Collector Clubs from Littleton Coin Company

Hold an early copper or silver coin in your hand and travel back to colonial times, when news was by word of mouth or a newspaper printed once a week. U.S. type coins bring history to life and tell the tale of America’s past in a way that few collectibles can.

Inspecting the first U.S. coins
Dear Collector,

Hold a Liberty Cap half cent in your hand and travel back to colonial times. A silver 3¢ piece recalls the Civil War, while the Peace dollar echoes the glitz and glamour of the Roaring Twenties.

Genuine U.S. coins not only blaze a path through America’s history, but they tell the country’s story in a way that few other artifacts can. Why? Since our nation’s beginnings, George Washington, Thomas Edison, our grandparents, parents, and even you today, have used coins.

Although collecting by date and mint mark is the most popular way to build a collection, forming a type set is another favorite of collectors because it is more affordable. Building a U.S. type set became popular in the 1960s, and collecting this way lets you enjoy a wide range of coin designs that cut a broad path through American history.

**Have a plan for your collection**

It’s always good to have a plan and focus for what you want to collect. Although there are many ways, building a type collection is considered by many to be the most individualized. That’s because there are no “strict” rules; the grade, composition, design and date collected are as individual as you are. Some build a U.S. silver dollar type set, others a gold type set, and still others a comprehensive set of every design for every series of U.S. coinage. The anticipation of waiting to fill the next space in your album becomes proud satisfaction as you locate your coins.

Whatever your level of interest or experience, I hope you’ll find this collectors club booklet on U.S. Type Coins an interesting, useful, and educational guide to our nation’s coinage.

Sincerely,

David M. Sundman
President
INTRODUCTION TO TYPE COIN COLLECTING

A U.S. type coin set offers collectors an opportunity to show their individuality. Ultimately, this set should be fun and rewarding to build. But what exactly is a type set? This set should contain one coin of every major design and metallic composition within a series. It is arranged by denomination design, in order of issue. For instance, the Lincoln cent has four major design types: the Wheat Ears, Memorial, and Union Shield reverses, as well as the four 2009 anniversary designs. Plus, the series saw a significant metal change in 1943 to steel. Depending on the depth and variety a collector wants to include, each type set can vary quite a bit, so the 1909 V.D.B. could be included as well as the coins without the initials.

This booklet will give you helpful information every collector needs. But beyond a few basics, type coin collecting is almost limitless in its variety. As your knowledge increases, you’ll find your own favorite coins and ways to build a collection as unique as your imagination!

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From the cobbled streets of old Boston and Philadelphia to the paved highways that crisscross our nation today, U.S. coins trace the footsteps of the men and women who came before us and helped to build America. Hold a U.S. type coin and look at the design and date, each reflecting its era of issue. The elegant Draped Bust coins recall the days of colonial America; the beautiful Standing Liberty and Liberty Walking designs speak of the glamour of the Roaring Twenties, while the Statehood quarters combine a blend of both modern and older design themes.
HALF CENTS 1793-1857

The smallest denomination U.S. coin, yet nearly the size of a modern quarter. Made of pure copper, the half cent was useful for making change during its early years of issue. But as time passed and things grew more expensive, the half cent lost its usefulness, and was abandoned shortly before the Civil War. Today, all half cents are scarce. All types carry a bust of Liberty on the obverse and a wreath on the reverse.

LIBERTY CAP
(LEFT FACING)
1793
Composition: copper
Weight: 6.74 grams
Diameter: approx. 22 mm
Mint: Philadelphia

LIBERTY CAP
(RIGHT FACING)
1794-1797
Composition: copper
Weight: 6.74 grams 1794
5.44 grams 1795-1797
(thin planchets)
Diameter: approx. 23.5 mm
Mint: Philadelphia

Draped Bust
1800-1808
Composition: copper
Weight: 5.44 grams
Diameter: 23.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

Classic Head
1809-1836
Composition: copper
Weight: 5.44 grams
Diameter: 23.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

Braided Hair
1840-1857
Composition: copper
Weight: 5.44 grams
Diameter: 23 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

FOCUS ON LIBERTY

1775 Battle of Bunker Hill
1781 British surrender at Yorktown
1787 Constitutional Convention
1788 Constitution ratified
1789 Washington becomes president
Large Cents 1793-1857

Along with the half cent, one of the first two coins struck by the United States, all the large cents were coined at the Philadelphia Mint. With twice the copper of the half cent, they were large and heavy – greater in size than today's quarter – so a pocketful was quite bulky. As the price of copper rose during the 1800s, the large cent became too expensive to produce and was replaced in 1857 by the small cent.

