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Introduction

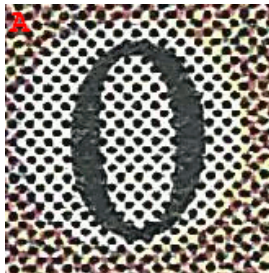
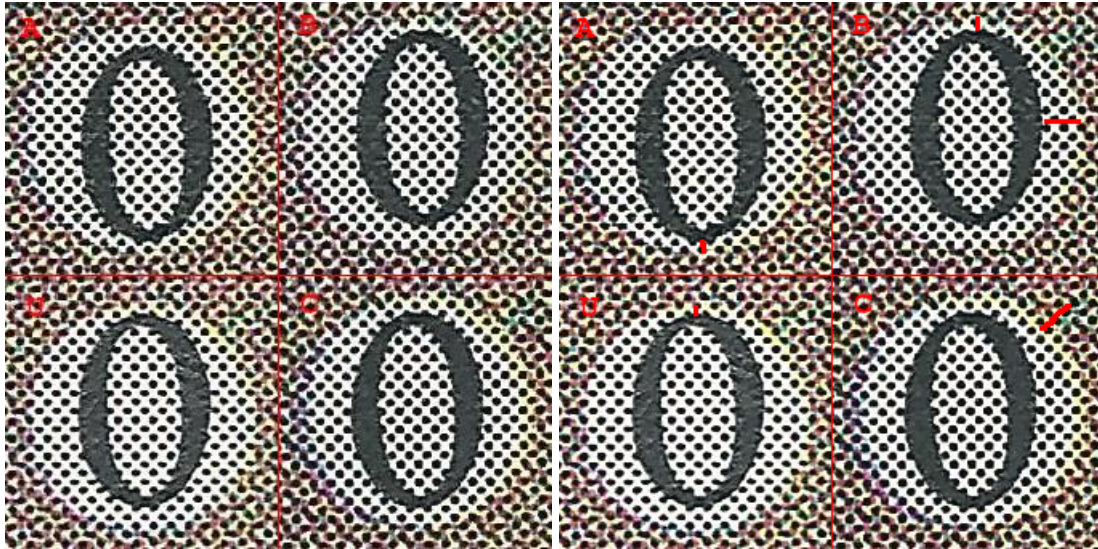
The purpose of this guide is to give collectors and players reference images when trying to identify cards from the various editions of the base set (Alpha, Beta, Unlimited and CE). This guide looks primarily at print registration which provides a consistent and difficult to manipulate way to differentiate between cards of these sets. This method of identification is more difficult to manipulate than more obvious methods such as looking at corners (which can be clipped) or borders (which can be colored) or backs (which can be rebacked).

This guide is primarily focused at differentiating between real cards of uncertain set. It is assumed that all cards will be tested to ensure they are real using more standard testing methods such as light test, louping the green dot on the back etc.

The guide is split by card because print registration varies by card. For each card we provide a raw image of a section of the card for each of the 4 sets - Alpha (A), Beta (B), Unlimited (U) and Collectors Edition (C). Note that we will not provide full scans of each card in an effort to avoid this guide being used to produce counterfeits. We also provide an annotated image showing key differences, an animated overlay of the raw images and a brief guide to the alignment on each edition. Note that alignment refers to the black layer, so "misaligned left" means that the black layer is left of the correct position relative to the other layers.

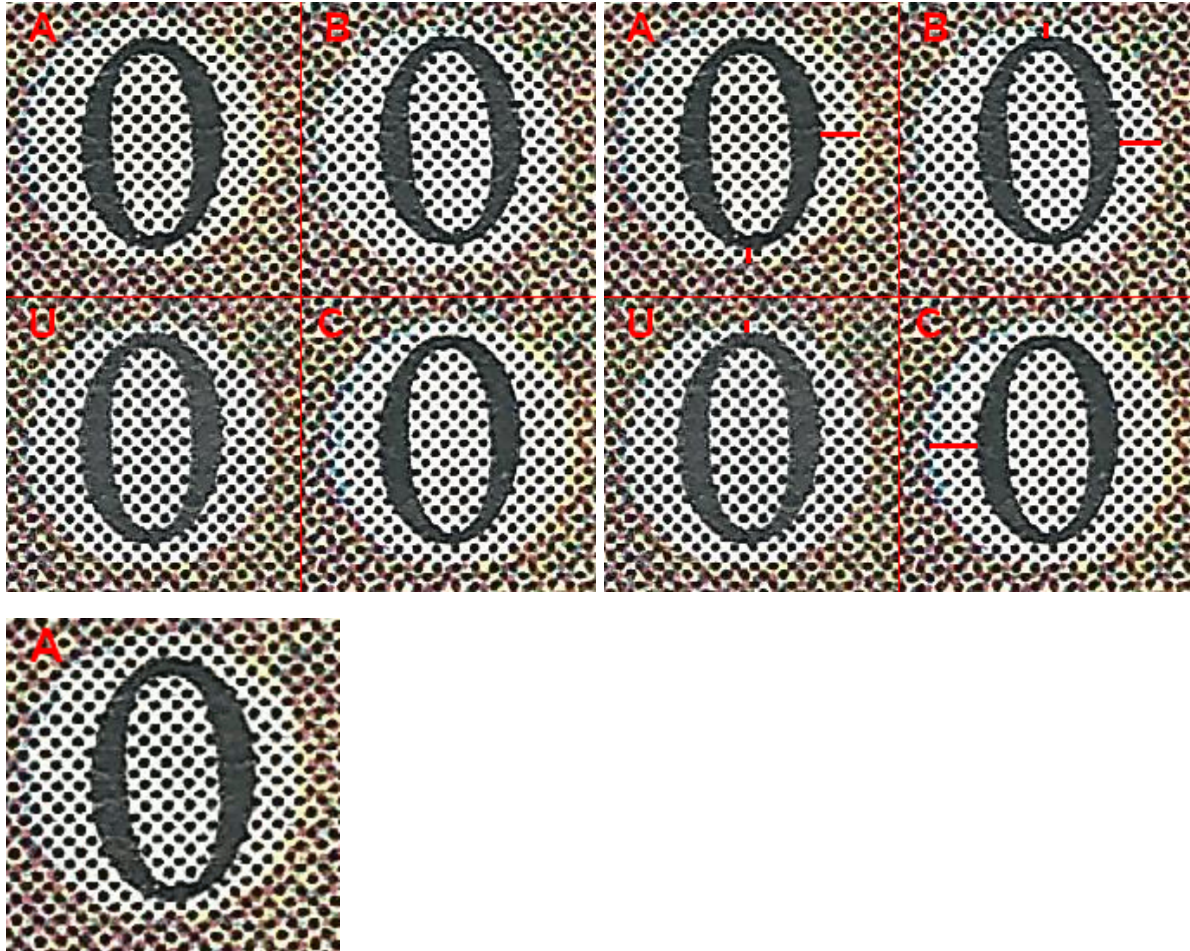
The guide is a work in progress - we will aim to cover the whole base set as scans for each card become available.

Black Lotus



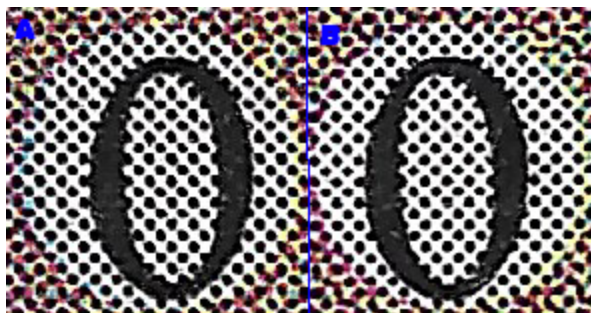
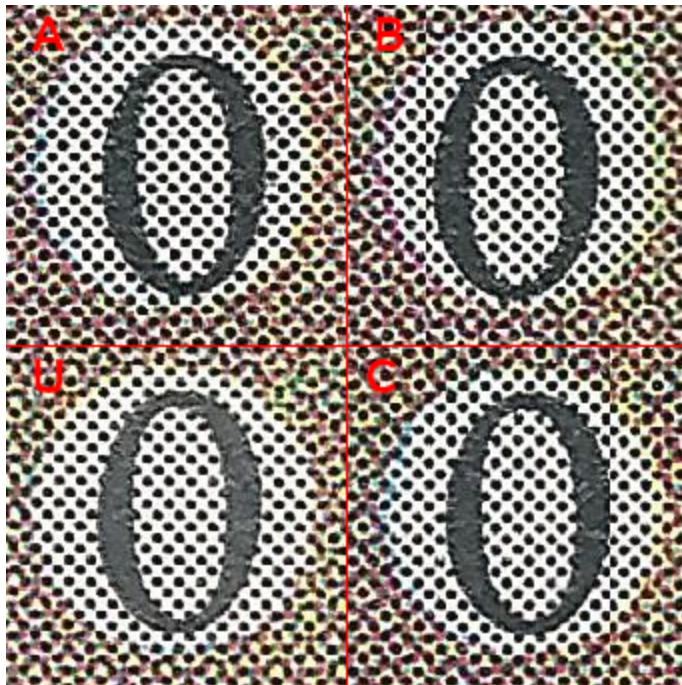
- Alpha misaligned down
- Beta misaligned up and slightly right
- Unlimited misaligned up
- CE well centered with yellow layer misaligned to the left

Mox Ruby

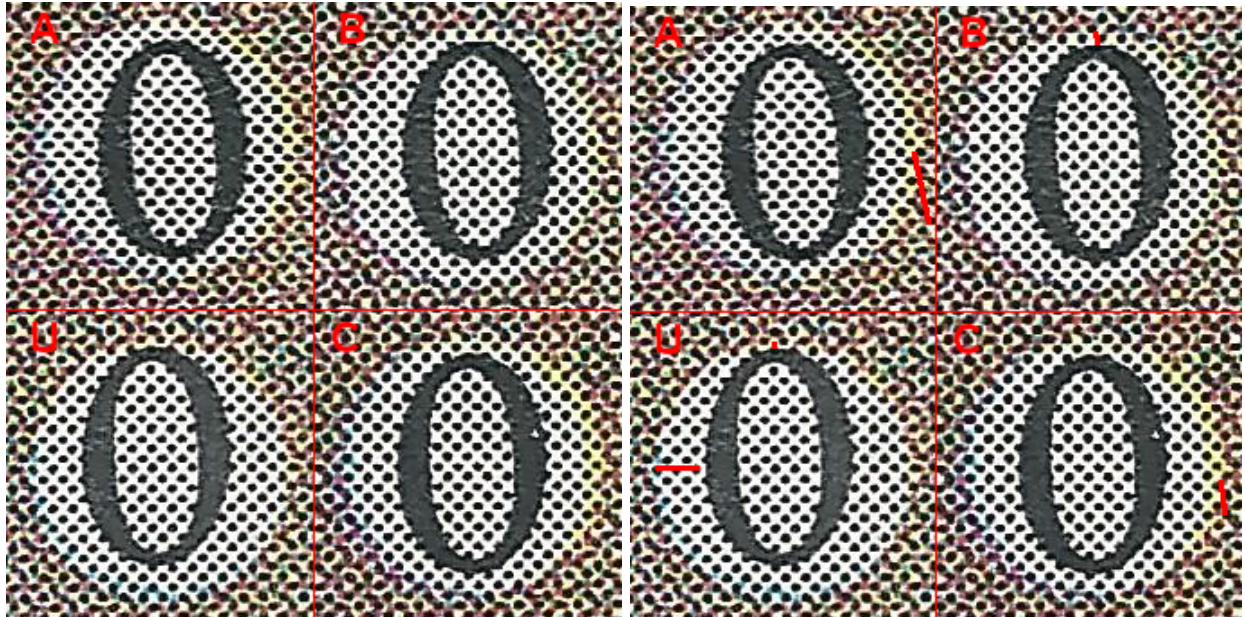


- Alpha misaligned down
- Beta misaligned up and slightly right
- Unlimited misaligned up
- CE well centered with yellow layer misaligned to the left

