

# The Transition to Polymer Currency Notes in Trinidad and Tobago



CENTRAL BANK OF  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Media Briefing: Introduction of \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations

Webinar: October 27, 2020

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## Our first polymer notes



In December 2014, a special edition polymer gold-coloured \$50 note was commissioned to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

In December 2019, the polymer \$100 note was introduced, replacing the cotton note as part of a major national security exercise.



# The family features of the \$100 note are included in the new suite of polymer notes



1. National flag
2. Coat of Arms
3. Same birds as the cotton notes



4. Similar themes as the cotton notes
5. Central Bank building
6. Similar colours as the cotton notes



# Phases of introduction



December 2019



November 2020



January 2021



CENTRAL BANK OF  
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

# Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago

## INTRODUCTION OF \$5, \$10 AND \$20 POLYMER NOTES

27 10 2020



## The New Polymer Series

Following the issuance of the \$100 polymer note last December, the Central Bank will be issuing 3 more polymer notes from November 2, 2020.

The new polymer notes provide:

- Improved durability – based on polymer substrate.
- Strong security features – to protect against forgery.
- More defined tactile features – improved access for the visually impaired.

## POLYMER: A quick guide to recognising genuine notes

**FEEL**

**LOOK**

**TILT**

**CHECK**



# \$5 POLYMER – FRONT AND BACK



## \$5 FEEL



Polymer banknotes feel smoother than paper.

**Raised Print:**

Run your fingers over the text on the front of the note. The text should feel raised against the surface.

**Tactile Feature:**

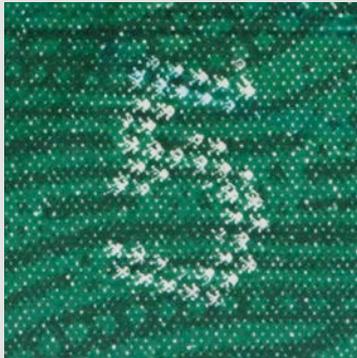
Run your fingers over the bottom corner of the note to feel raised dots in an “L” shape.

## \$5 LOOK



### Clear Window:

Hold the note up to the light to reveal the see-through window completely integrated and visible from both sides of the note. The numeral “5” is printed clearly in green inside the window and visible from both sides.



### Hidden Numeral:

When you hold the note up to the light you will see the numeral “5” appearing in the green print.

## \$5 CHECK



Microtext:

Using a magnifier look for the microtext reading “Trinidad and Tobago 5”.



UV light:

Areas of the note light up in 2 distinctly different colours when viewed under UV light.

# Comparison between \$5 Cotton and Polymer Notes



## Similarities

## Differences

Bird — Mot Mot	1	Smoother feel than cotton notes
Scene — Market scene	2	Hidden 5 to the base of the notes
Microtext — CBTT 5 /Trinidad and Tobago 5	3	Clear window with the numeral "5" printed inside the window and visible from both sides
UV features are more advanced in polymer notes	4	Polymer notes have a printed security thread as opposed to a physical thread which is woven into the cotton notes
Intaglio print	5	
Tactile features — Tactile bars on cotton notes and raised dots in an "L" shape on the polymer notes	6	



# \$10 POLYMER – FRONT AND BACK



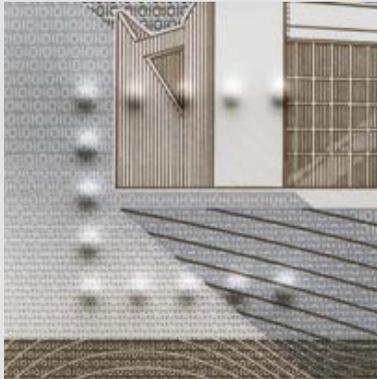
## \$10 FEEL



Polymer banknotes feel smoother than paper.

**Raised Print:**

Run your fingers over the text on the front of the note. The text should feel raised against the surface.