**Flowing Hair**
(Chain Reverse & Wreath Reverse)
1793

- **Composition:** copper
- **Weight:** 13.48 grams
- **Diameter:** approx. 26-28 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia

**Liberty Cap**
1793-1796

- **Composition:** copper
- **Weight:** 13.48 grams 1793-1795
  10.89 grams 1795-1796 (thin planchet)
- **Diameter:** approx. 29 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia

**Draped Bust**
1796-1807

- **Composition:** copper
- **Weight:** 10.89 grams
- **Diameter:** approx. 29 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia

**Classic Head**
1808-1814

- **Composition:** copper
- **Weight:** 10.89 grams
- **Diameter:** approx. 29 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia

**Coronet**
1816-1857

- **Composition:** copper
- **Weight:** 10.89 grams
- **Diameter:** approx. 28-29 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia

Focus on Liberty

1800 U.S. capital now in Washington, D.C.

1802
DuPont builds his first gunpowder mill

1803 Louisiana Purchase doubles size of U.S.

1804
Alexander Hamilton killed in duel

1805 Lewis and Clark sight Pacific
1806 Zebulon Pike explores Arkansas River, and later climbs the peak that comes to bear his name.
America’s first small cent, the Flying Eagle, was introduced in 1856. It was nicknamed the “white cent” because of its 88% copper and 12% nickel composition. It was replaced just 3 years later by the Indian Head cent, which is considered by many to be the most beautiful copper coin. In 1909, the Lincoln cent became America’s first circulating coin to portray a president. To mark the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth, and the series’ centennial, in 2009 four new reverse designs were introduced honoring Abraham Lincoln’s life. Then, in 2010, the ongoing Shield reverse debuted.

**Flying Eagle**
1856-1858
Composition: copper-nickel
Weight: 4.67 grams
Diameter: 19 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

**Indian Head**
1859-1909
Diameter: 19 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, San Francisco
Copper-Nickel
Date: 1859-1864
Weight: 4.67 grams
Bronze
Date: 1864-1909
Weight: 3.11 grams

**Lincoln**
1909-Date
Diameter: 19 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco
Bronze
Date: 1909-1982
Weight: 3.11 grams
Zinc-Coated Steel
(Wartime Steel cent)
Date: 1943
Weight: 2.7 grams
Copper-Plated Zinc
Date: 1982-Date
Weight: 2.5 grams

**2009 Bicentennial Reverse Designs**
Issued in 3 month intervals

- Birthplace in Kentucky: released February 12, 2009 on Abraham Lincoln’s birthday
- Formative years in Indiana: Abe takes a break from rail splitting to read and learn
- Professional life: the lawyer and representative stands before the Illinois capitol
- Presidency in Washington: depicts the U.S. Capitol dome built during the Civil War.

Note: special collector versions of the 2009 cents were struck in the original Lincoln cent composition of 95% copper, 5% tin and zinc.
The 1864 Coin Act called for a 2¢ copper coin. This Civil War-era coin was America’s first and only 2¢ piece. It was the first coin to carry the motto IN GOD WE TRUST. This “odd” denomination coin was 58 years in the making. First proposed in 1806, it was not actually needed until the coinage shortage of the Civil War pushed it into production.

**FOCUS ON LIBERTY**

1860 South Carolina secedes from Union

1861 Fort Sumter fired upon, Lincoln declares war

1862 Gun with rotating barrel patented by Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling

1862 Fierce clash in Battle of Shiloh

1863 South splits when Grant wins Vicksburg

1863 Lincoln delivers Gettysburg address

1864 USS Sassacus battles Confederate ironclad CSS Albemarle

Over 600,000 Americans killed in Civil War
The silver 3¢ piece is the smallest of all U.S. silver coins. Because it was struck in silver, the public hoarded it along with other coins when the Civil War broke out. Since the 3¢ pieces were needed to ease the coin shortage caused by war, the U.S. Mint decided to strike them in copper-nickel.

The 3¢ nickel, so called because of its copper-nickel composition, was well received by the public. This coin helped the nation retire the unpopular 3¢ paper notes issued during the Civil War. Once the majority of notes had been exchanged for 3¢ coins, and production of 5¢ nickels and cents increased, the banks needed fewer 3¢ pieces.
Beginning in 1866, a 5¢ coin of non-precious metal was created. The Shield nickel was the nation’s first copper-nickel 5¢ coin; prior to this, the first U.S. 5¢ coin, the half dime, was silver. In 1883, the Liberty Head or “V” nickel began, followed by the extremely popular Buffalo nickel of the early 20th century, and then by the long-running and current Jefferson nickel.