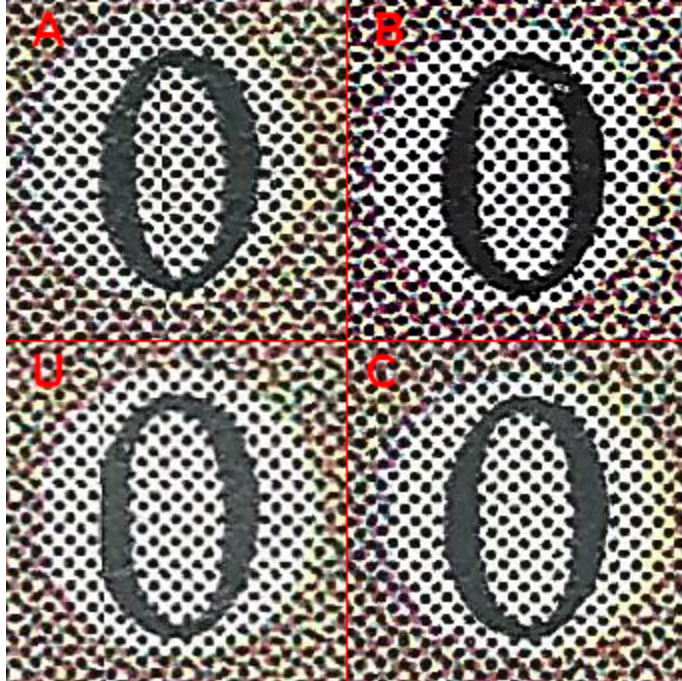
Mox Jet



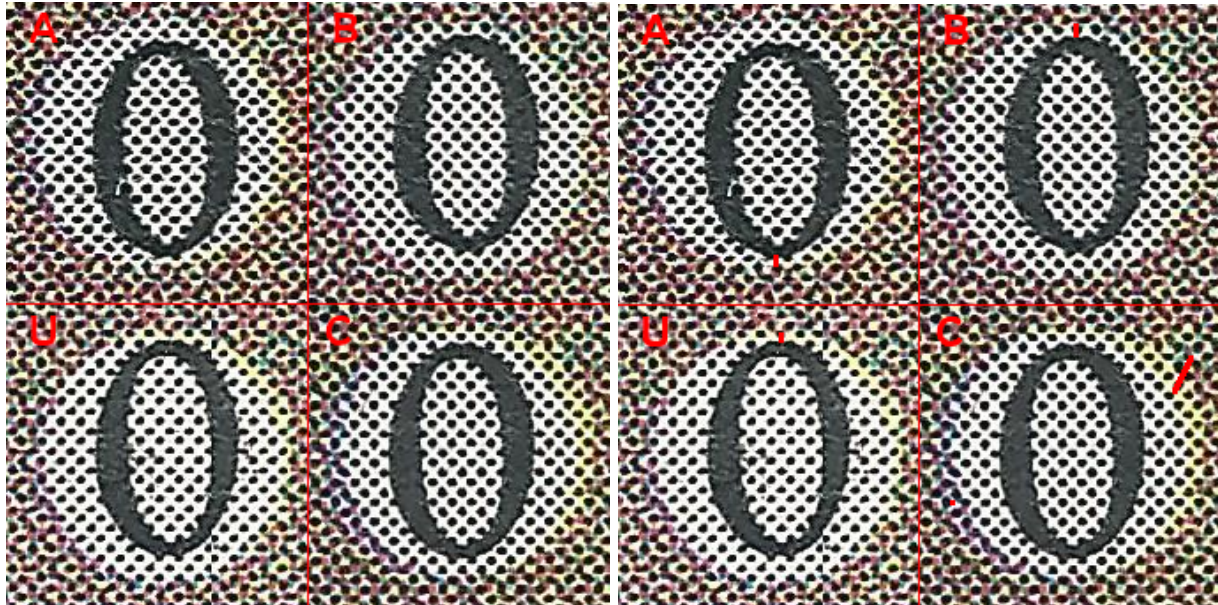
Mox Pearl



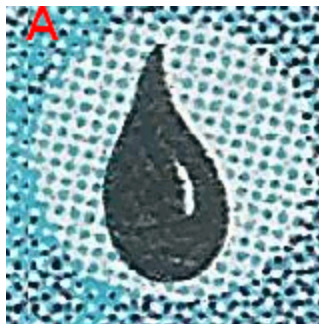
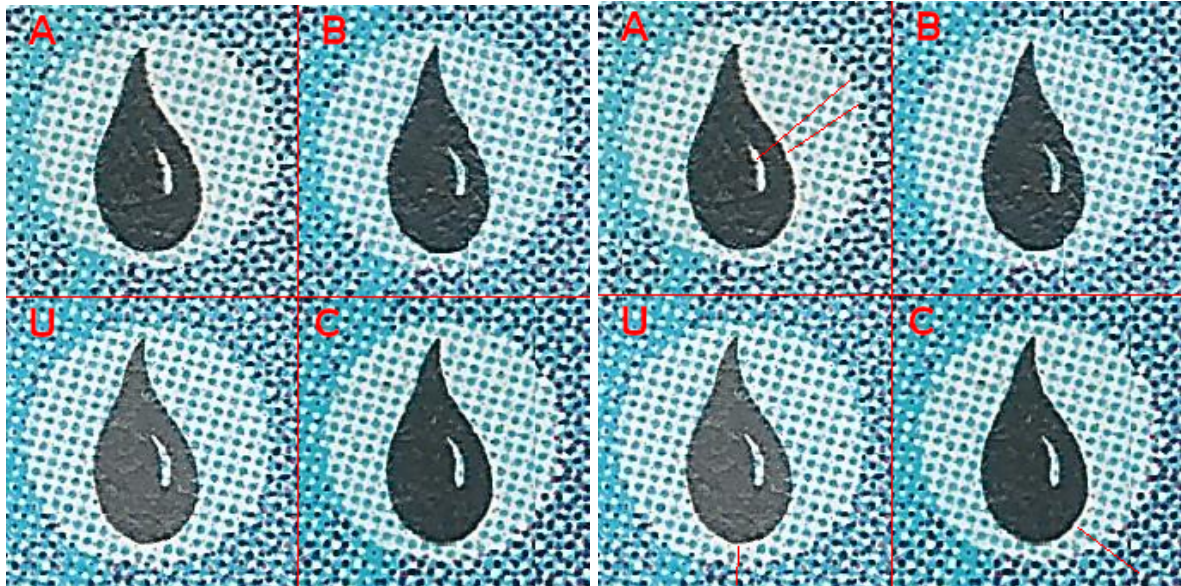
Mox Sapphire



