

Stamped Envelope Size Designations used by the United States Post Office Department																				
Dimensions in millimeters; 1 to 2 mm variations not noted																				
Dates	Note sizes						Letter				Official					Baronial			Commercial	
	118 x 65	120 x 73	134 x 73	140 x 78	130 x 80	139 x 82	149 x 85	149 x 92	160 x 89	165 x 92	219 x 92	225 x 98	191 x 99	241 x 105	258 x 111	118 x 92	134 x 108	140 x 108	171 x 94	160 x 95
UPSS Size	1	2	3	6	4	7	8	9	10	12	20	21	19	23	25	14	16	17	13	11
1853-60	1	1				3						7 <sup>c</sup>								
1860-61	1	1		2 <sup>b</sup>		3						7 <sup>c</sup>								
1861-63	1	1 <sup>a</sup>		2 <sup>b</sup>		3		5				7 <sup>c</sup>		8 <sup>d</sup>						
1863-70		1				3		5				7		8 <sup>e</sup>						
1870-74			1	2		3-4			5-6			7			8					
1874-76			1	2		3-4	4½		5-6			7			8					
1876	Centennial					3	4½													
1878			1	2		3-4	4½		5-6			7			8					
1879-83			1	2		3-4	4½		5-6			7			8					
1883-86			1	2	2	3	4½		5			7			8	10	11 <sup>f</sup>		9	
1886-87			1		2	3	4½		5-6			7			8	10	11 <sup>f</sup>		9	
1887-89			1		2	3-4	4½		5-6			7			8	10	11 <sup>f</sup>		9	
1890-94			L			A-B	C		D-E			G		H	I	M	N		F	
1893	Columbian					A		P				G		H	I		N	R <sup>g</sup>		Q
1894-95			1			2	3		5-6			7		8		10	11		13	14
1895-98			1			2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10	11		13	14
1899-'02			1			2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10	11		13	14
1903-07			1			2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10	11		13	14
1907-11			1			2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10	11		13	14
1911-15			1			2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10		11	13	14
1915-16			1			2	3	4	5			7		8	9	10		11	13	14
1916-19			Revalued 2¢			2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10		11	13	14
1919-20						2	3	4	5-6			7		8	9	10		11	13	14
1921-24			Revalued 1½¢				3		5-6			7		8	9	10			13	
1925-28						2	3		5-6			7		8	9				13	
1926			Sesquicentennial						5					8					13	
1929-32							3		5		6	7	7½	8	9				13	
1932			Washington Bicentennial						5					8					13	
1933-36									5		6	7	7½	8	9				13	
1937-40									5		6	7		8	9				13	
1941-53									5		6	7		8	9				13	
1954-56									5			7		8					13	
1957-58									6¾			7		8					13	
1959-60 to present									6¾			7		8						
									6¾			9		10						

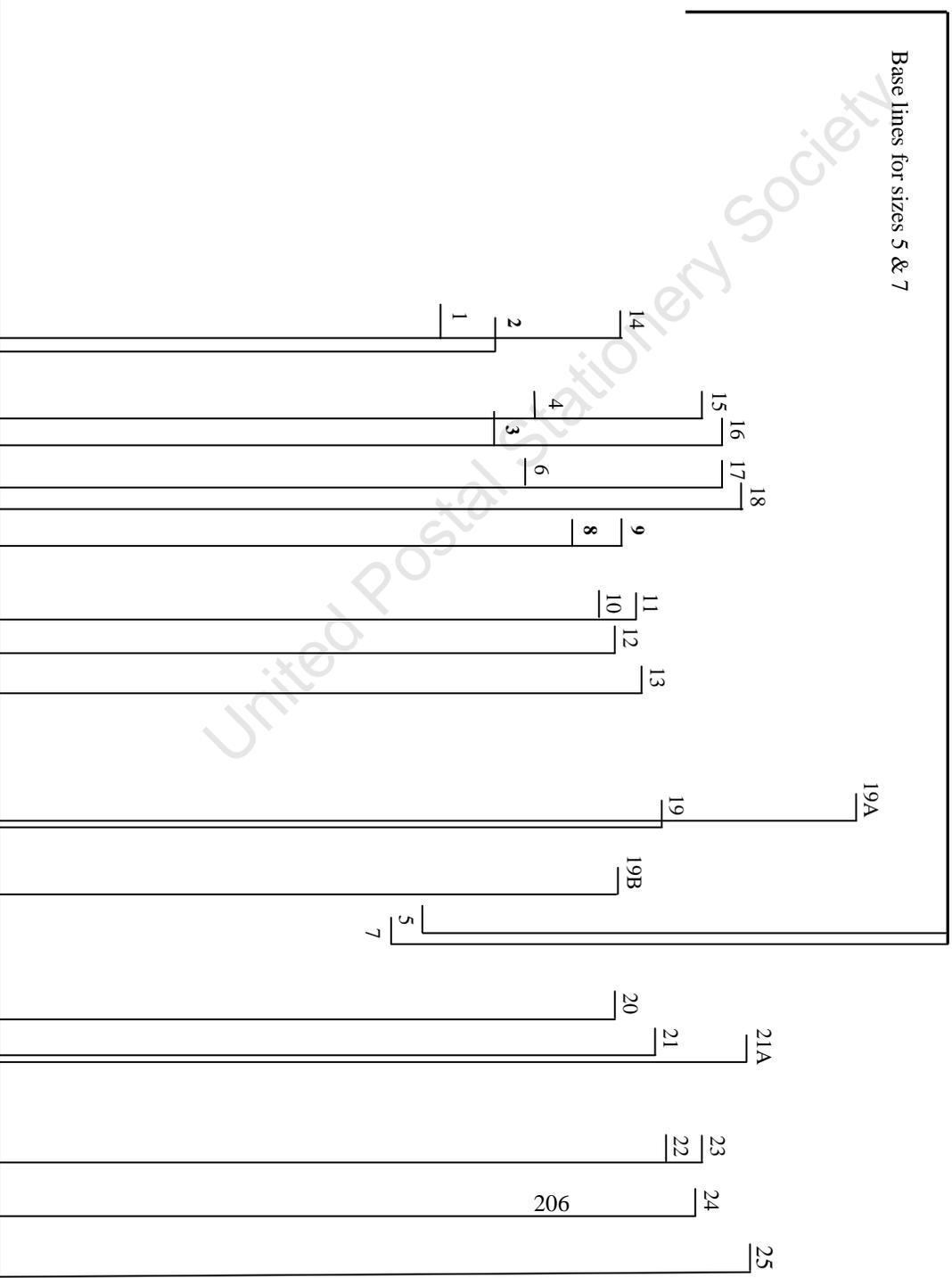
When two figures are used in one column (e.g. 3-4), the second figure designates lower paper quality of same size

