

Test Report



As appeared in "The Stamping Grounds", Fall 1984, page 10.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION; Revolutionary new watermark detector, will also reveal, thins, filled thins, tears, reperforation & regumming, grills, & shows prior hinging. Retail \$199.95

Testing: First of all signoscope is absolutely safe for all stamps. We tried everything we could think of to get this device to damage a stamp & couldn't do it. We therefore feel that the signoscope is completely safe for ALL STAMPS.

The product claims:

Revolutionary NEW watermark detector: After extensive testing we must say that this is the finest, most exact method of detecting a watermark that exists or is needed. In other words, if its' watermarked you'll see it, clearly & without question, once you have a little experience with the device. The most notoriously difficult stamps to watermark are easily seen through this device. It gives the definitive answer, you do not have to guess.

Detects thins & filled thins; Yes, in a most suprising way. We're not talking about a big huge thin or even a small thin that you would normally see in light or fluid,(the machine shows these also, but there is such a flood of information that its' not useable), no, no, no, we're talking about tiny thins or really expert filling work. The kind of work that before could only be detected by high power microscopy.

Tears, No, it doesn't work, sealed or otherwise, if the tear is neat the machine will not allow you to see it, even a large one. You will see much more through a magnifier than through this device.

Reperforation; no.

Regumming; no. except the most obvious job.

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SIGNOSCOPE (without batteries or adapter)	No. 9886	Price: \$	199.00
AC Adapter	No. 9887 SP		12.00
Dustcover	No. 9891 SP		6.00
5 Alkaline Batteries	No. 9888 SP		4.50

Available from:

 **SAFE PUBLICATIONS, INC.** P.O. Box 2

the first optic-electronic Watermark Detector.

Grills; yes even the ones you can't find under a microscope .

Previous hinge marks; yes to a somewhat better extent than using light reflection, but not as good as ultraviolet light.

Additional use; We discovered that added margins, even the most skillful, were immediatly visible through the signoscope.

How it works: The Signoscope exerts an even intense pressure on the stamp, & uses surface light reflection to show any variation in the thickness of the stamp. Detecting watermarks with the Signoscope is easy & takes just a few minutes of practice.

Detecting the repairs & such takes quite a bit of practice & thought to understand what it is you are seeing. Handmade paper that is found on almost all 19th century world classics is a bit of a problem because the paper frequently is a bit variable in thickness.

Summary; The Signoscope is the finest watermark detector that exists. It is also very useful for a final check when you have decided that a stamp is OK, just remember it takes considerable experience to know what it is you are seeing in the area of damage & repairs. We used a \$5000.00 stereo microscope to confirm what we were seeing, along with several other pieces of equipment that you are unlikely to have access to. We feel that the signoscope is well worth its asking price of \$199.95 and that the AC adapter is a must.

Dennis J. Swinehart

Dennis J. Swinehart, Inc.

P.O. Box 113, Sullivan, ILL. 61951

Phone: (217) 665-3968 or (217) 665-3990

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Actual Size 8 x 4¼ x 5¾" H

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Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.



63 Southampton, PA 18966 Phone (215) 357-9049