Mox Emerald

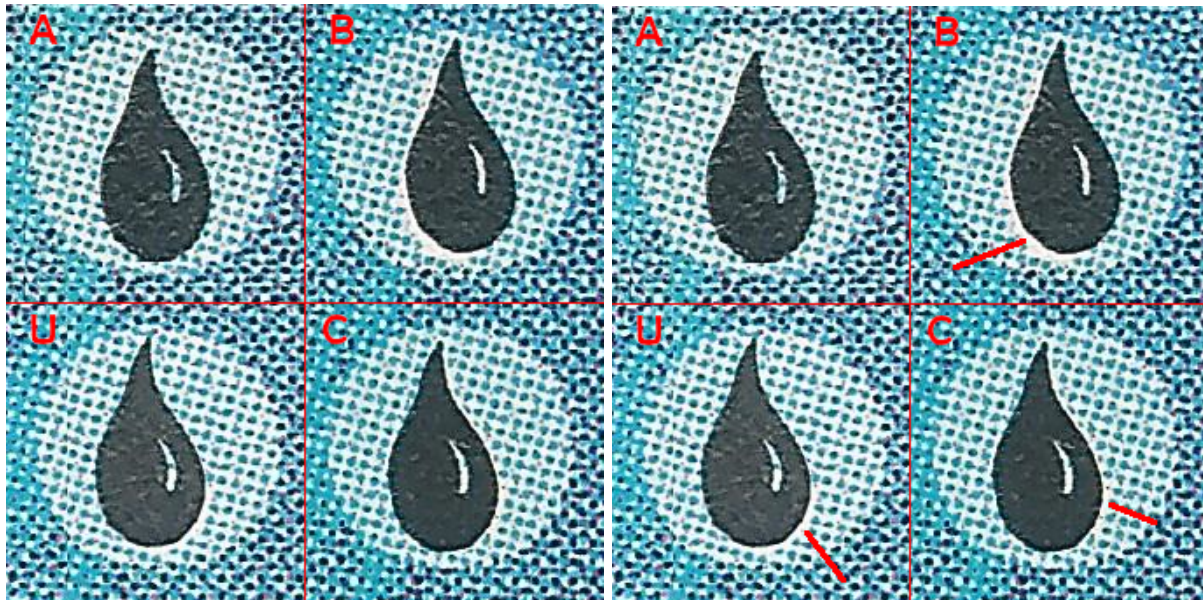


Time Walk



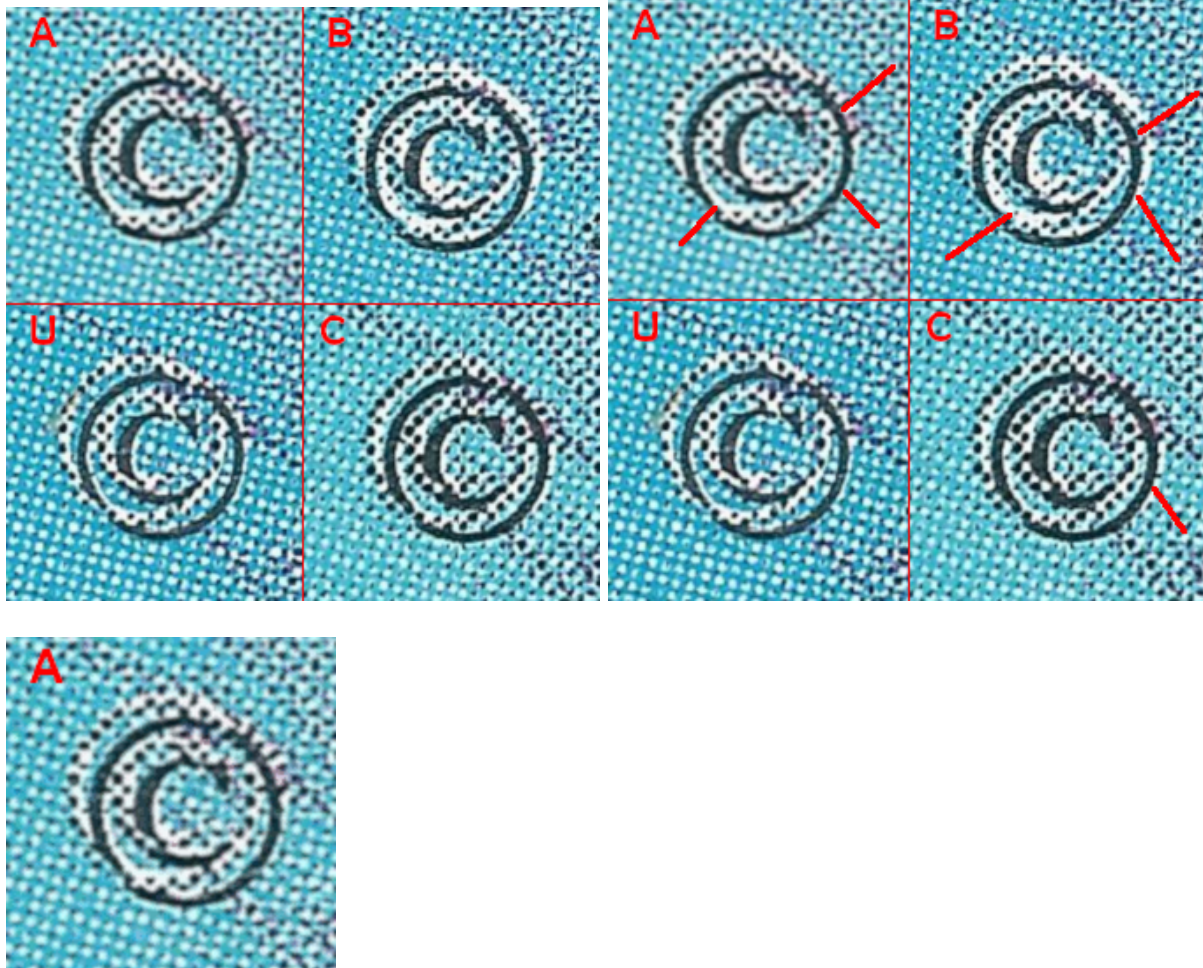
- Alpha misaligned to left. “window” in mana symbol empty
- Beta well aligned
- Unlimited slightly misaligned up
- CE slightly misaligned up and left

Ancestral Recall



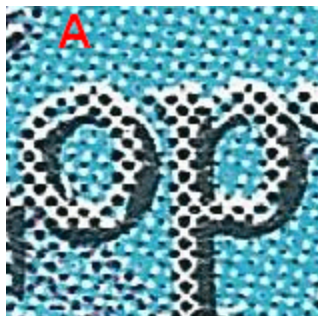
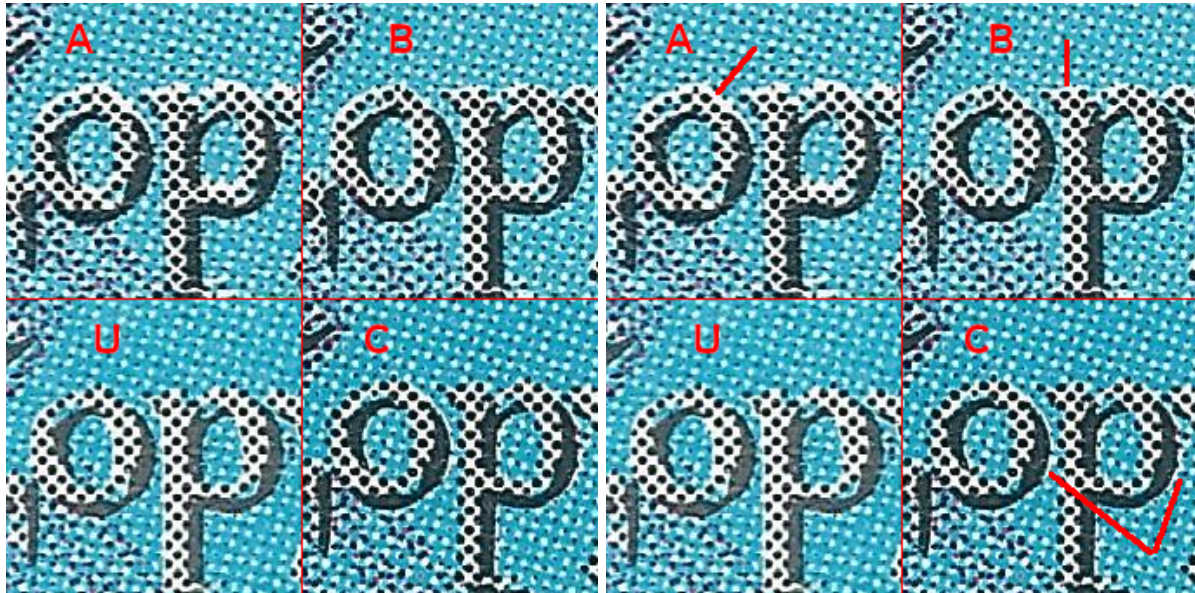
- Alpha well aligned
- Beta misaligned up and to the right. “window” in mana symbol empty
- Unlimited slightly misaligned up and left
- CE slightly misaligned left

Timetwister



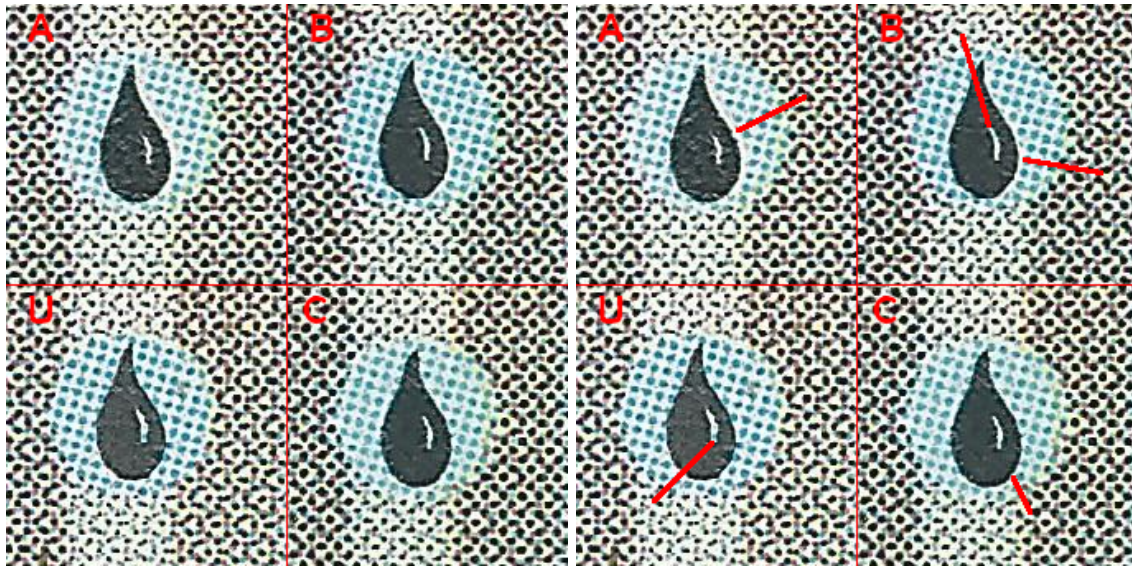
- Alpha misaligned slightly up
- Beta misaligned up and to left - notice patch of blue shows between black and white circles on right of symbol
- Unlimited well aligned
- CE slightly misaligned slightly left

Copy Artifact



- Alpha misaligned up
- Beta misaligned slightly up
- Unlimited well aligned
- CE slightly misaligned slightly left

Underground Sea



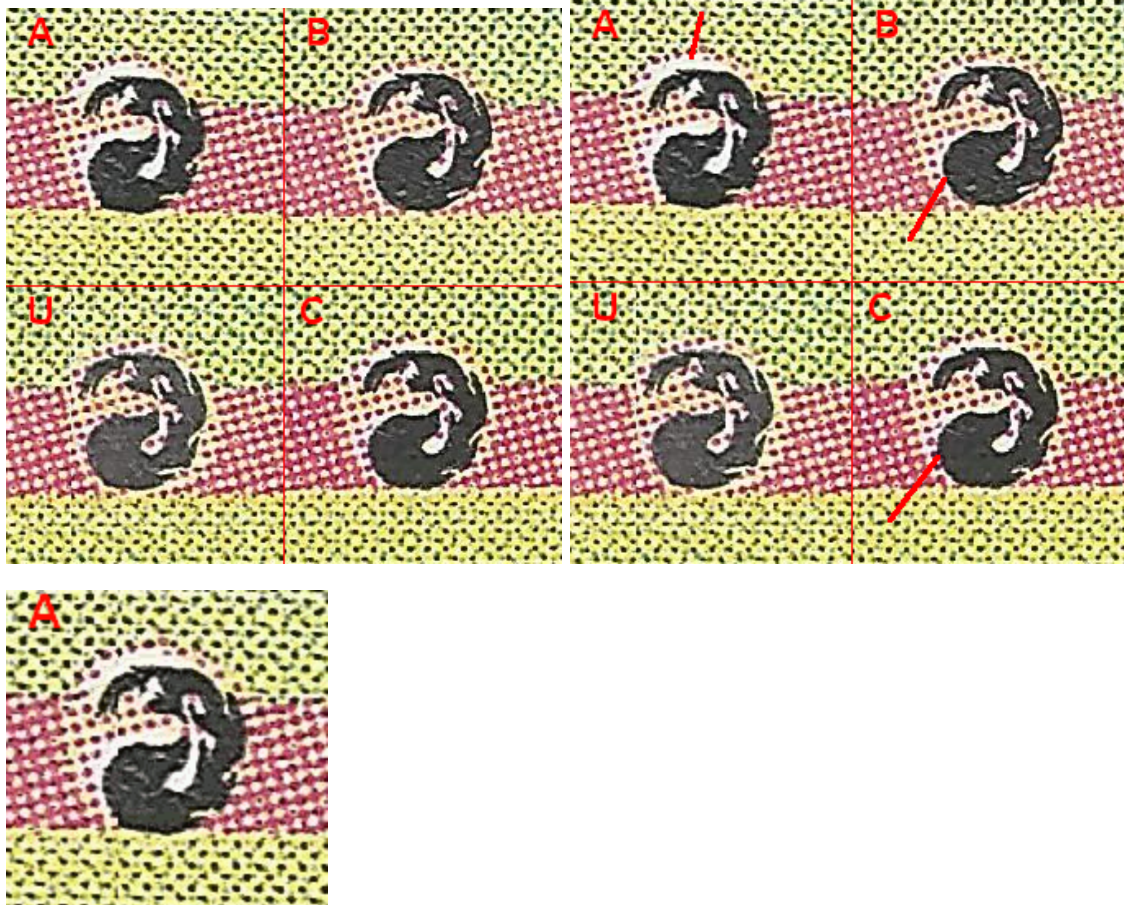
- Alpha misaligned left - no blue inside mana symbol
- Beta misaligned slightly left - still small blue patch inside mana symbol at top of “window”
- Unlimited well aligned
- CE slightly misaligned slightly left - no blue inside mana symbol

Volcanic Island



- Alpha does not exist
- Beta misaligned right, no blue inside “window”, yellow on right of circle
- Unlimited misaligned slightly up, yellow on top of circle
- CE blue layer misaligned right leaving gap, black layer misaligned left