**SHIELD 1866-1883**
- Composition: copper-nickel
- Weight: 5 grams
- Diameter: 20.5 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia

**LIBERTY HEAD “V” 1883-1913**
- Composition: copper-nickel
- Weight: 5 grams
- Diameter: 21.2 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**BUFFALO 1913-1938**
- Composition: copper-nickel
- Weight: 5 grams
- Diameter: 21.2 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**FOCUS ON LIBERTY**
First woman’s vote cast 1870 (Wyoming)

1892
Ellis Island opens

1872
Yellowstone becomes first national park

1898
Spanish-American War begins when the USS Maine is destroyed by explosion
JEFFERSON
1938-DATE
Composition: copper-nickel
35% silver 1942-1945
Weight: 5 grams
Diameter: 21.2 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

American Life

1891
New clothes fastener invented; it’s called the zipper

1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago

1895 H. G. Wells publishes The Time Machine

1895 Bicycle sales and women’s hemlines rise

1904
Ice cream cone introduced at St. Louis World’s Fair

1906 San Francisco devastated by earthquake

1910 U.S. population reaches 92 million; less than half have completed high school
HALF DIMES 1794–1873

Minted in fine silver, the famous half dime was the nation’s first 5¢ coin. It was smaller and weighed less than a nickel. Several design types were issued long before the U.S. nickel denomination began. From 1866-1873, both the half dime and nickel were struck. The half dime played an integral role in the early life of America, and is of great historic and numismatic importance.

FLOWING HAIR
1794–1795
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 1.35 grams
Diameter: 16.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

DRAPED BUST
1796–1805
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 1.35 grams
Diameter: 16.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

CAPPED BUST
1829–1837
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 1.35 grams
Diameter: 15.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

LIBERTY SEATED
1837–1873
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 1.34 grams 1837-1853
1.24 grams 1853-1873
Diameter: 15.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco
Dimes 1796-Date

The 10¢ coin, or dime, follows closely the designs of the half dime through the Liberty Seated type. All circulating dimes were minted in fine silver until 1964. Early dimes in higher grades are scarce and expensive, since this denomination was used extensively compared to quarters and halves. But many early issues are still available in circulated condition at a more reasonable cost.

**Draped Bust**
1796-1807
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 2.7 grams
Diameter: 19 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

**Barber**
1892-1916
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 2.5 grams
Diameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

**Capped Bust**
1809-1837
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 2.7 grams
Diameter: 18.8 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

**Mercury**
1916-1945
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 2.5 grams
Diameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**Liberty Seated**
1837-1891
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 2.67 grams 1837-1853
2.49 grams 1853-1873
2.50 grams 1873-1891
Diameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City

**Roosevelt**
1946-DATE
Diameter: 17.9 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, West Point
90% Silver
Date: 1946-1964
Weight: 2.5 grams
Clad
Date: 1965-DATE
Weight: 2.27 grams

American Life

1912 Workers in textile mills earn $8.76 weekly for putting in 54 hours

1912 Titanic sinks on maiden voyage

1920 Prohibition sets off 14 years of illicit drinking

1921 Harding becomes the first U.S. president to be broadcast on the radio

1924 Cartoon Little Orphan Annie runs for the first time

1920 Women earn the right to vote
The shortest-lived coin denomination in U.S. history! The twenty-cent piece, minted in 90% fine silver, was struck for circulation only in 1875 and 1876. A few hundred Proofs were coined in 1877-1878. Soon after the coin’s appearance, people complained that it was too close in design and size to the quarter – causing problems in making change. Fewer than 1.4 million were minted, so the twenty-cent piece is a scarce and treasured item today!

**Twenty-Cent Piece**

1875-1878

**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Weight:** 5 grams  
**Diameter:** 22 mm  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco

**American Life**

1868 The modern typewriter patented

1876 Alexander Graham Bell shows off the telephone

1882 Electric iron invented; early models weighed 15 pounds

1886 Coca-Cola invented by John Pemberton in Atlanta, Georgia

1888 Kodak amateur camera introduced
Because of the practice of cutting up the Mexican 8 Reales coin into eight parts, thus the “Pieces of Eight” name, the U.S. quarter, as \( \frac{1}{4} \) of a dollar, became known as “two bits.” As a silver coin of substantial size until 1964, the quarter has always been popular – both in circulation and among collectors. A variety of quarter designs has been minted since 1796, and many collectors try to assemble at least one coin of each type, shown here.