**Tactile Feature:**

Run your fingers over the bottom corner of the note to feel raised dots in a “C” shape.

## \$10 LOOK



### Clear Window:

Hold the note up to the light to reveal the see-through window completely integrated and visible from both sides of the note. The numeral “10” is printed clearly in brown inside the window and visible from both sides.



### Hidden Numeral:

When you hold the note up to the light you will see the numeral “10” appearing in the dark brown print.

## \$10 CHECK



Microtext:  
Using a magnifier look for the microtext  
reading “Trinidad and Tobago 10”.



UV light:  
Areas of the note light up in two distinctly  
different colours when viewed under UV light.

# Comparison between \$10 Cotton and Polymer Notes



## Similarities

## Differences

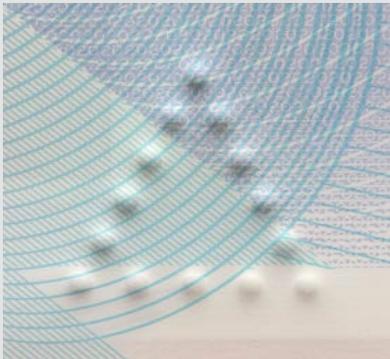
Bird — Cocrico	1	Smoother feel than cotton notes
Scene — Port	2	Hidden 10 to the base of the notes
Microtext — CBTT10 / Trinidad and Tobago 10	3	Clear window with the numeral "10" printed inside the window and visible from both sides
UV features are more advanced in polymer notes	4	Polymer notes have a printed security thread as opposed to a physical thread which is woven into the cotton notes
Intaglio print	5	
Tactile features — Tactile bars on cotton notes and raised dots in a "C" shape on the polymer notes	6	



## \$20 POLYMER – FRONT AND BACK



## \$20 FEEL



Polymer banknotes feel smoother than paper.

**Raised Print:**

Run your fingers over the text on the front of the note. The text should feel raised against the surface.

**Tactile Feature:**

Run your fingers over the bottom corner of the note to feel the raised dots in a “triangle” shape.

## \$20 LOOK



### Clear Window:

Hold the note up to the light to reveal the see-through window completely integrated and visible from both sides of the note. The numeral “20” is printed clearly in white inside the window and visible from both sides.



### Hidden Numeral:

When you hold the note up to the light you will see the numeral “20” appearing in the purple print.

## \$20 – TILT



### Shimmering Ink:

As you move the note around you will see areas with a shimmering pink/red coloured ink within the bird window and the numeral “20”.

## \$20 CHECK



Microtext:

Using a magnifier look for the microtext reading “Trinidad and Tobago 1”.



UV light:

Areas of the note light up in two distinctly different colours when viewed under UV light.

# Comparison between \$20 Cotton and Polymer Notes



## Similarities

## Differences

Bird — Humming Bird	1	Smoother feel than cotton notes
Scene — Steel Pans	2	Hidden 20 to the base of the notes
Microtext — CBTT 20 /Trinidad and Tobago 20	3	Clear window with the numeral "20" printed inside the window and visible from both sides
UV features are more advanced in polymer notes	4	Polymer notes have a printed security thread as opposed to a physical thread which is woven into the cotton notes
Intaglio print	5	Second window -Humming bird. Shimmering ink
Tactile features — Tactile bars on cotton notes and raised dots in a "triangle" shape on the polymer notes	6	

# LEGAL TENDER STATUS



From November 2020, the Central Bank will issue the \$5, \$10 and \$20 to commercial banks.

The new polymer notes will co-circulate with the existing paper-based (cotton) notes.

Both the polymer and cotton \$5, \$10 and \$20 notes will be legal tender until at least the end of 2021, when a decision will be taken on demonetisation of the cotton notes.

The Central Bank will provide more *Know Your Money* sessions to familiarise the public with the features of the new notes.

Please feel free to contact the Central Bank via email [info@central-bank.org.tt](mailto:info@central-bank.org.tt) or on our Facebook page for further details.



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