Taiga

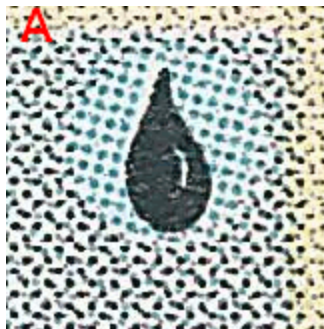
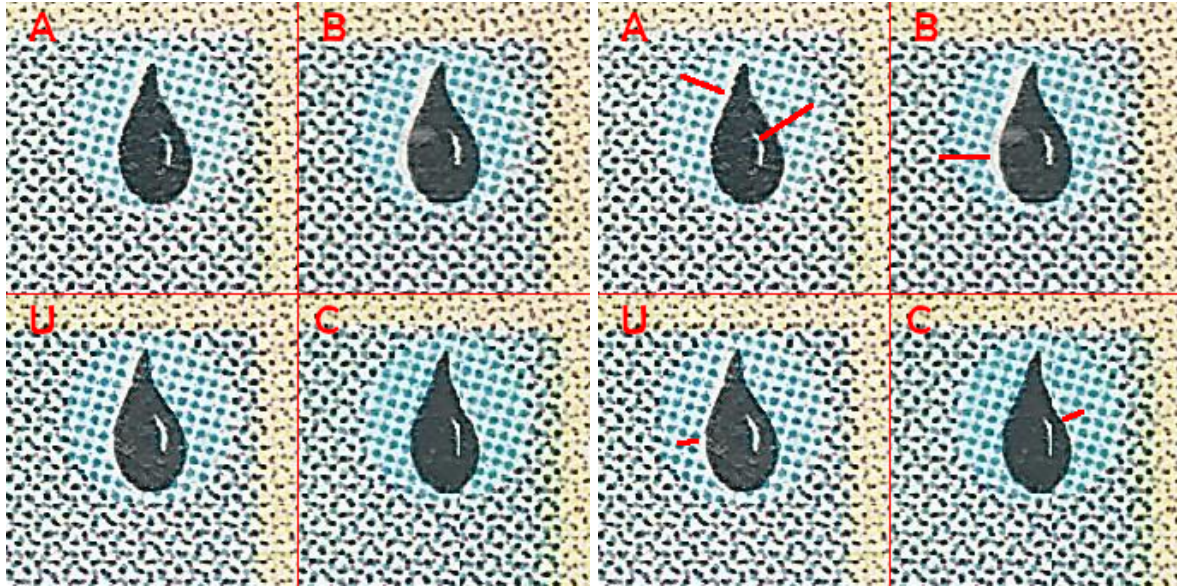


- Alpha misaligned to right and down. Common mark next to “Land”



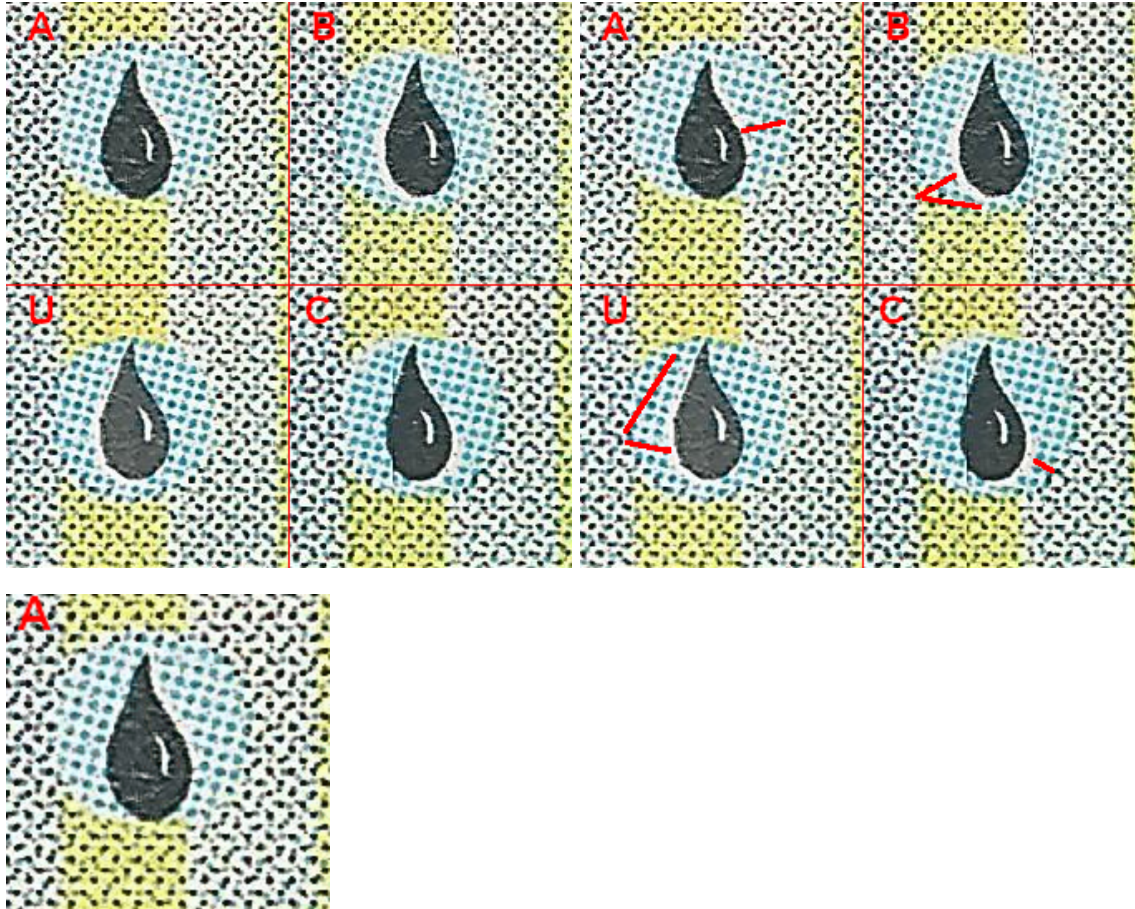
- Beta misaligned slightly right
- Unlimited well aligned
- CE slightly misaligned right, can be differentiated from beta by red layer vs. black layer alignment

Tundra



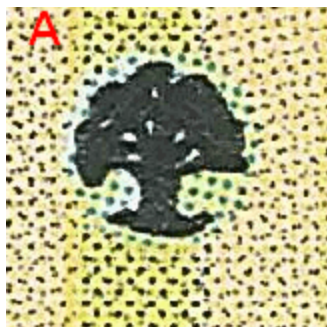
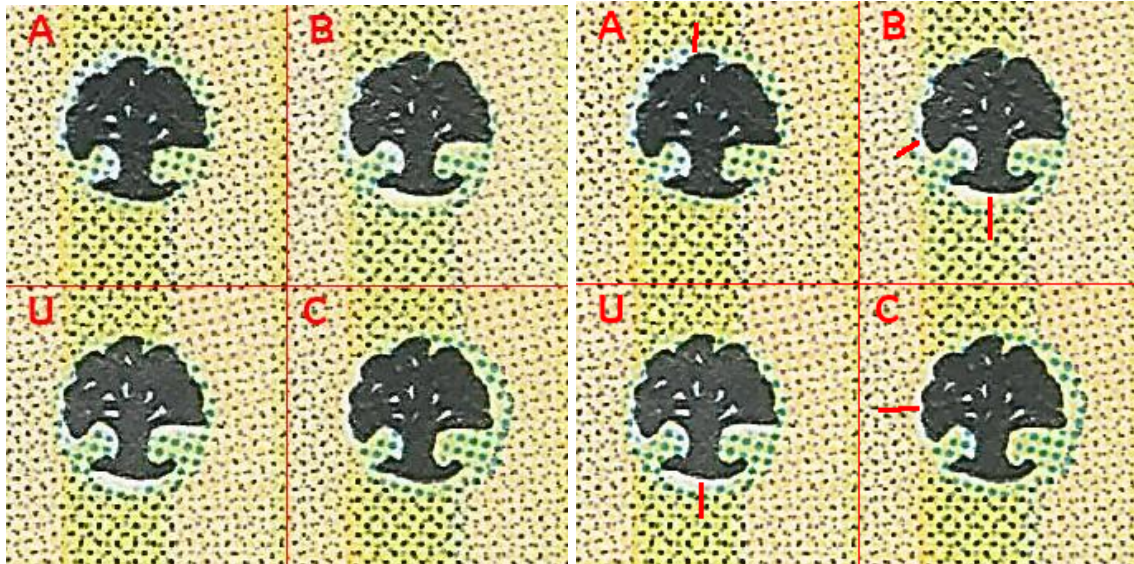
- Alpha misaligned slightly right, still blue inside “window”
- Beta misaligned right, no blue inside “window”
- Unlimited misaligned slightly right
- CE well aligned

Tropical Island



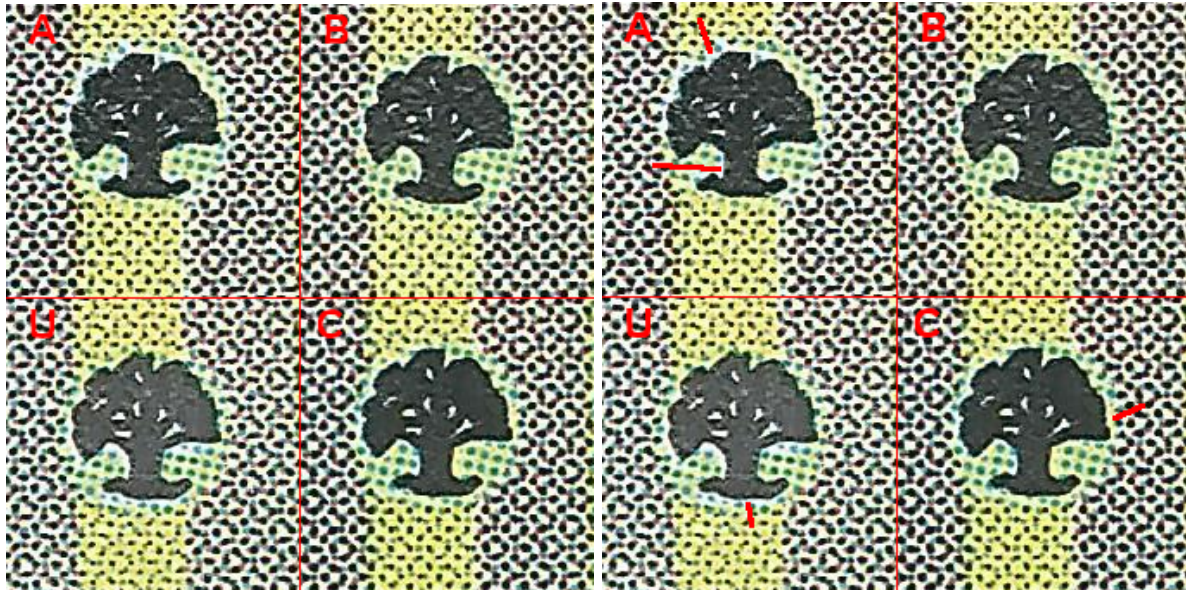
- Alpha misaligned left
- Beta misaligned up and right
- Unlimited misaligned right
- CE misaligned up and left

