



L5 Notes from nzstamps.org.uk



All issues were recess printed and perforated by De La Rue. The stamp shows Mount Cook, the highest mountain in New Zealand.

There are three frame plates: 1, 3 and 4. Sheets had 60 stamps in 10 rows of 6.

Perf 14-13½x13½

The initial issue on 1 May 1935 was on paper with a single watermark. The frame plate was numbered 1, but the centre plate was unnumbered.

The stamps were perforated 14-13½x13½, i.e. the top and bottom perforations on each stamp were perf 14 for half the length and perf 13 for the other half.

Perf 13½x14

In November 1935, the stamp was issued perf 13½x14. Although it was a comb head, the corners show the characteristics of a line perf. To try and get a better print, this printing was on damp paper and the gum, which was thick and brown, was added after the sheets had been printed.

Multiple Watermark

In 1936, the stamp was issued on multi watermarked paper in the original perforation. In all printings from plate 1, the bottom frame line is weak.

New Plates

A new unnumbered centre plate together with a new frame plate 3 (there was no plate 2) were used from November 1936.

By mistake, the plate number is in reverse and appears under the 5th stamp in the bottom margin instead of under the 2nd as in plate 1.

Initially the stamps were line perf 14. More than one perforation head was used. This plate block shows the perforations through the bottom margin, but only one hole in the side margin.

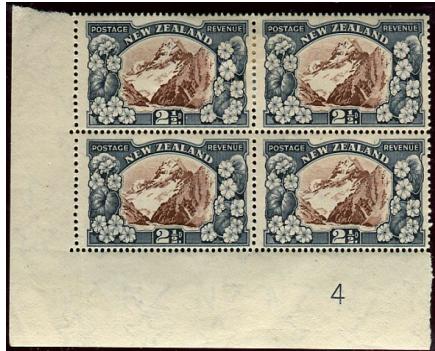
Other sheets were line perforated 14 with a head that extended more into the side margins as shown in the next example. In 1938 the perforations were changed to a comb perf 14.

Although the new centre plate is unnumbered, it is easily distinguished from the first unnumbered centre plate as the shading lines in the sky and in the mountains are much deeper. The comparison is shown on the left.





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Frame plate 4 appeared in November 1942. There are two perforations $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ with the first being the more common. They were used concurrently.

Royal Cypher

In perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, the perforations continue through the side margins while in perf $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ they do not. The reason is that the stamps perf $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ were perforated using the centre portion of comb heads made for the 5d and 2s stamps which were issued in sheets



of 10 rows of 12 rather than the 10 rows of 6 of the 2½d [1].

In some printings on both perforations, an engine turned design in the colour of the centre plate appears in the bottom margin overlapping the figure 4.

The number 1653-2 appears in reverse under stamps 3 and 4 although it was normally cut off when the sheets were trimmed.

The 2½d was withdrawn on 30 April, 1947.