a. Also 122x76 (USPS size 2)    b. Also 137x77 (UPSS size 5)    c. Size 221x99 (UPSS size 21)    d. Also 241x100 (UPSS size 22)

e. Size 249x104 (UPSS size 24)    f. Size 130x105 (UPSS size 15)    g. Size 143x111 (UPSS size 18)    and 249x104 (UPSS size 24)

# UPSS Stamped Envelope Size Chart

Envelope Sizes	
No	Millimeters
1	65 x 118
2	73 x 120
3	73 x 134
4	80 x 130
5	77 x 137
6	78 x 140
7	82 x 139
8	85 x 149
9	92 x 149
10	89 x 160
11	95 x 160
12	92 x 165
13	94 x 171
14	92 x 118
15	105 x 130
16	108 x 134
17	108 x 140
18	111 x 143
19	99 x 191
19A	127 x 190
19B	91 x 201
20	92 x 219
21	98 x 225
21A	112 x 226
22	100 x 241
23	105 x 241
24	104 x 249
25	111 x 258



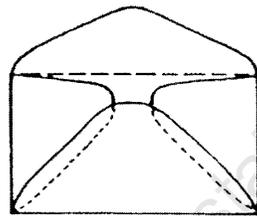
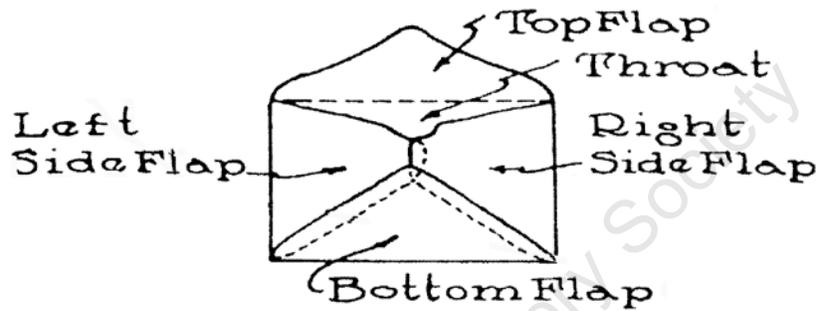
Base lines for all sizes except 5 & 7

## Envelope Knife Illustrations

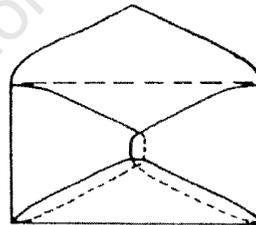
A knife is a sharp-edged metal form used to cut envelope blanks like a cookie cutter. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, envelope blanks were made by forcing the knife with a hydraulic press through a pile of up to 500 sheets. The knife was then repositioned and another set of blanks cut from the same sheets. This process was repeated until as many blanks as possible were cut from the sheets. In philately we refer to knife as the

shape of envelope cut by a particular metal knife.

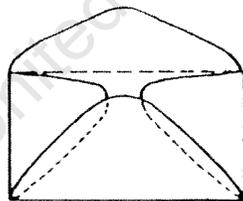
It should be apparent from the previous description that metal knives wore out and needed to be replaced. The replacement may have varied slightly in shape from the original. Therefore it is important to recognize that knives shown on the following pages are actually a family a shapes that varied slightly over time.