Savannah



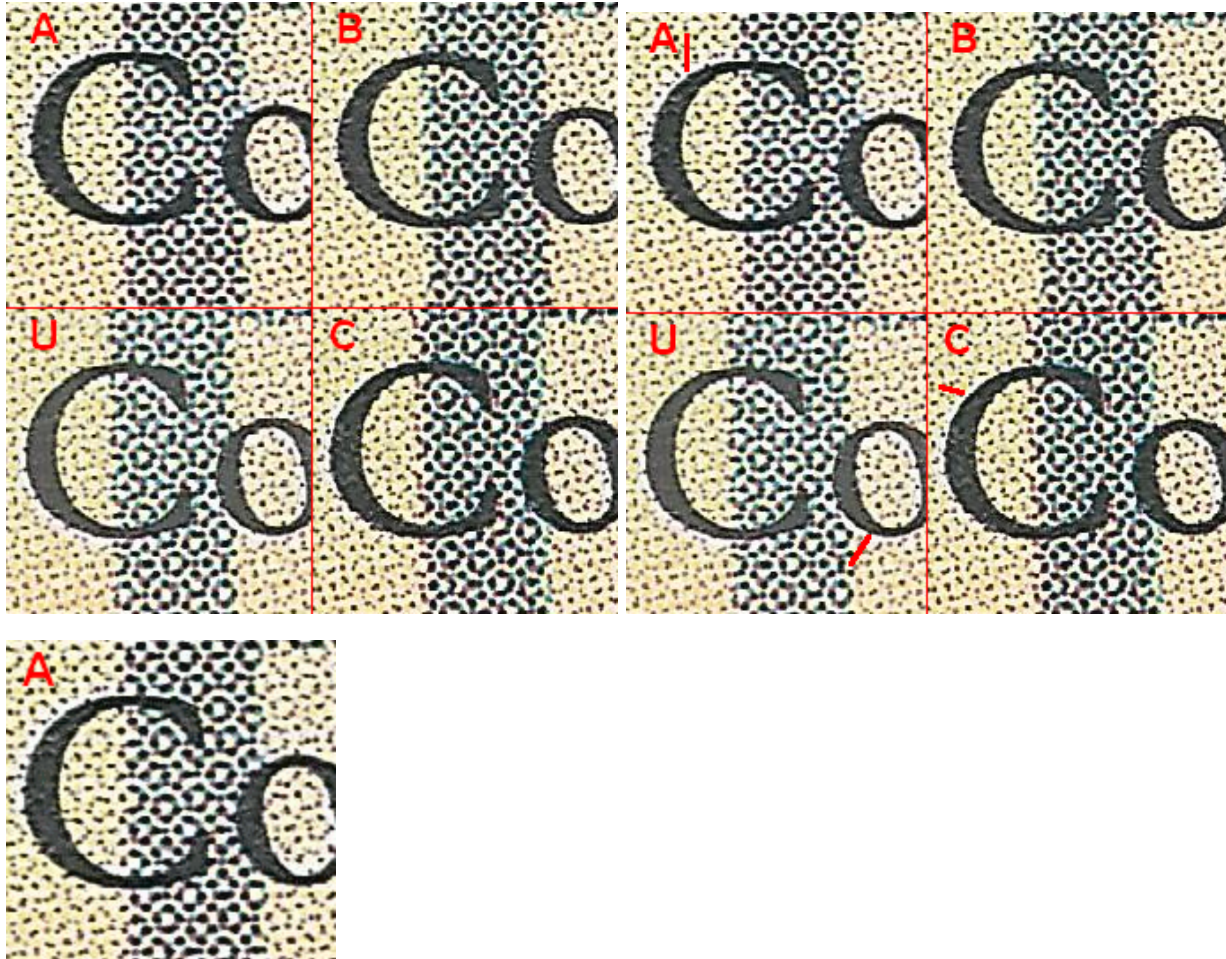
- Alpha misaligned down
- Beta misaligned up and right
- Unlimited misaligned up
- CE misaligned slightly right

Bayou



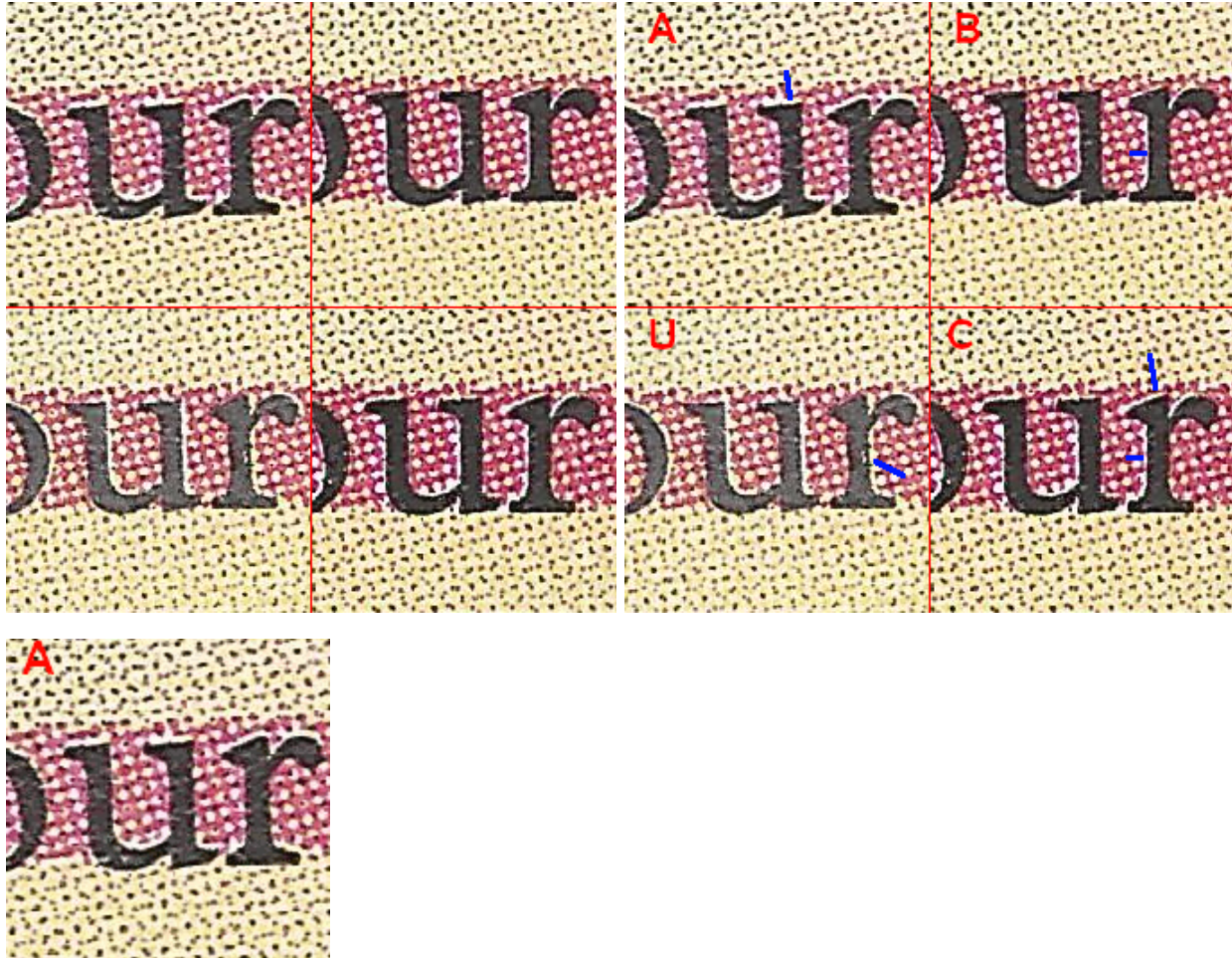
- Alpha misaligned down and right
- Beta well aligned
- Unlimited misaligned up
- CE well aligned but yellow shadow showing on right

Scrubland



- Alpha misaligned down and right
- Beta well aligned
- Unlimited misaligned up and right
- CE misaligned slightly right

Plateau



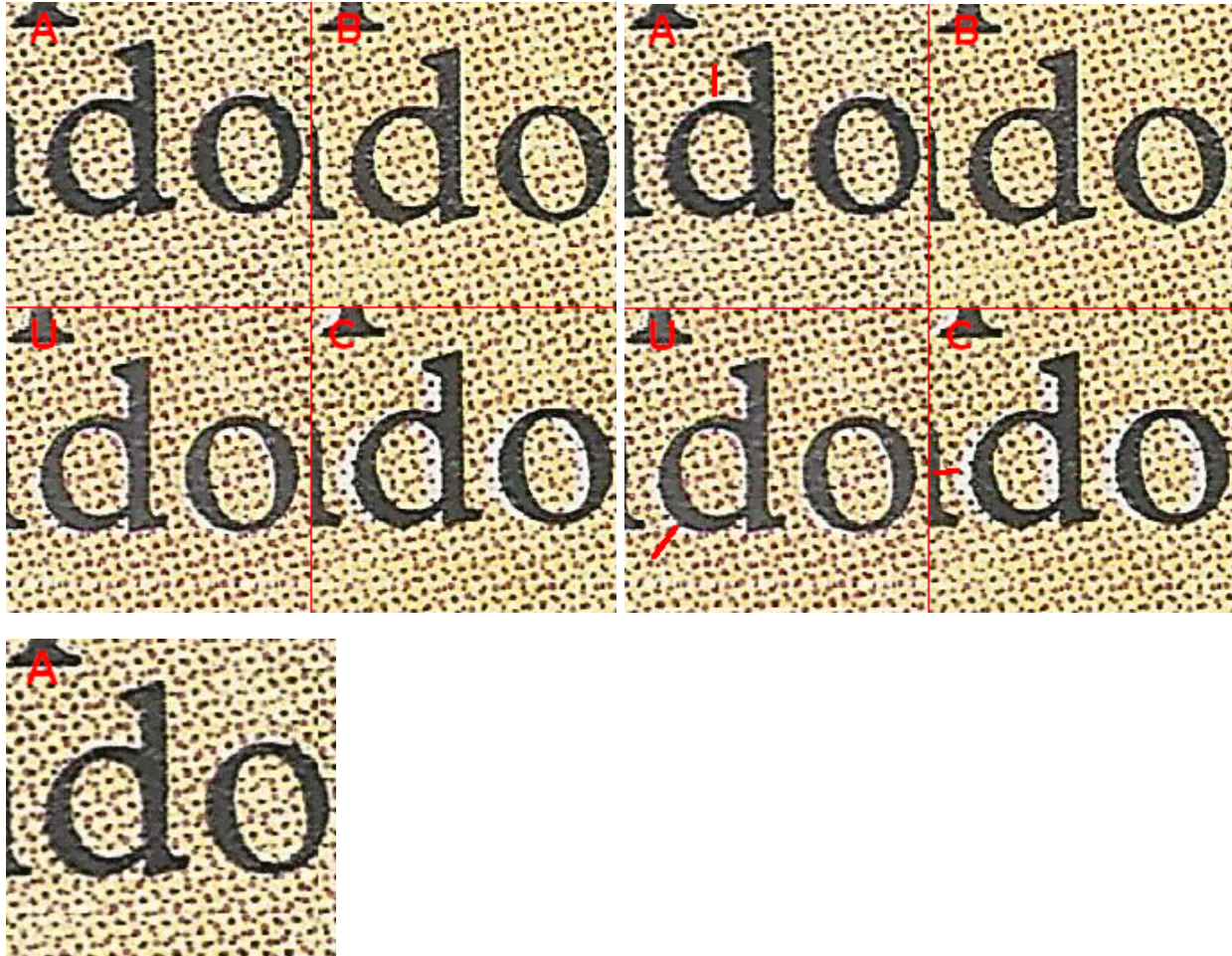
- Alpha misaligned down
- Beta misaligned slightly right
- Unlimited misaligned left with yellow shadow
- CE misaligned down and right

