



The postage value printing mechanism of a MV meter contains several wheels (or banks) with the numbers “0/1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9” raised on the rims. These wheels serve as the dies that print the postage and are rotated so that the postage amount on the rims faces the mail piece to be stamped. A postage meter with

three wheels can print any number from 000 to 999. A meter with five wheels and a stop between the third and fourth can print any number from 000.00 to 999.99. Usually the left-most wheel, the one that prints the highest power digit (e.g. the ‘2’ in ‘2345’) will have a symbol (\approx , \star , \diamond , \blackstar , etc.) in place of the ‘0’ (zero). A four-bank Multi Value meter with this configuration will print 5 as \approx 005, \star 005, \diamond 005 or \blackstar 005, etc. depending on what symbol replaces the zero. Values from 1000 up will appear normal. In the listings a meter type described as having a value figure (V/F) of ‘ \approx 000’ can deliver a stamp with maximum value of 9999, not \approx 999!

The illustration shows an image (reversed and simplified for clarity) of a MV meter die with four banks (wheels) and a fixed double zero suffix. Suffixes are often added when inflation has pushed the amount of postage it takes to mail a letter beyond the original capacity of the meter. In the case of the die shown in the image originally it could print a stamp with maximum value of 9999 but with the suffix added the largest value stamp it can print is 999,900.