**Draped Bust**
1796-1807
- Composition: 89% silver
- Weight: 6.74 grams
- Diameter: 27.5 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia

**Capped Bust**
1815-1838
- Composition: 89% silver
- Weight: 6.74 grams
- Diameter: 27 mm 1815-1831
24.3 mm 1831-1838
- Mints: Philadelphia

**Liberty Seated**
1838-1891
- Composition: 90% silver
- Weight: 6.68 grams 1838-1853
6.22 grams 1853-1873
6.25 grams 1873-1891
- Diameter: 24.3 mm

**Barber**
1892-1916
- Composition: 90% silver
- Weight: 6.25 grams
- Diameter: 24.3 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

**Standing Liberty**
1916-1930
- Composition: 90% silver
- Weight: 6.25 grams
- Diameter: 24.3 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**American Life**
- 1793 With 45,000 people, Philadelphia is the largest city
- In the late 1700s, families are large, containing 7 or more people
- In colonial America, children over 6 are considered “small adults”
- Average worker earns 9¢ an hour
- Common professions: cabinetmaker, coachmaker, wheelwright
On December 1, 1997, the 50 State Quarters Program was born. This program honored every state in the Union with a different commemorative quarter showing Washington on the obverse and a design unique to the issuing state on the reverse. The quarters were issued from 1999-2008 at the rate of about one every 10 weeks, in the order that each state joined the Union or ratified the Constitution. Then, in 2009, six designs were issued under a new one-year-only program honoring the District of Columbia and five U.S. Territories.

**Washington**

1932-1998

- Diameter: 24.3 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco
- 90% Silver
- Date: 1932-1964
- Weight: 6.25 grams
- Clad
- Date: 1965-1998
- Weight: 5.67 grams

**Statehood, D.C. & U.S. Territories**

1999-2009

- Composition: clad
- Weight: 5.67 grams
- Diameter: 24.3 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**National Park**

2010-2021

- Composition: clad
- Weight: 5.67 grams
- Diameter: 24.3 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**Focus on Liberty**

- 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt elected president
- 1941 Mount Rushmore completed
- 1941 Attack on Pearl Harbor
- 1944 Eisenhower commands D Day landing on coast of France
- 1945 Victory in Europe
- 16 million Americans in uniform during WWII

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16 million Americans in uniform during WWII
## American Life

1929 Stock Market crashes, Black Tuesday

1930 Population in U.S. now 122 million

1931 World’s then tallest building, the Empire State, constructed

1933 Unemployment reaches 25 percent

1934 Dust bowl throughout the Midwest

1937 Joe Louis takes heavyweight boxing crown

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Following the immense popularity of the Statehood, D.C. and U.S. Territories quarters, the America’s National Park quarter series debuted in 2010. Scheduled to end in 2021, this coin series honors a national park or historic site in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the 5 U.S. Territories. Five new designs are issued per year, in the order the parks and sites were established as federally protected areas.

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<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Chaco Culture National Historical Park</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Perry’s Victory &amp; Int'l Peace Memorial</td>
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<td>Nevada</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Fl. McHenry National Monument &amp; Historic Shrine</td>
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<td>South Dakota</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Northern Mariana Islands</td>
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<td>Utah</td>
<td>U.S. Virgin Islands</td>
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<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NHP – National Historical Park
Though the half dollar is almost forgotten today, it was once the major silver coin of circulation. At one time, a half dollar was often more than a person made in a day's labor. To have one, or perhaps two, was a significant stash of money. Because the half dollar is used less and less today, it will only grow in popularity with collectors.

**FLOWING HAIR**
1794-1795
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 13.48 grams
Diameter: approx. 32.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

**DRAPE BUST**
1796-1807
Composition: 89% silver
Weight: 13.48 grams
Diameter: approx. 32.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia

**CAPPED BUST**
1807-1836
Mints: Philadelphia
89% Silver
Date: 1807-1836
Weight: 13.48 grams
Diameter: approx. 32.5 mm

90% Silver
Date: 1836-1839
Weight: 13.36 grams
Diameter: 30 mm

**FOCUS ON LIBERTY**

1812
"Mr. Madison's War" (War of 1812) begins

1820
Maine becomes 23rd state

1823
Monroe doctrine passed – U.S. stands firm, Americas off limits to the rest of the world

1825
Erie Canal completed

1836
Mexican War, the Republic of Texas is born
HALF DOLLARS continued...

American Life

By 1895, over 300 automobiles have been sold in the U.S.