Badlands



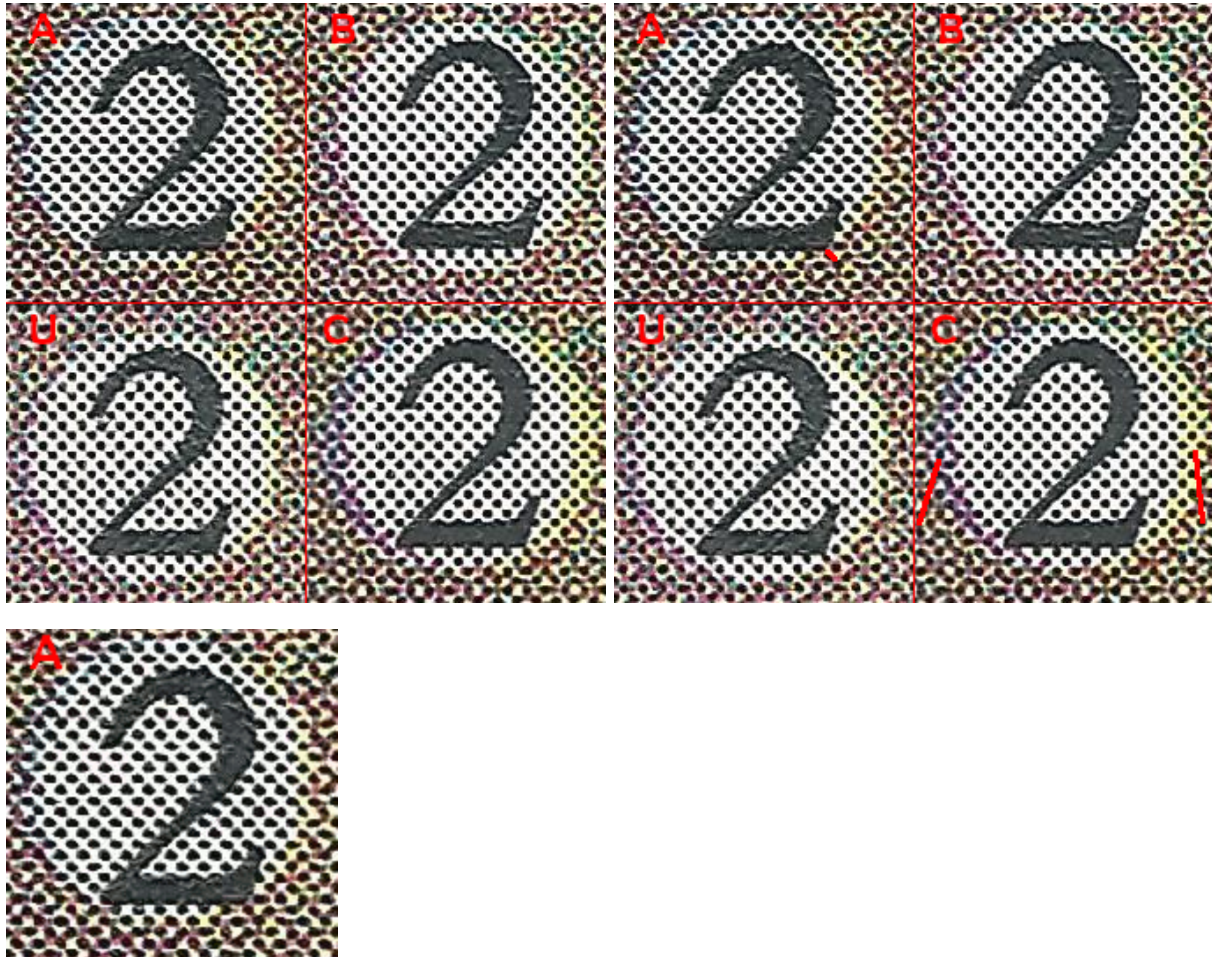
- Alpha misaligned slightly down and right
- Beta misaligned right
- Unlimited misaligned up
- CE well aligned

Mind Twist

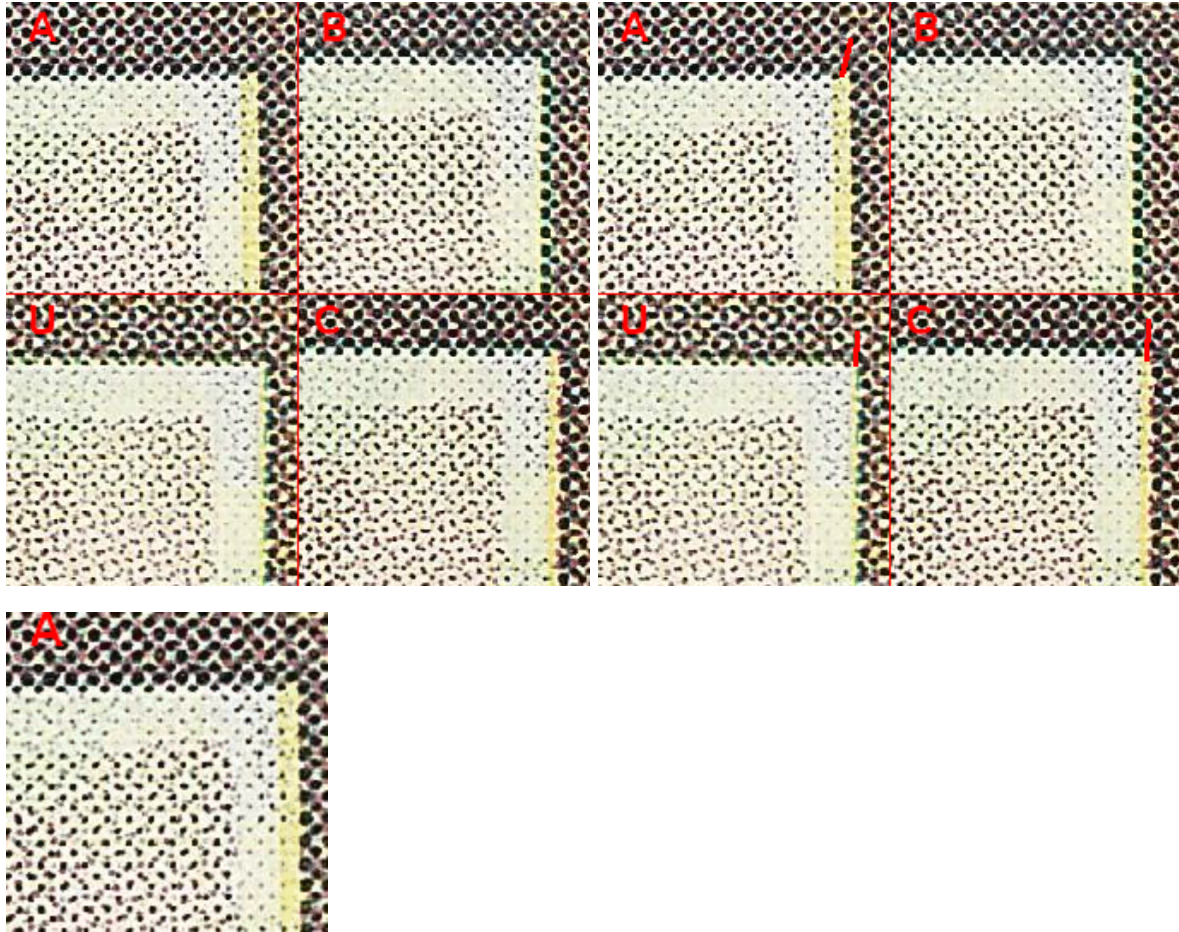


- Alpha misaligned down
- Beta well aligned
- Unlimited misaligned down and to right
- CE misaligned to right

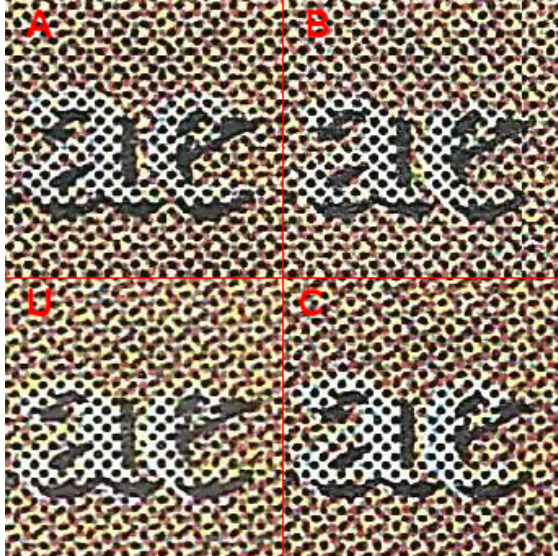
Chaos Orb



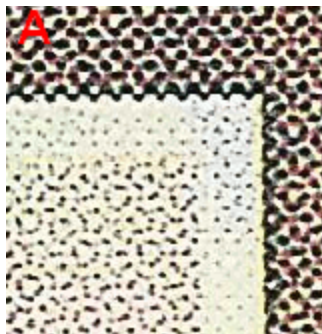
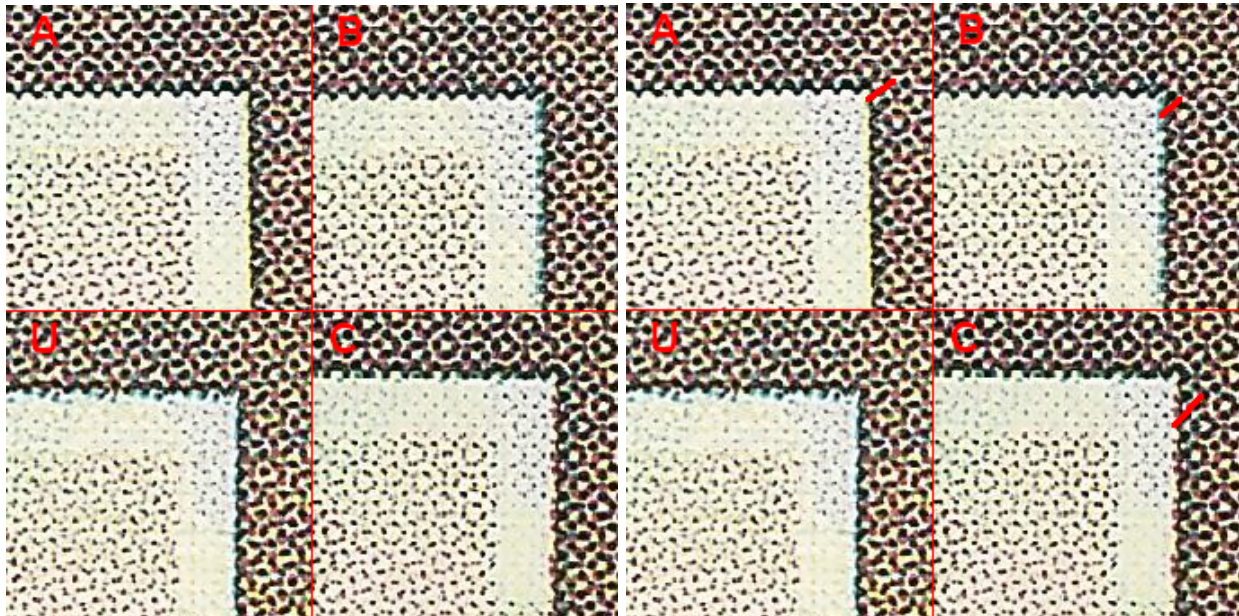
Time Vault



