

First Decimal Definitive Issue (31st March)

All the values of this issue from 2m to 50c were printed in four panes to each printing sheet. The £M1 was also printed in four panes, but only stamps from three panes were issued, the other being destroyed because of a flaw. This step should be congratulated, because it has avoided a lot of speculation. The £M2 value was printed in two panes.

Plate/Pane numbers: All Plate numbers appear under the first stamp of the bottom row.

2m, 5c = 1A × 4 up to, and including 1D × 4

4m, 5m, 8m, 1c3, 4c, 50c = 1A × 5 up to, and including 1D × 5

1c, 2c, 3c, 7c5, 10c = 1A × 6 up to, and including 1D × 6

£M1 = 1A, 1B, 1D × 5

£M2 = 1A × 4, 1B × 4.

Up to the time of writing, four values have already had their first reprint. These are the 2m, 4m, 5m, and 1c values. It looks as if in each case the original Plate was again used, because the same Plate/Pane numbers were used, that is:-

Second Print

2m (January 1974) = 1A × 4 up to, and including 1D × 4

4m (September 1974) = 1A × 5 up to, and including 1D × 5

5m (January 1974) = 1A × 5 up to, and including 1D × 5

1c (November 1974) = 1A × 6 up to, and including 1D × 6

In the case of the 2m and 4m values very little difference in colour is noticed between the first and second printings. The best way I found to sort out which is which, is to look at the back of each block at a certain angle against a good light. It will be found that the watermark is different in sharpness, and I think that different kinds of paper were used for the two prints. In the first printing the watermark is more easy to see than in the second printing.

In the case of the 5m value, besides the sharpness of watermarks there is also a slight difference in shade of the main colour of the stamp. This can be easily observed when blocks or whole sheets are compared.

In the 1c value, besides a slight difference in shade of the light brown colour background, the sharpness of the watermark is seen better in the second print than the first.

Between the first and second printings of the above values I also noticed a slightly different position of the Plate numbers, especially the first number and letter of most Panes.

First Decimal Postage Dues (28th. April)

The printed sheet for each value was made up of four Panes, each with 50 stamps.

Plate/Pane numbers: All Plate numbers are found under the first stamp of the bottom row.

2m, 3m, 5m, 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 10c = 1A × 2 up to, and including 1D × 2.

One thing which seems to be common to all above Plate numbers is, that the first pair of numbers and letter is printed a bit lower than the second pair.

Imprint Blocks: The printers' name "Printex Ltd. Malta" is printed under the last two stamps of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four also includes the colour checks, found in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp.

Europa 1973 (2nd. June)

This Europa set, like that issued in 1974, was again printed in small sheets of ten. In the 1974 issue the sheets were of the horizontal and vertical format, whilst in this 1973 issue, all values are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane numbers: There are eight panes for each value. All Plate numbers of all values, are under the middle stamp of the bottom row. The bottom row consists of three stamps only, so a corner block of four, from a small sheet of ten will also contain the Plate numbers.

3c, 5c, 7c5 = 1A × 3 up to, and including 1H × 3.

1A	1B
1C	1D
1E	1F
1F	1H

A study of all sheets shows, that each value has Panes B, D, F, and H with all four margins perforated, whilst Panes A, C, E, and G have the left hand margin imperforated and the other three margins perforated. The Printing sheet could have been laid out thus:-

Imprint Blocks: "Printex Limited Malta" is under the last stamp of the bottom row. Since as we said earlier, the bottom row has only three stamps, an Imprint Block of four will also include the Plate numbers, but not the colour checks. The colour checks are in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the first row.

International Anniversaries 1973 (6th. October)

Plate/Pane numbers: There are four Panes to each Printing Sheet for each value. each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows with ten stamps each. All Plate numbers are under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c3, 7c5, 10c = 1A × 4 up to, and including 1D × 4.

Imprint Blocks: The printers' "Printex Ltd. Malta" is in the bottom margin below the last two stamps. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks, which are in the right hand margin next to the last stamp and the one above it.

Christmas Issue 1973 (10th. November)

A miniature sheet was also issued with this set. It has three stamps, one of each value, separately perforated, with the 8m + 2m on top, and the 7c5 + 1c5 at the bottom. No Plate numbers or Printers' Imprint appear on the miniature sheets.

Plate/Pane numbers: There is only one Pane for each value and all Plate numbers are printed under the first stamp of the bottom row.

8m + 2m, 3c + 1c, 7c5 + 1c5 = 1A × 5.

Imprint Blocks: "Printex Limited Malta" appears under the last stamp of the bottom row. An Imprint Block of four, will also include the colour checks, which are in the right hand margin next to the last stamp and the one above it.

Republic of Malta (Issue

Starting with this issue, detailed information will be given of new issues as they come out. If anyone thinks that other information, besides what is being given, might be of interest, please let me know and I shall do my best to include it for future issues. This is important, because all this information may serve as a basis for Study Papers later on. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staff of the Philatelic Bureau for their interest and cooperation.

Date of Issue	31st March 1975.
Values	1c3, 5c and 25c.
Stamp Size	31mm x 44mm (all values).
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Ltd., Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14.0 x 13.9 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Pointing Sideways.
Colours	The colours of this set were produced by the multicolour process.