1903 First Model A sells for $850

1908 Henry Ford builds the Model T

1927 Charles Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic

1937 Germany’s passenger airship Hindenburg ignited as it attempted to dock in Lakehurst, NJ

During World War II, more and more women began working outside the home.

LIBERTY SEATED
1839–1891

Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 13.36 grams 1839–1853
12.44 grams 1853–1873
12.50 grams 1873–1891
Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City

LIBERTY WALKING
1916–1947

Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 12.50 grams
Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

BARBER
1892–1915

Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 12.50 grams
Diameter: 30.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

American Life

By 1895, over 300 automobiles have been sold in the U.S.

1903 First Model A sells for $850

1908 Henry Ford builds the Model T

1927 Charles Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic

1937 Germany’s passenger airship Hindenburg ignited as it attempted to dock in Lakehurst, NJ

During World War II, more and more women began working outside the home.
**FRANKLIN**
1948–1963

- **Composition:** 90% silver
- **Weight:** 12.50 grams
- **Diameter:** 30.6 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**KENNEDY**
1964–DATE

- **Diameter:** 30.6 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco
- **Composition:**
  - 90% Silver
  - 40% Silver
  - Clad
- **Date:**
  - 1964
  - 1965-1970
  - 1971–DATE
- **Weight:**
  - 12.50 grams
  - 11.50 grams
  - 11.34 grams

**FOCUS ON LIBERTY**

1948 *Truman wins presidency*

1949 *Berlin air lift*

1953 *Korean War ends*

1960 *Kennedy becomes youngest president*

1963 *Kennedy assassinated*
Early silver dollars represent the remarkable era in America’s history when the colonies united to form what would become one of the greatest nations on earth. Since precious silver ore was scarce in that era, the dollars of that period have very low mintages. Silver dollars were not minted between 1804 and 1836, so those that still circulated were scarce and hoarded. In addition to the early dollars pictured, a number of so-called “Gobrecht” dollars were issued from 1836-1839, and served as patterns for the Liberty Seated dollar.

**Flowing Hair**
1794-1795

- Composition: 89% silver
- Weight: 26.96 grams
- Diameter: approx. 39-40 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia

**Draped Bust**
1795-1804

- Composition: 89% silver
- Weight: 26.96 grams
- Diameter: approx. 39-40 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia

**Liberty Seated**
1840-1873

- Composition: 90% silver
- Weight: 26.73 grams
- Diameter: 38.1 mm
- Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, Carson City, San Francisco
Large-Size Dollars 1873-1978
The large-size U.S. dollar coins of 1873-1978 are among the most recognized of the entire series. These include Trade, Morgan and Peace silver dollars, as well as clad Eisenhower dollars. Peace dollars were the last dollar series struck for circulation in 90% silver. America’s last traditional-sized dollar was the Eisenhower. This popular coin was minted in both clad and in 40% silver from 1971-1976. The silver issues were struck at the San Francisco Mint through 1976; then, the composition switched to clad for the remainder of the series.

**Trade**
1873–1885
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 27.22 grams
Diameter: 38.1 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco

**Morgan**
1878–1921
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 26.73 grams
Diameter: 38.1 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, New Orleans, Carson City, Denver, San Francisco

**Peace**
1921–1935
Composition: 90% silver
Weight: 26.73 grams
Diameter: 38.1 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

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**Focus on Liberty**
- 1965 American soldiers see combat in Vietnam
- 1969 Eagle lands on the moon
- 1986 The Iran-Contra Affair
- 1972 Nixon becomes first president to visit Red China
- 1974 Following the Watergate scandal, Nixon resigns
- 1989 The Berlin Wall comes down
- 1991 Gulf War ends
Small-Size Dollars 1979-Date

In 1979, America’s small-size Susan B. Anthony debuted. Depicting the tireless crusader for women’s rights, this new dollar was 30% smaller than earlier dollar coins. Issued for just three years, then once again in 1999, this design gave way to the more modern Sacagawea “golden” dollar in 2000. Since then, all traditional U.S. dollar coins have been issued in this distinctive copper-manganese alloy. Beginning in 2007, coins debuted honoring former U.S. presidents in order of service. Sacagawea dollars shifted in 2009 to the Native American dollar series. Each coin features a one-year-only design honoring contributions to life in the U.S.
Presidential and Native American dollars feature edge lettering. The original 2007-2008 issues featured the date, mint mark, and mottoes *EP L U R I B U S U N U M* and *IN GOD WE TRUST*. On Presidential dollars released from 2009 on, the motto *IN GOD WE TRUST* moved to the obverse. Native American dollars have the same inscriptions as later Presidential coins.