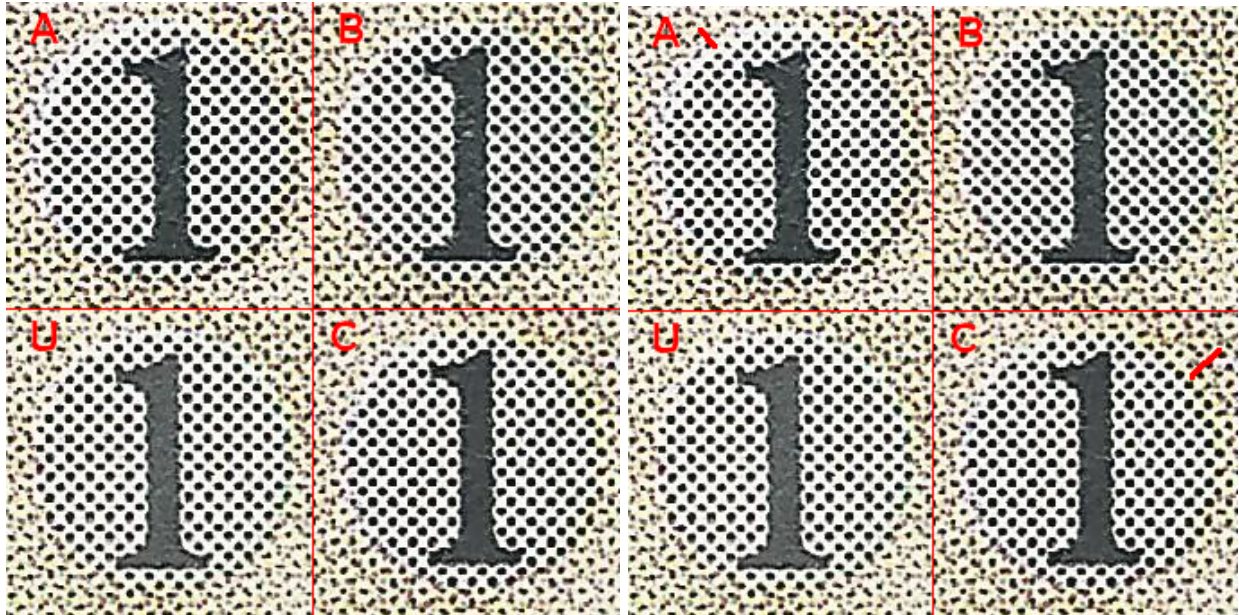
Jayemdae Tome



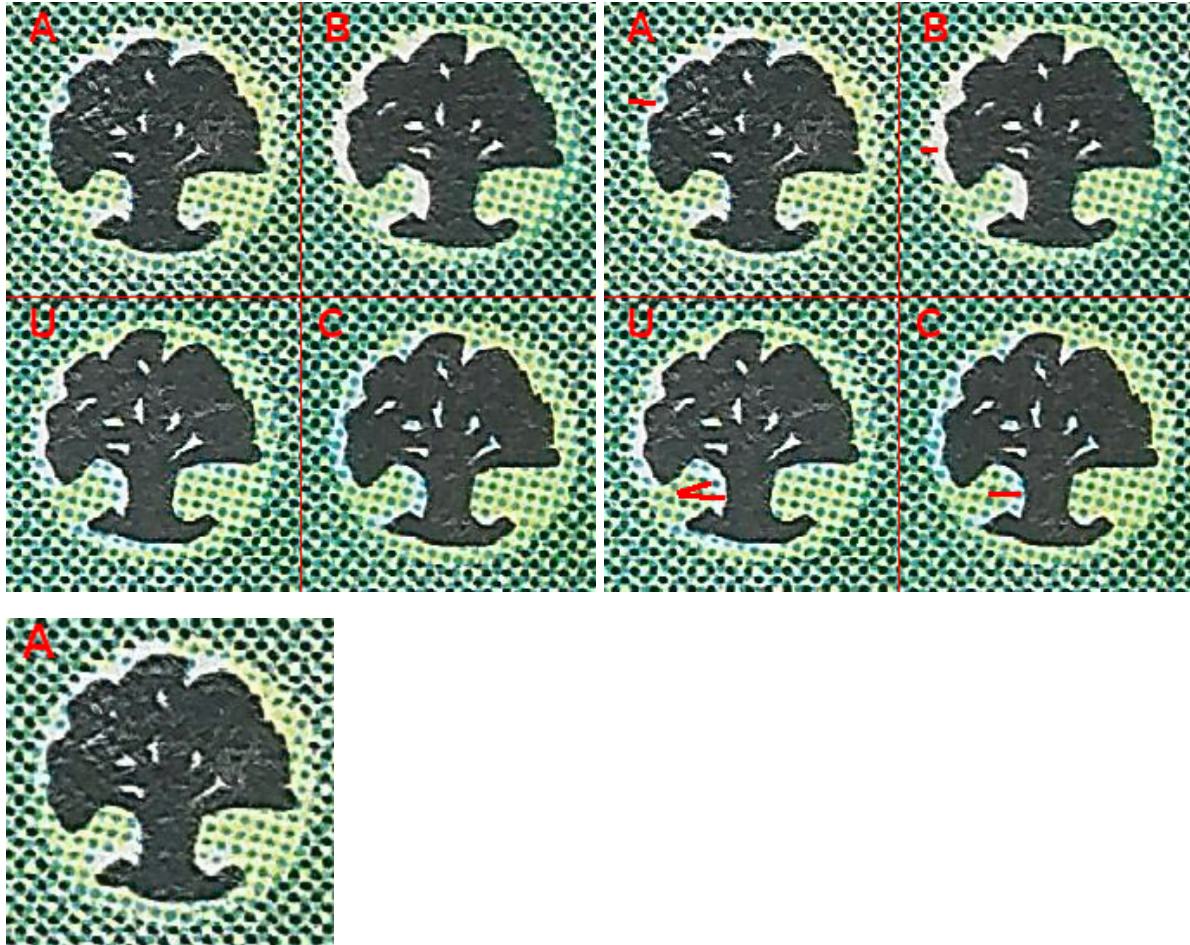
Howling Mine



Balance

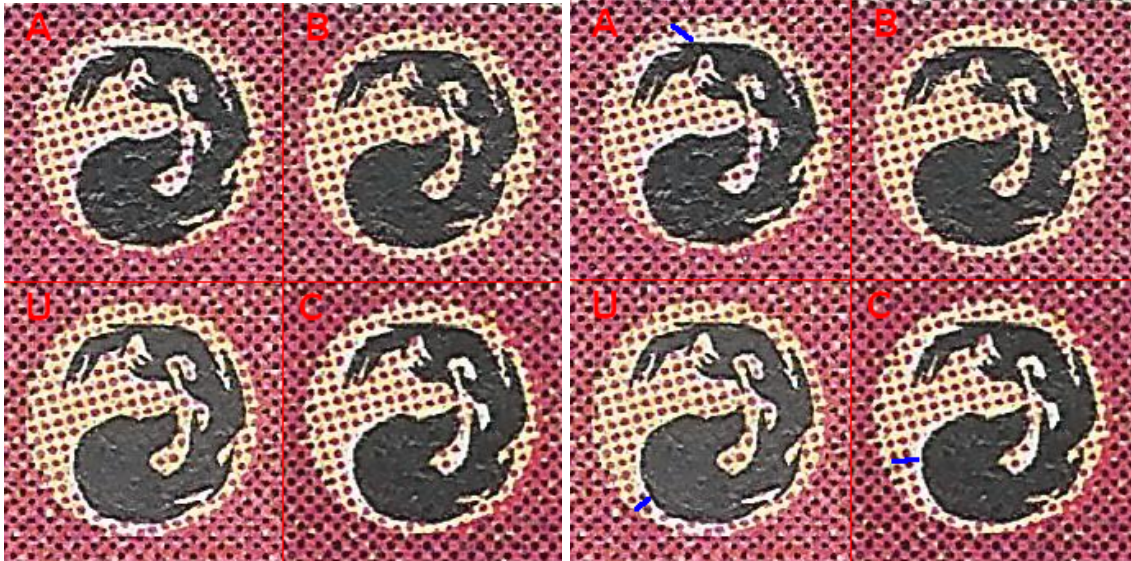


Birds of Paradise



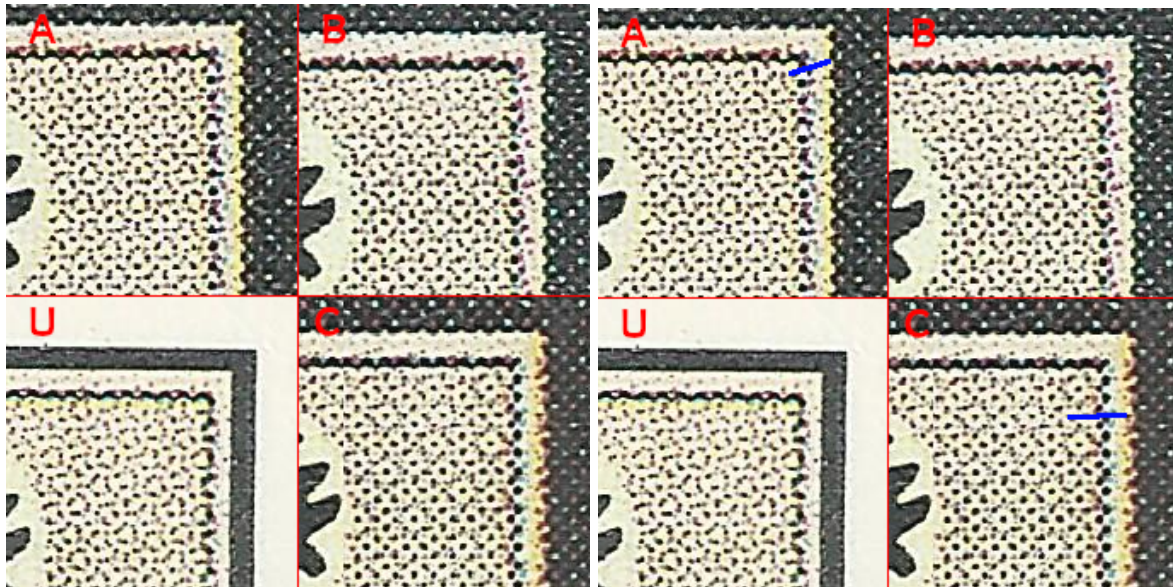
- Alpha misaligned down and right - has “//” in text box
- Beta misaligned right
- Unlimited misaligned right with blue and white offsets
- CE yellow is misaligned causing blue offset

