

Standard details

This file has bookmarks



These details apply to most of the new issue books in this series; where there are exceptions, these will be described in the account of individual books.

This avoids unnecessary repetition in the account of each new issue.

This is the cover layout we refer to as being the 'standard cover' for SB3 books

Book and cover details

Printing & dimensions | These books are printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers (part of the ISP group), at their plant in Wolverhampton. They are derived from a flat section of huge rolls of compound self-adhesive paper where the release liner has been overprinted with the text 'Royal Mail' in repeated wavy lines before the silicone layer was applied; this 'security backing paper' becomes visible when the face paper (the stamps or the surrounding matrix) is removed, supposedly proving the book to be a genuine Royal Mail product. This is coded SBP2 and can be either 'upright' or 'inverted' (see opposite).

Four columns of books are printed side by side as the web moves through the Cerutti R981 press; the direction of printing is inverted. The surface paper is printed with the stamps at the same time as the backing paper is being printed with the cover design. Each column is rouletted off centre enabling it to be folded to simulate a book of stamps, which is the way the finished items are supplied from the printer. The overall size of the books when folded is approximately 79mm x 57mm. As the front cover is only 74mm wide, the final 5mm or so of the 'pane' remain visible beyond its right-hand edge when the book is closed.

Book cover | The book has the darker red cover for retail books since the rebranding exercise in October 2016 when the Chevin font replaced Helvetica. This layout may be considered to be the 'standard' cover design, as previous editions since SB3(54) had either the large '1' on the front erroneously printed in the extra bold weight of type rather than bold, corrected on books (57) and (58); the validity notice and contact details on the back in a smaller, lighter weight, now larger and bolder to match all other retail books since (57) and (58), or an additional 'one-off' copyright notice placed below the Textphone number, the case of books (54), (57) and (58), for example.

The validity notice and Royal Mail contact details reversed out of the back cover have not changed since the new 0345 phone numbers were introduced on 31-07-14. Within the 23mm x 49mm white box is the standard barcode for books of six (112268) which, along with the FSC details, is printed in blue.

Stamp details

The book contains four RMR2 (Royal Mail red 2) 1st-class NVI definitive stamps, with two positioned either side of the line of roulette cuts. These bear an iridescent overprint including the source and year codes in the form MCIL/MxxL. The special issue stamps are generally different to the corresponding counter sheet issue, being self-adhesive and printed in gravure by Walsall instead of in litho on PVAI-gummed paper by Cartor as is usually the case.

The matrix is cut vertically twice, 27mm to the left and right of the line of roulette cuts. The selvedge in between is removed, revealing the background security print (see below) on the reverse of the cover substrate. The illustrated matrix is left intact around the two special issue stamps. The final 7.5mm of the matrix which remains at the right of the pane is divided into two parts. The 5mm at the right generally continues the image printed around the right-hand stamp, and has the issue title reversed out of this. The white strip to the left of this remains blank in most books but bears the ink cylinder numbers printed on a certain number of books within the primary sheet.

The books have a 3.5mm notch cut in the form of a half ellipse 4mm down from the top right corner of the book to help the partially sighted identify the contents as being 1st-class stamps and to orientate the book correctly. The Machin stamps are kiss die-cut to simulate the standard definitive perforation gauge of 14¾ x 14 with an ellipse on each vertical edge and have two 4.5mm DG A2B phosphor bars (see opposite); the perforation gauge and phosphor content varies from one set of special issues to another but generally matches those found on their counter sheet equivalents.



The books are packed in bundles of 50 in clear cellophane wrapping which has a barcode, stock code and packing date printed on it in black.

When, anywhere within the design, the line ROYAL MAIL etc. in large upright letters is followed by the line ROYAL MAIL in small upright letters, the design is upright (designated SBP2u).
ROYAL MAIL ROYAL MAIL
ROYAL MAIL ROYAL MAIL

When the line ROYAL MAIL in large upright letters is followed by ROYAL MAIL in small inverted letters, the design is inverted (designated SBP2i).
ROYAL MAIL ROYAL MAIL
ROYAL MAIL ROYAL MAIL