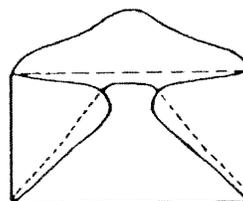
High Back



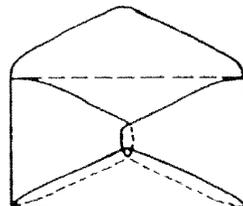
Low Back



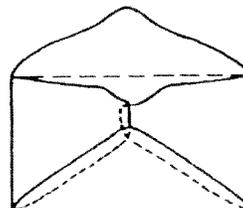
Bottom over Side (B/S)



Side over Bottom (S/B)



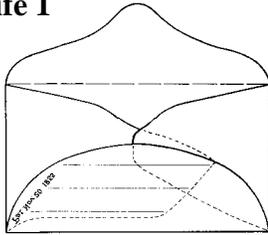
Right flap over Left (R/L)



Left Flap over Right (L/R)

**Size 1 - 65 x 118 mm**

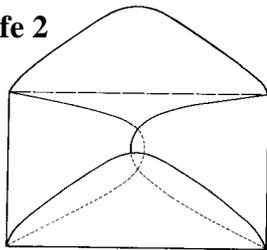
**Knife 1**



Nesbitt Knife, smallest patent knife, 65 x 118 mm, 65 x 121mm (1861).

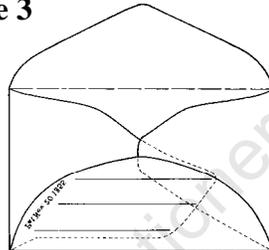
**Size 2 - 73/76 x 122 mm**

**Knife 2**



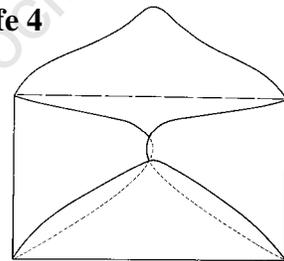
Nesbitt Knife, rounded top flap, 73 x 120 mm.

**Knife 3**



Nesbitt Knife, used only on UPSS 68, 76 x 122 mm.

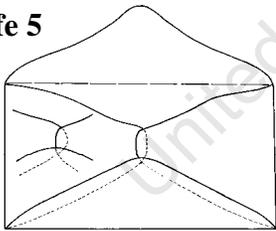
**Knife 4**



Nesbitt Knife, tongue-shaped top flap, 73 x 120 mm.

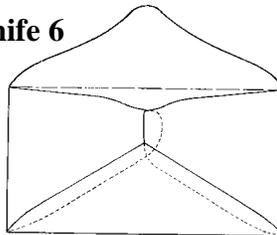
**Size 3 - 71/73 x 134 mm**

**Knife 5**



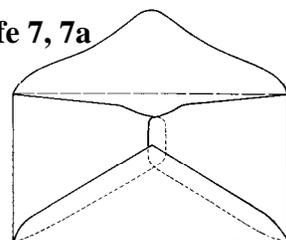
Reay Knife, used only on 3¢ white only, 71 x 134 mm.

**Knife 6**



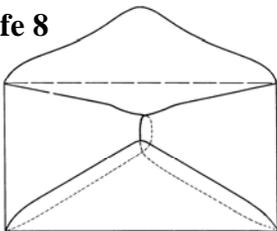
Reay Knife, shallow throat, 71 x 134 mm.

**Knife 7, 7a**



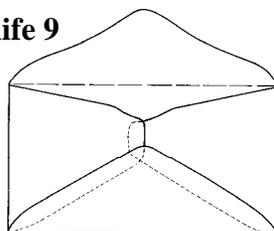
Plimpton Knife, shallow throat, *knife 7* sides have 9 mm overlap while *knife 7a* sides have 7 mm overlap, 72 x 134 mm.

**Knife 8**



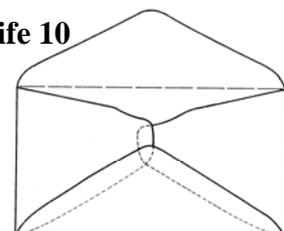
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, compare to Knife 10 which is left over right.

**Knife 9**



Purcell Knife, reappears as Knife 10 (in 1907) with straight edges on top flap but still left over right.

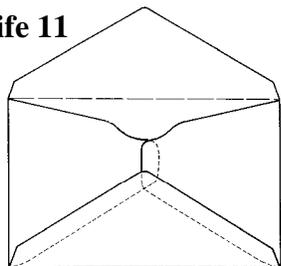
**Knife 10**



Mercantile Knife, with straight edges but still left over right.

**Size 4 - 80 x 130 mm**

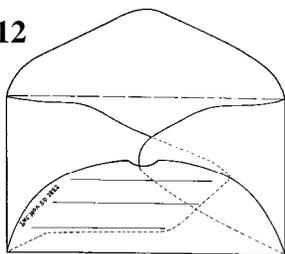
**Knife 11**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, clipped corners on top and bottom flaps give new outline

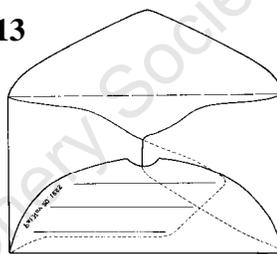
**Size 5 - 77 x 135 mm**

**Knife 12**



Nesbitt Knife, right flap end curved.