**PRESIDENTIAL**

**2007-DATE**

- **Composition:** copper-manganese
- **Weight:** 8.1 grams
- **Diameter:** 26.5 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

- George Washington 2007
- James Monroe 2008
- William Henry Harrison 2009
- Millard Fillmore 2010
- Andrew Johnson 2011

**NATIVE AMERICAN**

**2009-DATE**

- **Composition:** copper-manganese
- **Weight:** 8.1 grams
- **Diameter:** 26.5 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

Agriculture Reverse
Woman Tending Garden 2009

Government Reverse
Hiawatha Belt 2010

Diplomacy Reverse
Peace Pipe 2011
From 1795 to 1933, the U.S. produced $2.50, $5, $10, and later, beginning in 1850, $20 gold coins. Because early gold pieces minted between 1795 and 1834 contain some of the rarest dates, many collectors choose to start their collections with Classic Head gold pieces. With the discovery of gold in California, new denominations were added to the U.S. gold coin roster. Minted in one of the world’s most precious metals, these historic coins were designed by some of the finest artists of the day.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 gave birth to the gold dollar. Minted from 1849-89, this denomination had three distinct designs: the Type I Liberty Head, the Type II Indian (Small Head) and the Type III Indian (Large Head).

**LIBERTY HEAD $1 GOLD**
1849-1854
- **Composition:** 90% gold
- **Weight:** 1.672 grams
- **Diameter:** 13 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco

**INDIAN HEAD $1 GOLD**
1854-1889
- **Composition:** 90% gold
- **Weight:** 1.672 grams
- **Diameter:** 15 mm
- **Mints:** Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco

Small Head type shown above

**American Life**
- **1849 California gold rush**
- **1859 Large silver deposit discovered at Virginia City, Nevada, called the Comstock Lode**
- **1897 Gold lures miners to Klondike goldfields in Alaska and Canada**
Indian Head $2.50 Gold
1908-1929
Composition: 90% gold
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver

Coronet $2.50 Gold
1840-1907
Composition: 90% gold
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco

Classic Head $2.50 Gold
1834-1839
Composition: 89.92% gold, 90% gold (1837-1839)
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18.2 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, New Orleans

Capped Bust $2.50 Gold
(Left and Right Facing)
1796-1808
Composition: 91.67% gold
Weight: 4.37 grams
Diameter: approx. 20 mm

Capped Head $2.50 Gold
1821-1834
Composition: 91.67% gold
Weight: 4.37 grams
Diameter: approx. 18.5 mm

Indian Head $2.50 Gold
1908-1929
Composition: 90% gold
Weight: 4.18 grams
Diameter: 18 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver

$3 Gold Pieces 1854-1889
The short-lived $3 gold piece was another denomination created due to the influx of gold from California. Supposedly, this coin was created to make it easy to buy a sheet of stamps. Today, all $3 gold coins are scarce.

Indian Head $3 Gold
1854-1889
Composition: 90% gold
Weight: 5.015 grams
Diameter: 20.5 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, Dahlonega, New Orleans, San Francisco

Quartermages 1796-1929
The first U.S. quarter eagles were struck in 1796. Until the advent of the gold dollar, they were the smallest denomination gold coin. It was not until 1908 that the motto IN GOD WE TRUST was added.
First released in 1795, the U.S. gold half eagles have nine design types, of which 4 major ones are shown below. In 1866, the Coronet style was changed to include the motto IN GOD WE TRUST.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design Type</th>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Composition</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Diameter</th>
<th>Mints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAPPED BUST $5 GOLD</strong> (RIGHT FACING)</td>
<td>1795-1807</td>
<td>91.67% gold</td>
<td>8.75 grams</td>
<td>approx. 25 mm</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAPPED BUST $5 GOLD</strong> (LEFT FACING)</td>
<td>1807-1812</td>
<td>91.67% gold</td>
<td>8.75 grams</td>
<td>approx. 25 mm</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAPPED HEAD $5 GOLD</strong></td>
<td>1813-1834</td>
<td>91.67% gold</td>
<td>8.75 grams</td>
<td>approx. 25 mm</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLASSIC HEAD $5 GOLD</strong></td>
<td>1834-1838</td>
<td>89.92% gold 1834-1837, 90% gold 1837-1838</td>
<td>8.36 grams</td>
<td>22.5 mm</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CORONET $5 GOLD</strong></td>
<td>1839-1908</td>
<td>90% gold</td>
<td>8.359 grams</td>
<td>22.5 mm 1839-1840, 21.6 mm 1840-1908</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Charlotte, Dahlonega, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INDIAN HEAD $5 GOLD</strong></td>
<td>1908-1929</td>
<td>90% gold</td>
<td>8.359 grams</td>
<td>21.6 mm</td>
<td>Philadelphia, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EAGLES 1795–1933

