 1868 to 1870.

788. What is a saw tooth roulette? Saw tooth roulette (French, "perce en scie") explains the different shape of the cuts. Single postage stamps with this roulette often resemble perforated stamps. In pairs or larger pieces the rouletting shows clearly that the tooth of one point becomes the hollow in the adjacent stamp.



Saw tooth roulette

789. What are serpentine roulettes? Serpentine roulettes have wavy lines that resemble the movements of a serpent. For fifteen years from January 1, 1860, Finland issued postage stamps serpentine-rouletted in three distinct types varying in the depth of the teeth. When these stamps are separated, they seem to have large perforations.



Serpentine roulette

790. What are the diamond or lozenge roulettes? The diamond or lozenge roulettes (French, "perce en croix") consist of small crosses to slit the paper between rows of stamps. They are probably the rarest type of rouletting employed by any government. The first issue of Madeira in 1868, overprinted stamps of Portugal, were diamond-, or lozenge-, rouletted.

791. What are the Clamecy roulettes? The Clamecy roulettes are a type of separation prepared by a Frenchman named Clamecy. They resemble the serpentine roulettes of Finland with the teeth more pointed.

792. What are the Cosne perforations? The Cosne perforation is actually a French roulette, since none of the paper is removed. It appears similar to the Archer roulette of Great Britain, as both have wide, sweeping separations.