SBP2 security backing paper ▶

SB3(71) - 'Video Games' retail book

on sale: 21 January 2020
face value: £4.20 at date of issue
cover: Royal Mail red 2 (2016 Rebrand)
barcode: 5 014721 112268
contents: 2 x 1st-class Video Games SI plus
 4 x 1st-class RMR2 Machin definitives
printer: Walsall Security Printers (ISP)
process: gravure – Cerutti
DOP: inverted
cylinders: W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 / W1
paper / gum: OFNP/SA: backing paper SBP2u
phosphor: 2 x 4.5mm solid bars (Machins) /
 2 x 9mm vignettted bars (SI)
iridescent: MCIL/M20L (Machins only)
perf. gauge: 14¾ x 14 (E) (Machins) / 14¼ x 14 (SI)
perf. type: kiss die-cut; partially stripped matrix

Book and cover details

Printing, dimensions and book cover | This book has the standard cover for SB3 issues. Please consult the 'Standard details' page at the beginning of this file.

Stamp details

Most of the 'Standard details' also apply to this book - see page 1. Although printed in 2019, the four Royal Mail red 2 (RMR2) 1st-class Machin definitives have an iridescent overprint which reads MCIL/M20L and are the very first Machins to show the year 2020 in the coding. Only books with the stamps on security backing paper with the text printed upright (*i.e.* SBP2u) have been found so far.

The two 41mm x 30mm special issue stamps represent both of the 1st-class values which appeared in the *Video Games* miniature sheet issued on the same day, although here they are self-adhesive and printed in gravure by Walsall instead of in litho on PVAI-gummed paper by Cartor. They were designed by Supple Studio working in collaboration with Bitmap Books Ltd, both based in Bath. They show scenes from two of the many different versions of the Tomb Raider video game starring shapely archaeologist Lara Croft - 1996 on the left-hand stamp, 2013 on the other. Like the miniature sheet stamps, both contain a relevant object overprinted



on the designs in yellow fluorescent ink. Normally visible only under ultra-violet light, here they appear much more prominently than on the miniature sheet versions and can easily be seen when the stamps are viewed at an angle to the light.

The matrix left intact around each of the special issues shows further scenes from the games. The 5mm tab at the right remains visible when the books are closed; it continues the right-hand background image and has the title of the miniature sheet reversed out of it in the centre in letters imitating gold. The 2mm white strip to the left of this tab contains the eight W1 cylinder numbers on certain books. From the bottom, reading upwards, these are: cyan, magenta, yellow, black (*SI and background*), followed by Royal Mail red 2 and iridescent (*Machins*), yellow fluorescent (*SI overprints*) and finally phosphor (*Machins and SI*).

The special issues have been kiss die-cut to simulate a perforation gauge of 14¼ x 14 and have two 9mm vignettted phosphor bars.

The vignettted bars on the special issues with the W1 phosphor number just visible above the bright yellow W1 in the fluorescent ink used to print the hidden objects ('Easter eggs') over the main stamp designs



Packaging items



The barcode printed on the cellophane wrappers of packs of 50 books, showing two different packing dates.



SB3(72) - 'James Bond' retail book

on sale: 17 March 2020
face value: £4.20 at date of issue
cover: Royal Mail red 2 (2016 Rebrand)
barcode: 5 014721 112268
contents: 2 x 1st-class James Bond SI plus
 4 x 1st-class RMR2 Machin definitives
printer: Walsall Security Printers (ISP)
process: gravure – Cerutti
DOP: inverted
cylinders: W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 W1 / W1
paper / gum: OFNP/SA (backing paper SBP2u or SBP2i)
phosphor: 2 x 4.5mm solid bars (Machins) / AOP (SI)
iridescent: MCIL/M20L (Machins only)
perf. gauge: 14¾ x 14 (E) (Machins) / 14¼ x 14 (SI)
perf. type: kiss die-cut; partially stripped matrix

Book and cover details

Printing & dimensions | Please consult the 'Standard details' page at the beginning of this file.

Book cover | This book does not have the standard cover. It follows the example of SB3(64) (*Harry Potter*) and (65) (*Marvel*) issued in 2018-19, where the copyright notice and its associated logos took up such a large amount of space at the bottom of the cover that the white barcode box had to be completely redesigned. The box is the same width as usual

(23mm), but is now only 38mm tall instead of 49mm as on standard covers. One consequence is that the FSC mini-label has been reduced in size by 25% and the certification text (size unchanged) have been turned through 90° counterclockwise to appear at the left of the barcode.

The other is that the barcode itself, although the same width and retaining the standard number for books of six (112268), now has bars some 45% shorter than before. All this text is printed in dark blue. The space below the box is occupied by the current version of the 007 gun logo, last updated in 2002; to the right of this are the copyright notices for this logo and the two films featured on the stamps above another for Royal Mail Group Ltd.