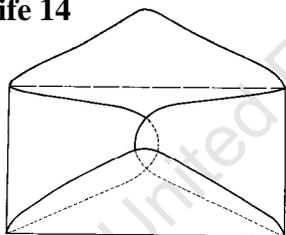
**Knife 13**



Nesbitt Knife, right upper edge has reverse curve; right flap end almost straight.

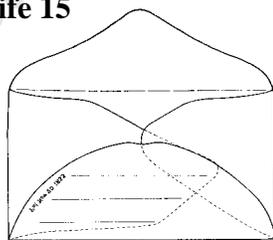
**Size 6 - 78 x 139 mm**

**Knife 14**



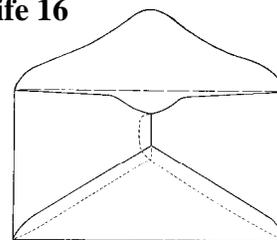
Private Knife, stamp embossed after folding; only use was on UPSS #42, one copy known.

**Knife 15**



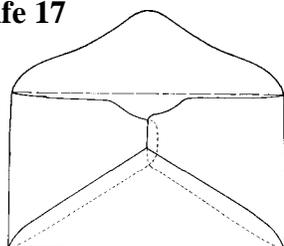
Reay Knife, similar to knives 12 and 13 but shallow notch.

**Knife 16**



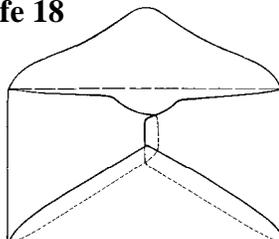
Reay Knife, left flap is vertical without rounded corners; left side flap over right only.

**Knife 17**



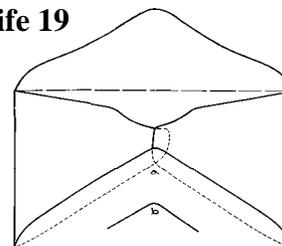
Reay Knife, corners rounded on left end, right over left only.

**Knife 18**



Plimpton Knife, right flap end is vertical.

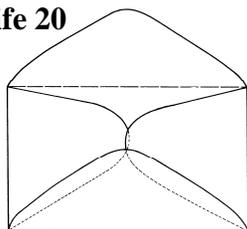
**Knife 19**



Plimpton & Morgan Knife, much deeper throat than Knife 18.

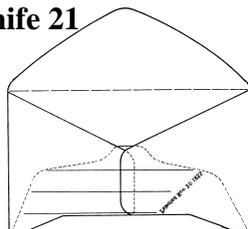
**Size 7 - 83 x 139 mm**

**Knife 20**



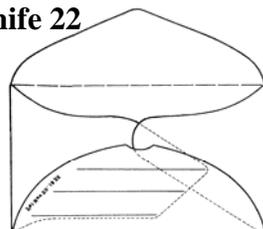
Nesbitt Knife, top and bottom flaps broadly rounded, compare to Knife 24.

**Knife 21**



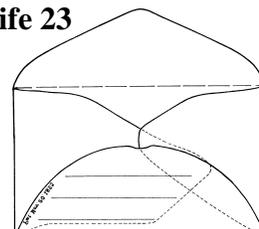
Nesbitt Knife, first patent line type, lines on bottom flap; wide and deep throat.

**Knife 22**



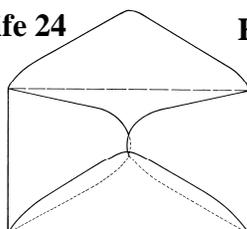
Nesbitt Knife, patent lines; wide and deep curved throat; all curves broadly rounded.

**Knife 23**



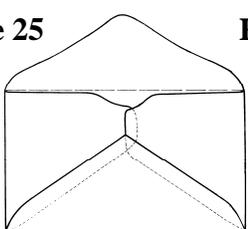
Nesbitt Knife, patent lines; deep, pointed throat; shoulders on side flaps.

**Knife 24**



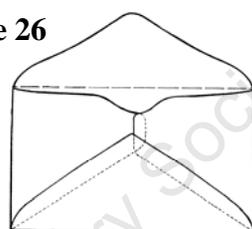
Nesbitt Knife, top and bottom flaps have rounded points, compare to knife 20.

**Knife 25**



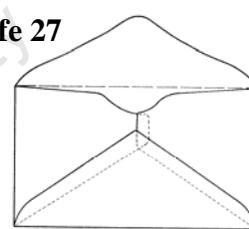
Reay Knife, very shallow throat, top of side flaps slope to 2 mm from bottom of top flap.

**Knife 26**



Reay Knife, shallow throat, top of side flaps slope to about 5 mm from bottom of top flap.

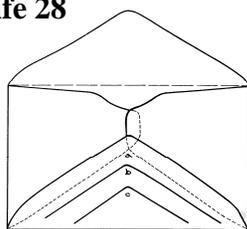
**Knife 27**



Reay Knife, side flap ends nearly square.