Shivan Dragon



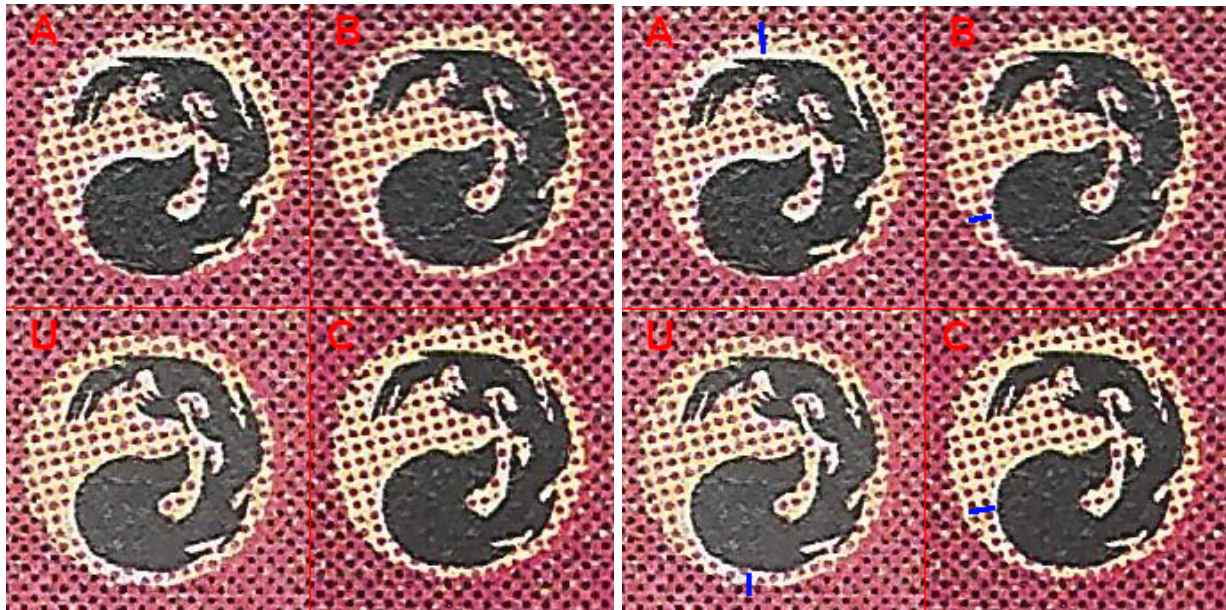
- Alpha misaligned down and right
- Beta well aligned
- Unlimited misaligned slightly right
- CE misaligned right

Wrath of God



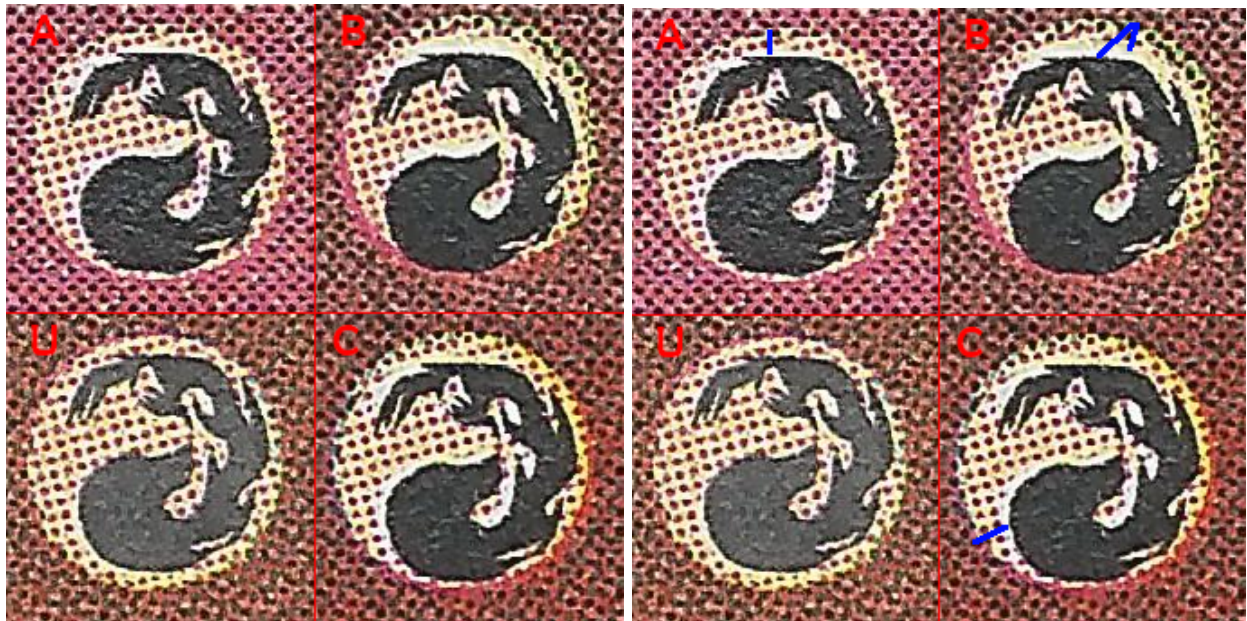
- Alpha has small yellow offset
- Beta well aligned
- Unlimited well aligned
- CE large yellow offset

Fork



- Alpha misaligned down
- Beta misaligned slightly right
- Unlimited slightly up
- CE yellow and red offset compared to beta

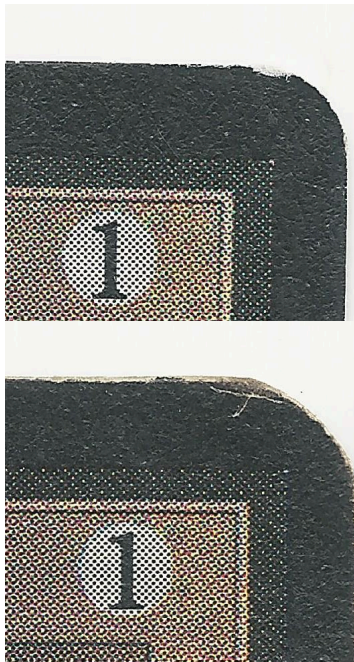
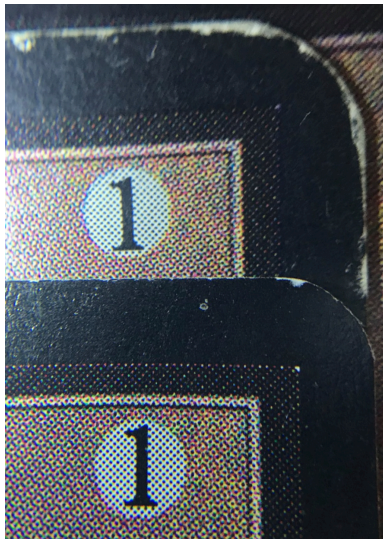
Sedge Troll



- Alpha misaligned down, text ordering different and color much lighter
- Beta misaligned down
- Unlimited well aligned
- CE misaligned right

Work in Progress

Mana Vault



Birds of Paradise

Cyclopean Tomb

No mana cost on alpha

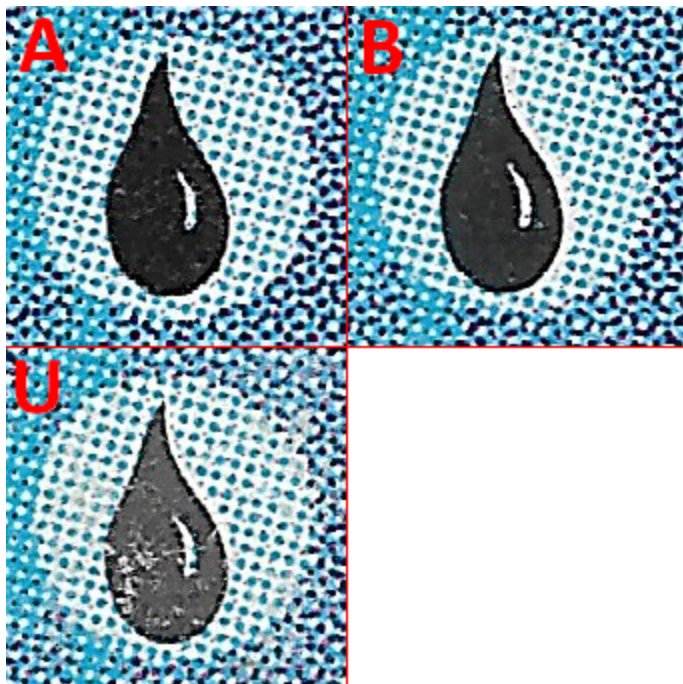


Icy Manipulator

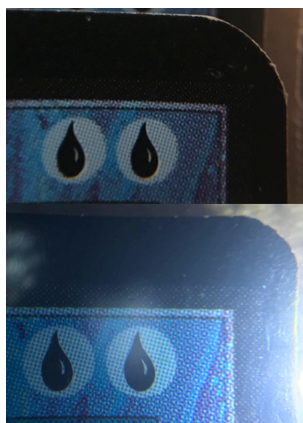
Different wording and artist name spelling



Psionic Blast



Counterspell



Sol Ring

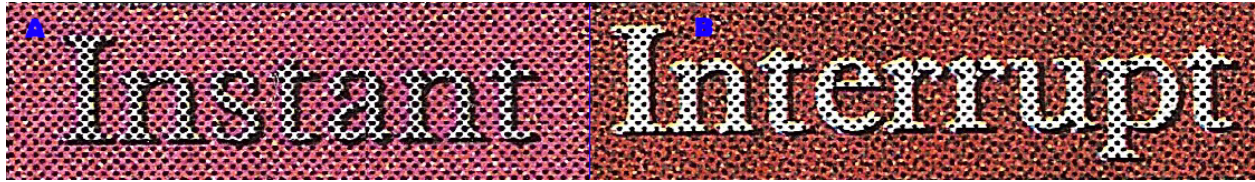


Circle of Protection: Red

Wrong artist on alpha

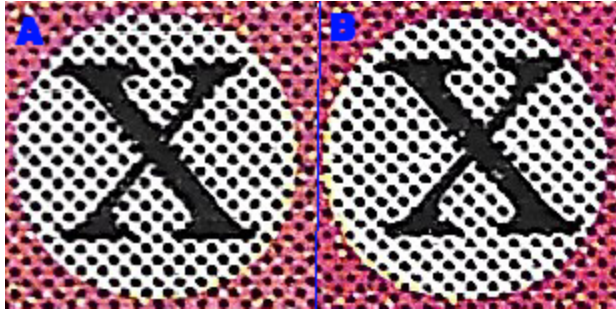


Red Elemental Blast



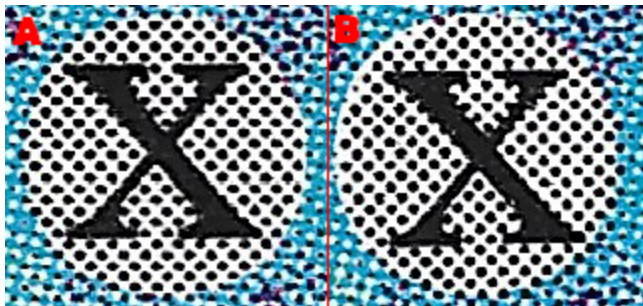
Fireball

(beta sits to the right)



Spell Blast

(beta sits to the right)



Blue Elemental Blast

(more blue dots inside mana symbol on beta)