The text of the validity notice and the Royal Mail contact details reversed out of the back cover to the right of this box have not changed since the new 0345 telephone numbers were introduced across the range on 31 July 2014. However, as with the *Harry Potter* and *Marvel* books mentioned above, because of the reduced space available, it has been moved upwards and aligned with the top of the barcode box on this edition; in addition, the gap between the two blocks of text has been reduced by 2mm.



Valid for items up to:
 240mm Long
 165mm Wide
 5mm Thick
 100g Weight

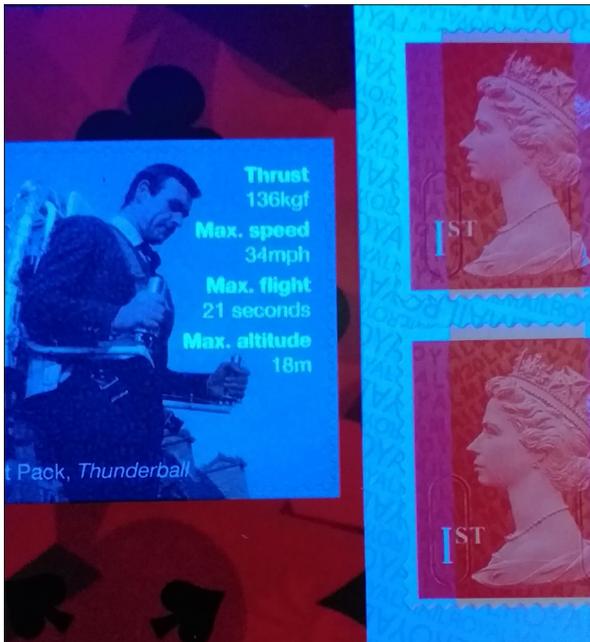
03457 740 740
www.royalmail.com
 03456 000 606

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 Skyfall © 2012 Danjaq and MGM. All rights reserved.
 007 Gun Logo TM Danjaq.
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6x1ST

SB3(72) - 'James Bond' retail book

...continued



Stamp details

Although printed in 2019, these stamps, like those in the previous *Video Games* book, show the year 2020 in the coding of the iridescent overprint which reads MCIL/M20L. Initially, only books with the stamps on security backing paper with text printed upright (i.e. SBP2u) were found but in mid-May books were also confirmed with the text inverted (i.e. SBP2i) for the first time in combination with this iridescent overprint.

The two 41mm x 30mm special issue stamps represent both of the 1st-class values which appeared in the *James Bond* miniature sheet issued on the same day, although here they are self-adhesive and printed in gravure by Walsall instead of in litho on PVAI-gummed paper by Cartor. They were designed by Interabang and show two of the iconic vehicles imagined by Q Branch for its secret agent. On the left-hand stamp is Sean Connery using the Bell-Textron Jet Pack in *Thunderball* (1965); on the right-hand stamp, Daniel Craig can be seen

with his Aston Martin DB5 in *Skyfall* (2012). Also in common with the *Video Games* book, like the miniature sheet stamps, both contain text overprinted on the large 'empty' areas of the designs describing the features of the vehicles in yellow fluorescent ink (see opposite). Normally visible only under ultra-violet light, here this appears much more prominently than on the miniature sheet versions and can be seen when the stamps are viewed at an angle to the light.

The matrix left intact around each of the special issues shows whirling pips (suit symbols from playing cards) taken from the opening credits of *Casino Royale* (2006). The 5mm tab at the right remains visible when the books are closed; it continues the right-hand background image and has the issue name reversed out of it in the centre in grey capitals. The 2mm white strip to the left of this tab contains the eight W1 cylinder numbers on certain books. From the bottom, reading upwards, these are: cyan, magenta, yellow, black (SI and background), followed by Royal Mail red 2 and iridescent (Machins), yellow fluorescent (SI overprints) and finally phosphor (Machins and SI).

The special issues have a kiss die-cut simulated perforation gauge of 14¼ x 14. Note that the die-cutting does not permit the 007 perforations present on the equivalent stamps from the miniature sheet. They have all-over phosphor.

Packaging



The barcode printed on the cellophane wrappers of packs of 50 books; the packing date suggests the books were printed at the end of 2019. Note that the stock code incorporates the Tallents House catalogue code for the book in question, UB430.