The U.S. gold eagles were first issued in 1795, but from 1805 to 1837, this denomination wasn't issued, due to the scarcity of its precious metal. In 1866, the Coronet style was changed to include the motto.

**CAPPED BUST $10 GOLD**
1795–1804
Composition: 91.67% gold  
Weight: 17.5 grams  
Diameter: approx. 33 mm  
Mints: Philadelphia

**CORONET $10 GOLD**
1838–1907
Composition: 90% gold  
Weight: 16.718 grams  
Diameter: 27 mm  
Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

**INDIAN HEAD $10 GOLD**
1907–1933
Composition: 90% gold  
Weight: 16.718 grams  
Diameter: 27 mm  
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco

**DOUBLE EAGLES 1850–1933**

With the influx of gold from California, the $20 double eagle became the largest regularly issued U.S. coin denomination.

**CORONET $20 GOLD**
1850–1907
Composition: 90% gold  
Weight: 33.436 grams  
Diameter: 34 mm  
Mints: Philadelphia, Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco

**SAINT-GAUDENS $20 GOLD**
1907–1933
Composition: 90% gold  
Weight: 33.436 grams  
Diameter: 34 mm  
Mints: Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco
Official U.S. commemorative coins are authorized by the Act of Congress to honor important persons, locations and events in U.S. history. Commemoratives have been struck in both silver and gold, and more recently, clad. They are minted only in very small numbers compared to regular coinage. After 1954, no U.S. commemoratives were produced until 1982, when the George Washington half dollar was issued to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Washington’s birth. Official U.S. issues should not be confused with so-called “commemoratives” produced by private organizations, which are medals, not coins. Shown below are a few of these historic designs.

**American Life**

1956 Elvis shocks America

1962 John Glenn becomes first American to orbit Earth

1964 Beatles drive American teenagers wild

1973 Oil embargo, gas prices soar

1979 Three Mile Island disaster

1980 Mt. Saint Helens erupts

1984 Geraldine Ferraro becomes first woman nominee for VP

1992 The Worldwide Web is born

1997 Minimum wage $5.15 an hour

1997 Pathfinder lands on Mars

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**Isabella Quarter Dollar**

1893

---

**Columbian Exposition Half Dollar**

1892-1893

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**California Diamond Jubilee Half Dollar**

1925

---

**Oregon Trail Memorial Half Dollar**

1926-1939
ROANOKE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA HALF DOLLAR
1937

CARVER-WASHINGTON HALF DOLLAR
1951-1954

GEORGE WASHINGTON 250TH ANNIVERSARY HALF DOLLAR
1982

WEST POINT BICENTENNIAL SILVER DOLLAR
2002

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE $2.50 GOLD QUARTER EAGLE
1926
NEW COMMEMORATIVES

LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL SILVER DOLLAR
2004

Scientist

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TERCENTENARY SILVER DOLLARS
2006

Founding Father

JAMESTOWN 400TH ANNIVERSARY SILVER DOLLAR
2007

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL SILVER DOLLAR
2009

SAN FRANCISCO OLD MINT CENTENNIAL GOLD $5
2006
From ancient times into the later years of the 20th century, coins have been representative of their precious metal content. Beginning with U.S. gold coins in 1933, this tradition ended. Later, in 1965, with the advent of clad coins, 90% silver coins disappeared, too. It was not until 1974 that it became legal to own gold again, which helped shape collecting today.

Nowadays, no country issues gold and silver coins for circulation, but many of the world’s leading nations, including the United States, issue bullion coins. In the fall of 1986, the United States Mint released the first gold American Eagles, followed by silver American Eagles in December. Just over a decade later in 1997, the U.S. Mint released the first platinum Eagles. And in 2006, the first 99.99% pure gold coins to be struck by the U.S. Mint were released. These $50 gold Buffalo coins displayed a design reminiscent of James Earle Fraser’s beloved Buffalo nickel. In 2010, the U.S. Mint also began issuing large, 3-inch diameter collector versions of the National Park quarters, struck in 5 ounces of 99.9% pure silver.

