

Edge vs Rim

Anatomy of a Chip

by R. K. Covington

During the Chipology 101 Seminar at this year's convention, one of the questions that brought a lively discussion (in fact the question has popped up on at least one of the various Bulletin Boards in August 2000) was about the definition of *Edge Vs Rim*. This author would like to try to explain his understanding of what is the difference between the *Edge & Rim* are on a casino chip.

First a little background: The author comes from a Numismatic background – somewhat related to chips, as both have a sense of money associated with them... Coins are “good” anywhere within the issuing country for the amount indicated on the coin towards the purchase of goods and services. Casino chips (or Cheques) are “good” in the Casino at the various games within the issuing casino for table play or as a tip to a dealer or cocktail waitress. Both coins and chips are round discs made of various materials. Both coins and chips have a monetary value to them, yes, even NCV chips also have a “value” as they are either used in a tournament play or used by the player to “learn how to play the game” – yet the NCV chips can't be “cashed” in at the Casino Cage.

In the discussion below, the author is referring to composition chips, such as those made by or distributed by: Paulson; Christy & Jones; T. R. King; H. C. Edwards, and many others.

either plastic or brass, and are “finished” with an external plastic.

These center cores are usually designed with projections that extend to the edge, and are not

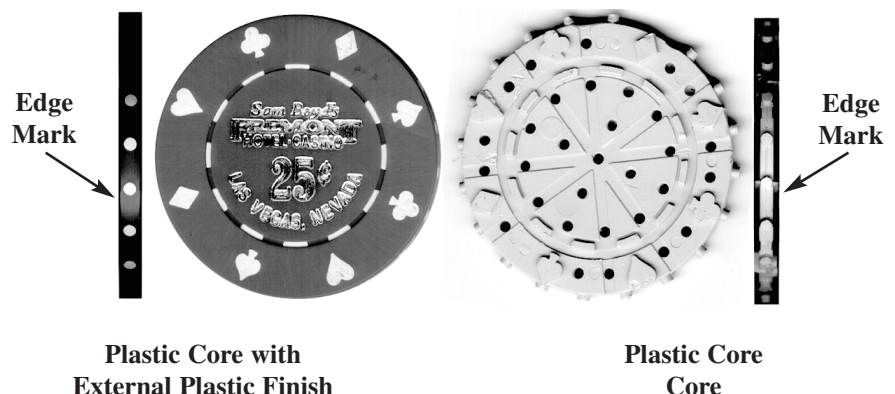


Selected Examples of Composition Chips with Edge Inserts

While the chips that are made by other processes; such as the plastic injected mold chips made by Bud Jones, and or casting and plastic injection molding of the Brass Core chips made by Reliable. These types of chips are made by completely different processes than the composition chips. They have a center core of

covered by the external plastic cover, thus resulting in an edge mark.

Restated, the “edge inserts” that may be in the Bud Jones or Brass Core chips are considered by this author as *edge marks*.



Edge inserts are fundamentally different from edge marks. Edge inserts are made by the removal of some of the base material from the chip and “inserting” a different colored (or colors of) composition material into the void where the material was removed. Refer to the illustration below.

Normal
Chip with
Edge
Inserts

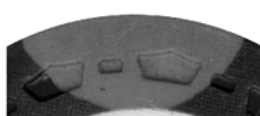


Edge inserts come in various shapes, sizes and colors. Some of these shapes include: Rectangular; Round; and V Shaped as illustrated below:

Rectangular



Round



V Shaped



Selected Examples of Edge Inserts

This may be where some confusion comes from – the edge inserts extend into the face of the chip! When the chip is viewed from either side, (and assuming that the edge inserts are in the chip), the edge inserts are visible!

Back to the topic at hand – **Edge Vs Rim.**

In the coin world, there are three recognized sides to a coin:

1) The obverse – in modern US coins this is where the Bust of the various Presidents is portrayed. On the cent this is Abraham Lincoln, on the Half Dollar this is John F. Kennedy, etc.

2) The reverse – again in the modern US Coin world, this is where secondary design is portrayed. In the above example, the cent, the reverse depicts the Lincoln’s Memorial (since 1959); on the Half Dollar the reverse depicts the presidential coat of arms (except for half dollars dated

1776-1996 which shows the Independence Hall in Philadelphia).