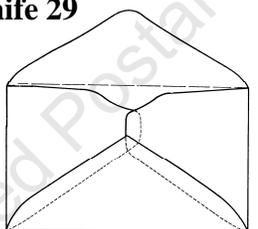
Knives 25, 26, and 27 are very similar and, perhaps, should have been combined as minor variations but are presented for historical and reference value.

**Knife 28**



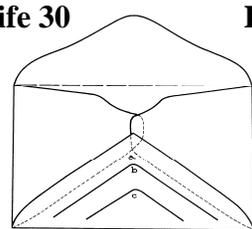
Plimpton Knife, shallow throat, top flap 43 mm high.

**Knife 29**



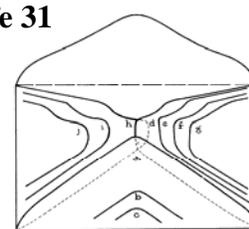
Plimpton Knife, top flap 43 mm high, shallow throat, right flap end is vertical.

**Knife 30**



Plimpton Knife, top flap 40 mm high, medium deep throat, right flap end is more vertical and less rounded than Knife 31.

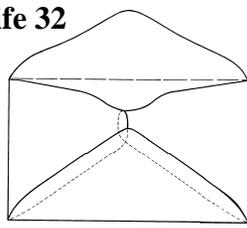
**Knife 31**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, top flap 41 mm high, deeper throat than Knife 30.

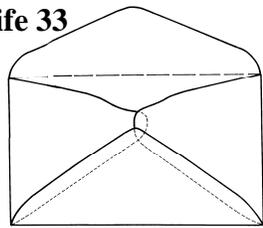
Knives 28, 29, and 30 are very similar and, perhaps, should have been combined as minor variations but are presented for historical and reference value.

**Knife 32**



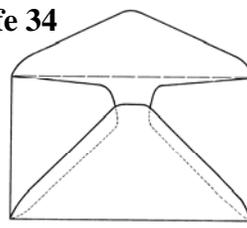
Purcell Knife, left flap over right.

**Knife 33**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, top flap 37 mm high, deep throat.

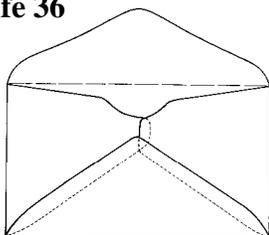
**Knife 34**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, high back, side flaps do not meet.

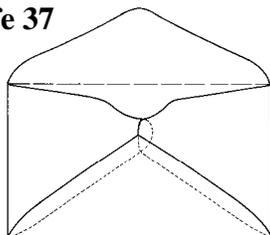
**Size 8 - 85 x 149 mm**

**Knife 36**



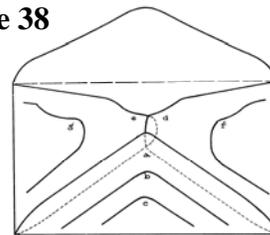
Plimpton Knife, Shallower throat than Knife 38; used before 1878.

**Knife 37**



Plimpton Knife, Differs from Knife 36 in the rounded left side.

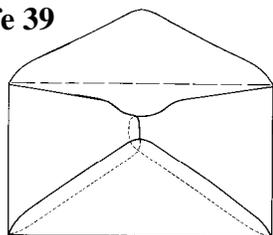
**Knife 38**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, Deeper throat than Knife 37, side and bottom flap are more rounded.

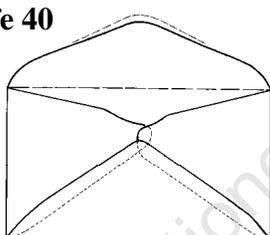
Knives 36, 37, and 38 are very similar and, perhaps, should have been combined as minor variations but are presented for historical and reference value.

**Knife 39**



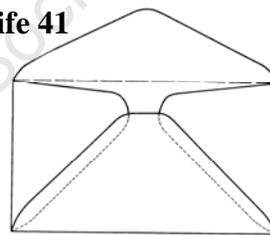
Purcell Knife, Left flap over right.

**Knife 40**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, Deep throat.

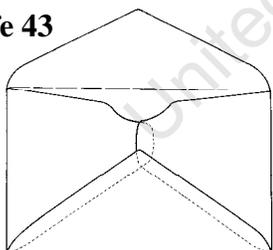
**Knife 41**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, High back, sides don't meet.

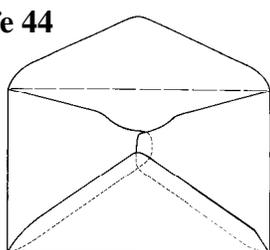
**Size 9 - 92/93 x 148/149 mm**

**Knife 43**



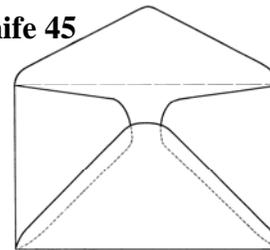
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, First used on Columbian issues; shallower throat than knife 44.