**SILVER AMERICAN EAGLE**
1986-DATE
Composition: 99.93% silver
Weight: 31.101 grams
Diameter: 40.6 mm
Mints: Philadelphia, San Francisco, West Point

**GOLD AMERICAN EAGLE**
1986-DATE
Composition: 91.67% gold
Mints: Philadelphia, West Point

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight/Size</th>
<th>Tenth-Ounce Gold $5</th>
<th>Quarter-Ounce Gold $10</th>
<th>Half-Ounce Gold $25</th>
<th>One-Ounce Gold $50</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight/Size</td>
<td>3.393 grams Diameter: 16.5 mm</td>
<td>8.483 grams Diameter: 22 mm</td>
<td>16.966 grams Diameter: 27 mm</td>
<td>33.931 grams Diameter: 32.7 mm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PLATINUM AMERICAN EAGLE**
1997-DATE
Composition: 99.95% platinum
Mints: Philadelphia, West Point

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight/Size</th>
<th>Tenth-Ounce Platinum $10</th>
<th>Quarter-Ounce Platinum $25</th>
<th>Half-Ounce Platinum $50</th>
<th>One-Ounce Platinum $100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight/Size</td>
<td>0.10005 oz. Diameter: 16.5 mm</td>
<td>0.2501 oz. Diameter: 22 mm</td>
<td>0.5003 oz. Diameter: 27 mm</td>
<td>1.0005 oz. Diameter: 32.7 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SILVER AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARK  
2010–DATE
Composition: 99.9% silver  
Weight: 5 ounces  
Diameter: 3 inches  
Mints: Philadelphia

GOLD AMERICAN BUFFALO  
2006–DATE
Composition: 99.99% (24K) gold  
Mints: West Point

- Tenth-Ounce Gold $5  
  Weight: 3.110 grams  
  Diameter: 16.5 mm
- Quarter-Ounce Gold $10  
  Weight: 7.775 grams  
  Diameter: 22 mm
- Half-Ounce Gold $25  
  Weight: 15.552 grams  
  Diameter: 27 mm
- One Ounce Gold $50  
  Weight: 31.103 grams  
  Diameter: 32.7 mm

GOLD FIRST SPOUSE  
2007–DATE
Composition: 99.99% (24K) gold  
Weight: ½ ounce  
Diameter: 26.5 mm  
Mints: West Point
Proper handling and storage of coins is not difficult, and will maintain the natural condition and value of collectible coins. Appropriate care also helps preserve your coins for the benefit of future collectors.

Handling: Coins should be held by their edges between thumb and forefinger (see picture). This will protect coin surfaces and designs from fingerprints and the natural oils in fingers or palms that can be corrosive over time. In fact, many experienced collectors prefer to use soft cotton gloves when handling their high-quality Uncirculated or Proof coins. A wide variety of coin holders and albums is available from Littleton for easy viewing and examination of both sides of a coin without actual handling.

Cleaning: Improper cleaning, more than anything else, has harmed valuable coins. High-quality Uncirculated and Proof coins should never be cleaned, as improper cleaning can cause permanent loss of original mint finish and color (and permanent loss of value). Experts can easily detect an improperly cleaned coin. Most experienced collectors and dealers agree that coins should only be cleaned by experts.

Storage: High humidity, air pollution, salt air, and temperature extremes can sometimes affect the surfaces of coins. It is best to store coins in protective holders or albums, and to keep them in an area of relatively uniform temperature. As your collection becomes more valuable, you may choose to store some or all of your coins in a safe-deposit box. If you choose to keep your collection in your home, we recommend that you check with your insurance company to ensure that your collection is covered for its full replacement cost.

Please note: The clear coin wrappers used by Littleton are sealed to provide protection of coins during delivery, and easy identification and examination without removal. You can store your coins in the clear wrappers, or you can remove them for placement in albums, holders, or other storage containers. When returning coins, we prefer that you keep them in the original wrappers. Littleton's exclusive Showpak® packaging was designed for permanent storage and protection of your coins, and cannot be resealed once opened.
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- There’s no obligation to purchase – EVER, and no membership fee!
- Your coins are hand selected for eye appeal – you’ll get the best value for your dollar!
- Each coin is delivered right to your door – so you conveniently add to your collection in the comfort of your own home.
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