3) The edge - is the surface between the obverse and the reverse, i.e. on the “side” of the

coin as seen when the coin is rotated from the obverse to the reverse. Once again using the US Cent, the edge is plain or smooth, Refer to Illustration below.

Obverse



Edge



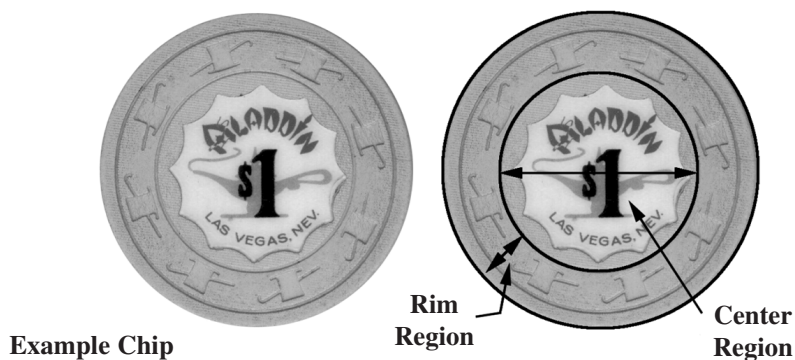
Reverse



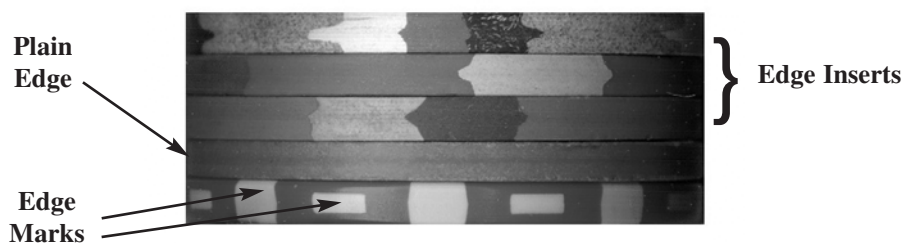
Where as on the half dollars the edge is not smooth, it has many parallel lines or grooves extending from the obverse to the reverse (or Vice Versa) – this is referred to as “REEDING” or as a “Reeded Edge”.

In the casino chip world, the same three regions that coins have are also applicable to chips. Yet in the casino chip world, two of the sides have different regions – the center region where there is either a Hot Stamped or a Center Inlay may be found. This center inlay can have various shapes including Round, Notched, Star, Hub, Scalloped – the list goes on... The second region is the rim region – this is the area where the mold design, which identifies the various manufacturers and or distributors, may be found. These Mold Designs include the Paulson Hat & Cane mold (as well as seen in Christy & Jones, Burt CO chips) or the Square in Circle mold as seen in the Portland Card Company chips, or the Large Crown or Small Crown designs of T. R. King, and the list goes on and on...

The third side is the outer perimeter of the chip, which is referred to as the **Edge**. In the edge of the casino chip, the edge inserts (or edge marks in the case of Brass Core and Plastic injection mold chips) are visible.



side a (or 1), the other flat surface



These edge inserts and edge marks are not only visible to the people using the chips in a game (both the casino personnel as well as the chip collectors – A.K.A. players...) yet also visible to the “eye-in-the-sky”. The latter is to help insure that the proper chips/pay offs are made.

Another way to think about this, one flat surface which has the name, denomination or graphic is

with the same or similar design as side a is side b (or 2). The surface that is flat yet is around the perimeter of the chip is the edge.

Another way to think of the edge, is that you can stand a chip on edge, and lay it down on the rim ...

The author has discussed the concept of Edge Marks and Edge Inserts along the way to the author’s definition of *Edge Vs Rim*.

Edge Marks are marks, which are visible from the edge of the chip, and are an integral part of the core of the chip. While edge inserts are material of the same composition as the base material in the chip, differing in color only, and furthermore that this material is placed into the base material of the chip. This material can extend from the edge into the rim region of a chip. Both edge marks and edge inserts are used as security markings and are here to stay with us. (Security markings are the topic of yet another article or may be even a potential Seminar Topic).

In closing the author has proposed that the definition discussed in this article, that being that the *Edge* is the flat surface around the parameter of the chip, and that the *Rim* is the region of the chip where the mold design may be found (Note that some rim designs are plain – or lacking a design). Furthermore that chips actually have two rims, one on each side of the chip, and that the interior of the chip, the center region is where either a center inlay or hot stamp is found. ♦