**Knife 44**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, Deep throat.

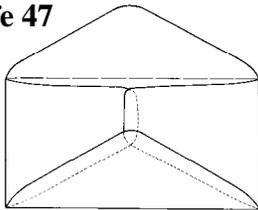
**Knife 45**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, High back, sides broadly rounded, don't meet.

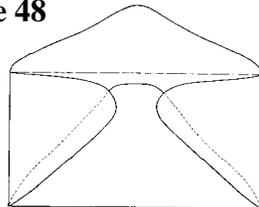
**Size 10 - 87/92 x 161 mm**

**Knife 47**



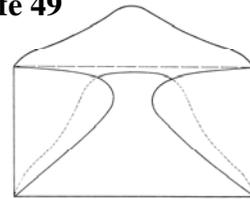
Nesbitt Knife, shallow throat.

**Knife 48**



Reay Knife, broadly rounded side flaps; high bottom flap.

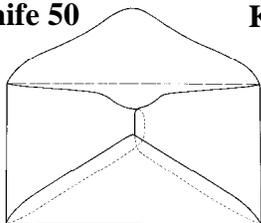
**Knife 49**



Reay Knife, differs from Knife 48 by having a wider and higher bottom flap.

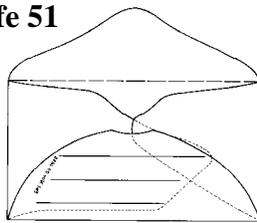
Both Knife 48 and Knife 49 were made for use on unstamped government envelopes and were inadvertently used on the 2¢ and 3¢ envelopes; rarely found.

**Knife 50**



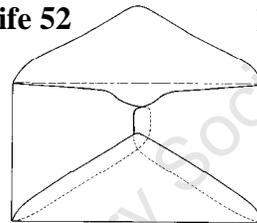
Reay Knife, *the most common Reay knife of this size*; side flap ends flattened, compare to Knife 53.

**Knife 51**



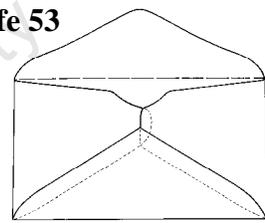
Reay Knife, only patent line envelope of this size.

**Knife 52**



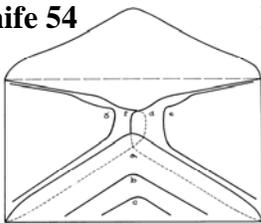
Plimpton Knife, shallow throat, large side flap overlap (11 mm)

**Knife 53**



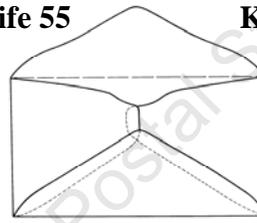
Plimpton Knife, medium deep throat, small side flap overlap (7 mm).

**Knife 54**



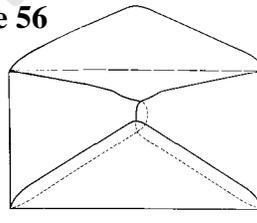
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, moderately deep throat (20 mm from top; 10 mm at flap shoulder); sides of top flap slightly concave; right flap over left.

**Knife 55**



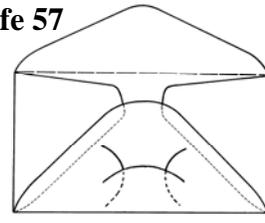
Purcell Knife, similar to Knife 54 but left flap over right.

**Knife 56**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, deep throat (23 mm from top; 15 mm at flap shoulder); sides of top flap straight, right flap over left.

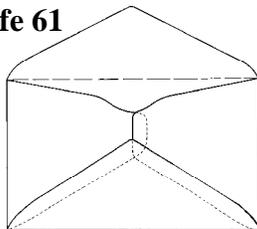
**Knife 57**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, high back.

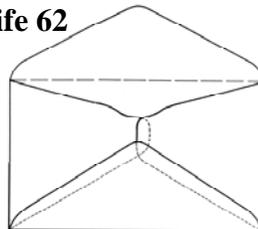
**Size 11 - 95 x 160 mm**

**Knife 61**



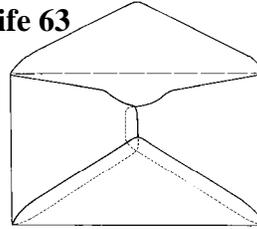
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, nearly pointed top and bottom flap.

**Knife 62**



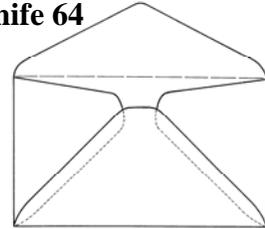
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, with a deeper throat and more rounded points on top and bottom flaps than Knife 61.

**Knife 63**



Purcell Knife, left over right flap.

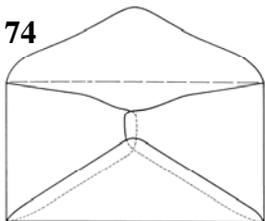
**Knife 64**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, high back.

