

EUROPA 1985 Issue

Date of Issue	25th. April, 1985.
Values	8c and 30c.
Stamp Size	31 mm × 44 mm.
Art Designer	Luciano Micallef.
Printers	Printex Limited.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14.1 × 14.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses upright.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

This set was produced in multicolours using the same five different colours for the two values.

Designs:

The conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations has chosen "Music" as the theme for this year's Europa stamps. The Malta Postal Administration issued this fifteenth set of the Europa series, in the usual form of small Panes of ten stamps.

The 8c stamp features Nicolo Baldacchino, tenor, who was born at Siggiewi on 3 October, 1895 and died on 28 February 1971.

The 30c stamp features Francesco Azopardi, composer, who was born at Rabat on 5 May, 1748 and died on 6 February, 1809.

Both values are of the vertical format, and each Pane of ten stamps is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. In the first space of the top row, in both values, the CEPT emblem and "Europe 1985" can be seen, printed in black on a musical stave. In the first space of the second row, two joined quavers on a stave can be seen in the 8c value and a treble clef on a stave in the 30c value.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the middle stamp, printed in black.

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

The Printed Sheet of each Value consisted of six Panes of ten stamps, A to F.

Plate/Pane numbers:

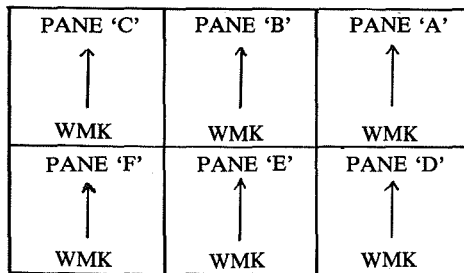
These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane of both values.

8c = 1A × 5 up to and including 1F × 5.

30c = 1A × 5 up to and including 1F × 5.

Perforation of Margins:

The right hand margins of Panes A and D of both values, are imperforate, whilst the right hand margins of Panes C,B,F and E are fully perforated. The top, bottom and left hand margins of all Panes A to F, in both values are also fully perforated.



From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from right to left. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is also upright.

Imprint Blocks:

The Imprint “Printex Limited Malta” is seen under the third stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1 mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will not include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed “Europa ’85 – L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hruġ – Malta” and the name of the respective locality. Musical notes on a stave are also incorporated in the postmark. This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, 3rd. December, 1985, unless stocks are previously exhausted.