

FIFA WORLD CUP 1990 ISSUE—X
MALTESE UNIFORMS 4TH SET, ISSUE—Y

By J. Farrugia

ISSUE	X	Y
Date of Issue	8.6.90	25.8.90
Values	5c, 10c, 14c	3c, 4c, 10c, 25c
Stamp Size	33mm x 27mm	29mm x 47mm
Designer	Tony Bugeja	Luciano Micallef
Printers	Printex Limited	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography	Lithography
Perforation	13.8 x 13.8	13.6 x 13.8

Watermark

Maltese Crosses

Maltese Crosses

Upright

Sideways

Paper

Chalk Surfaced

same

Gum

P.V.A.

same

Colours

These sets were printed in multicolours using the same set of four colours, for each value, in issues X and Y.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in top and bottom margins, printed in black, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Issue X – The printed sheet of each value consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All values are of the horizontal format.

Issue Y – The printed sheet of each value consisted of three Panes A, B and C. Each Pane has forty stamps made up of eight rows of five stamps. All values are of the vertical format.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y.

Issue X	5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4	Issue Y	3c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
	10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4		4c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
	14c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4		10c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.
			25c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4.

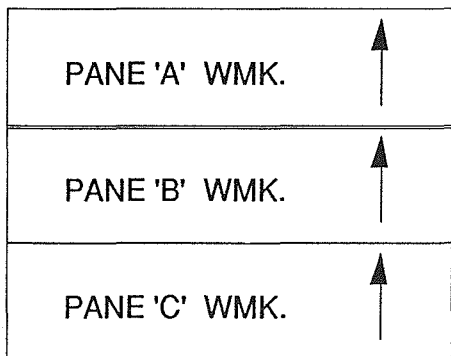


Fig. (a)

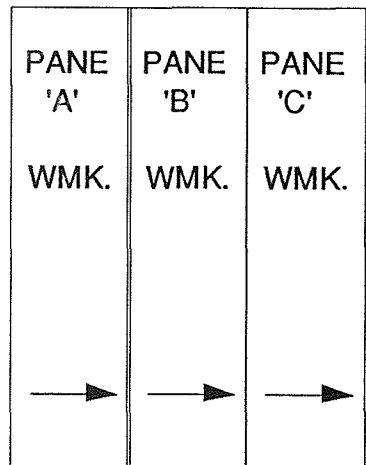


Fig. (b)

Perforation of Margins

Issue X The left hand margins of Panes A, B and C of each value, are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are all perforated. Cutting marks could have been seen on each side of the top margin of Panes A and on each side of the bottom margin of Panes C, of all values.

Issue Y The top margins of Panes A, B and C of each value are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes, are all perforated. Cutting marks could have been seen in the top and bottom, of the left hand margin of Panes A, and in the top and bottom, of the right hand margin of Panes C, in all values except the 3c value.

From a study of details given the Printed Sheets of all values, before cutting into Panes, would look as shown in Fig. (a) for issue X and as shown in Fig. (b) for issue Y. Looking at the Printed Sheets as shown stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why the watermark in all values of issue X is upright, and in all values of issue Y is sideways. Perforator ran from left to right in issue X and from top to bottom in issue Y.

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in all Panes, of all values, in issues X and Y. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

Special hand-postmarks, incorporating appropriate motifs, were used for cancellation on the first day of both issues.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm28,200 (Issue X) and Lm22,300 (Issue Y).

Stamps of these issues remained on sale up to Wednesday, 12th June, 1991, (Issue X) and up to Wednesday, 21st August 1991, (Issue Y), unless stocks were previously exhausted.

Souvenir Sheet:

A souvenir sheet, incorporating the three stamps of issue X and measuring 123mm x 90mm was also issued on the same date. It was also designed by Tony Bugeja and the perforation is the same as that on the normal Panes.

The Printed Sheet of this Souvenir Sheet consisted of sixteen Souvenir Sheets, made up of four rows of four. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown in the figure, Souvenir Sheets would be seen the right way up, hence individual stamps from a Souvenir Sheet are distinguished from individual stamps of the same value, from normal Panes, by means of the direction of the watermark. As can be seen, the direction of watermark in the Souvenir Sheets is opposite to that in normal Panes.

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