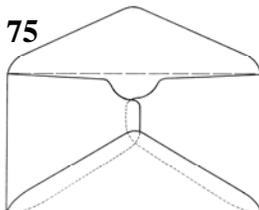
**Size 13 - 95 x 171/173 mm**

**Knife 74**



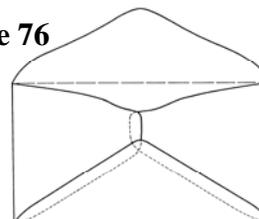
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, deep throat, right flap end more rounded than knife 77, right flap over left.

**Knife 75**



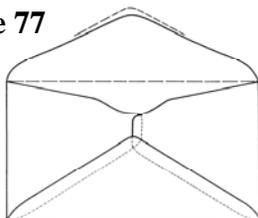
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, shallow throat, left flap over right.

**Knife 76**



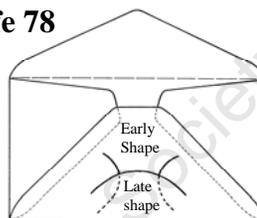
Purcell Knife, deep throat, left flap over right.

**Knife 77**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, deep throat, straight ends of side flap, right flap over left.

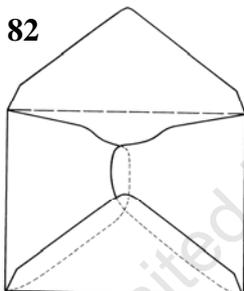
**Knife 78**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, also used by International Env. Co for window fronts from 1949 to 1965.

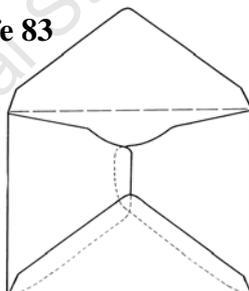
**Size 14 - 90 x 117 mm**

**Knife 82**



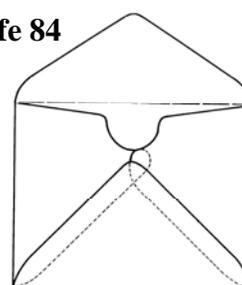
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, right flap over left flap; right end rounded.

**Knife 83**



Purcell Knife, left flap over right flap.

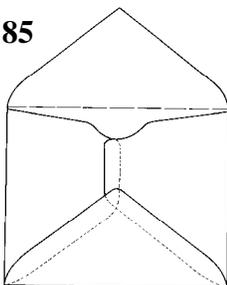
**Knife 84**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, Deep semi-circular throat, right over left.

**Size 15 - 105 x 130 mm**

**Knife 85**

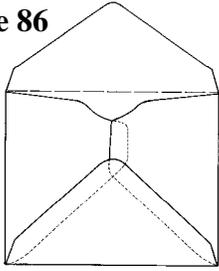


Plimpton-Morgan Knife.

**Size 16 - 107 x 132/134 mm**

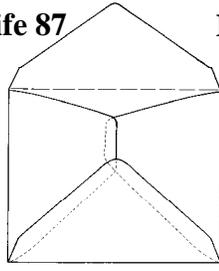
**Size 18 - 111 x 143 mm**

**Knife 86**



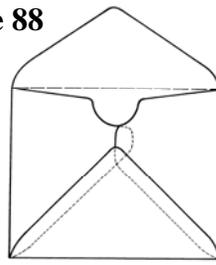
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, right over left.

**Knife 87**



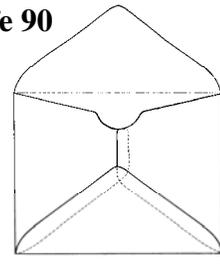
Purcell Knife, left over right.

**Knife 88**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, deep semi-circular throat.

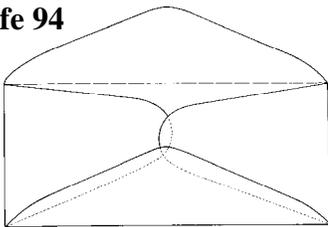
**Knife 90**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, used only on Columbian envelopes, extra large Baronial shape with deep throat.

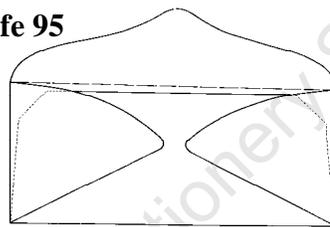
**Size 21 - 96/100 x 221/226 mm**

**Knife 94**



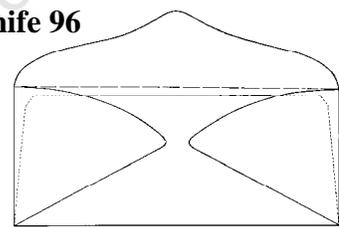
Nesbitt Knife, all curves broadly rounded; used only on 6¢ envelopes, 98 x 221 mm.

**Knife 95**



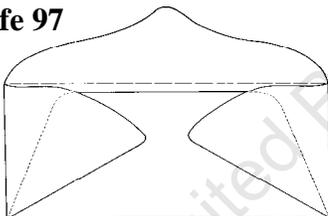
Nesbitt Knife, known only on proofs, 96 x 224 mm.

