

Circular Electrical Box Knockout Resembling a (1943) Lincoln Steel Cent Blank

Electrical Box Knockout



Genuine (1943) Steel Lincoln Cent Blank



Lincoln cent blanks and planchets normally don't excite error collectors when they find them in rolls or dealer junk boxes, especially zinc examples which some people can't even give away; and copper ones are only worth a few bucks each. Yet an exception to this scenario is when someone may have stumbled upon a *steel* cent blank/planchet which were used for 1943 issues (and 1944 Belgian 2 Francs that the U.S. was producing for them during World War Two). If these are genuine and undamaged (top right), steel cent blanks/planchets sell for around \$150. As for verifying authenticity, they weigh 2.7 grams, have a 19mm diameter, a thickness of about 1.55mm, and will stick to a magnet.

Sadly, what many new collectors think are unstruck 1943 steel Lincoln cents are actually what are known as

knockouts. *What are knockouts?* They're partially punched-out circular disks in steel electrical boxes which service things like outlets and switches. Once removed, the knockout openings allow electrical wires to be run in and out of the boxes. Though the knockout on the top left is 19mm like a genuine steel cent, it weighs only 1.7 grams and has the telltale sign of a pseudo "curved clip" (red arrow above). *What causes these pseudo clips on knockouts?* If you look below (blue arrows), you can see there is one small unpunched area where the knockout remains attached to the box; it is here where the knockout tears away from the box as it is yanked off to make room for wires to go through them. As a result, you can almost always tell at what point the knockout separated from the box just as you can above.

Close-up of a Knockout Still Attached to the Electrical Box