**Knife 96**



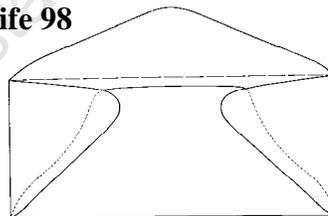
Nesbitt Knife, used only for 12 cents brown and red, 97 x 226 mm.

**Knife 97**



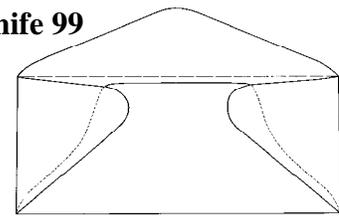
Nesbitt Knife, the most common knife for this size on the later Nesbitt issues, 98 x 225 mm.

**Knife 98**



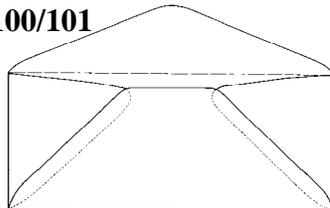
Reay Knife, side flaps more pointed than Knife 99, 100 x 225 mm.

**Knife 99**



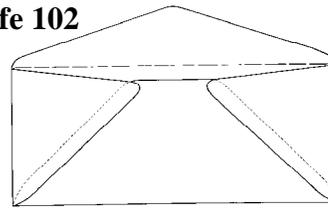
Reay Knife, side flaps broader curve than knife 98, 100 x 225 mm.

**Knife 100/101**



Plimpton Knife, top flap 50 mm and broadly rounded, when found side over bottom is Knife 101.

**Knife 102**

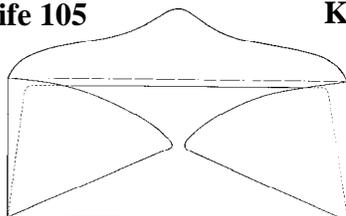


Purcell Knife, top flap 45 mm and with slight rounding compare to Knife 101 which is also side over bottom.

**Size 22 - 100 x 241 mm**

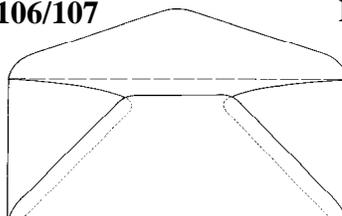
**Size 23 - 105 x 241 mm**

**Knife 105**



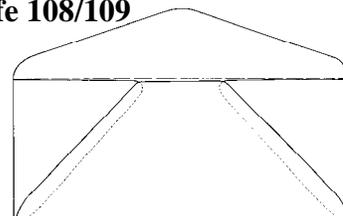
Nesbitt Knife, used only for 20¢ red and blue, earliest high-backed envelope.

**Knife 106/107**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, used for this size until 1950; bottom over sides (Knife 106); sides over bottom (Knife 107).

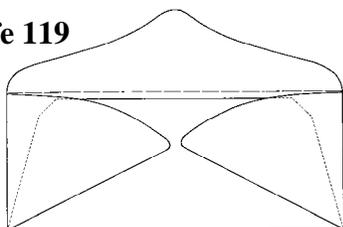
**Knife 108/109**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, bottom over sides (Knife 108); sides over bottom (Knife 109).

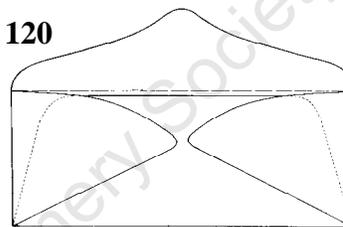
**Size 24 - 105 x 249 mm**

**Knife 119**



Nesbitt Knife, top corners of bottom flap are clipped, known only on proofs.

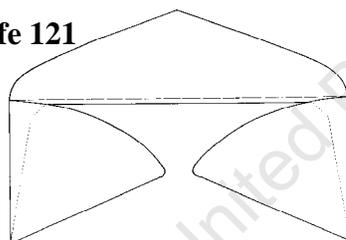
**Knife 120**



Nesbitt Knife, top corners of bottom are broadly rounded, the common knife for this size in the higher values of the Nesbitt issues.

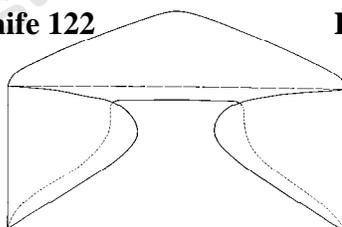
**Size 25 - 110 x 257/260 mm**

**Knife 121**



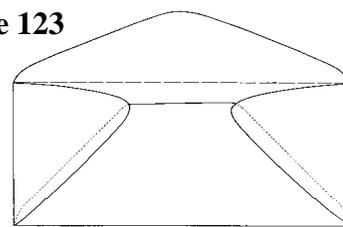
Nesbitt Knife, *known only on proofs*, top corners of bottom flap are clipped.

**Knife 122**



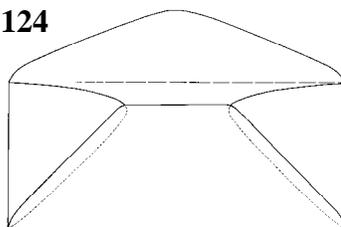
Reay Knife, sides over bottom flap and are broadly rounded.

**Knife 123**



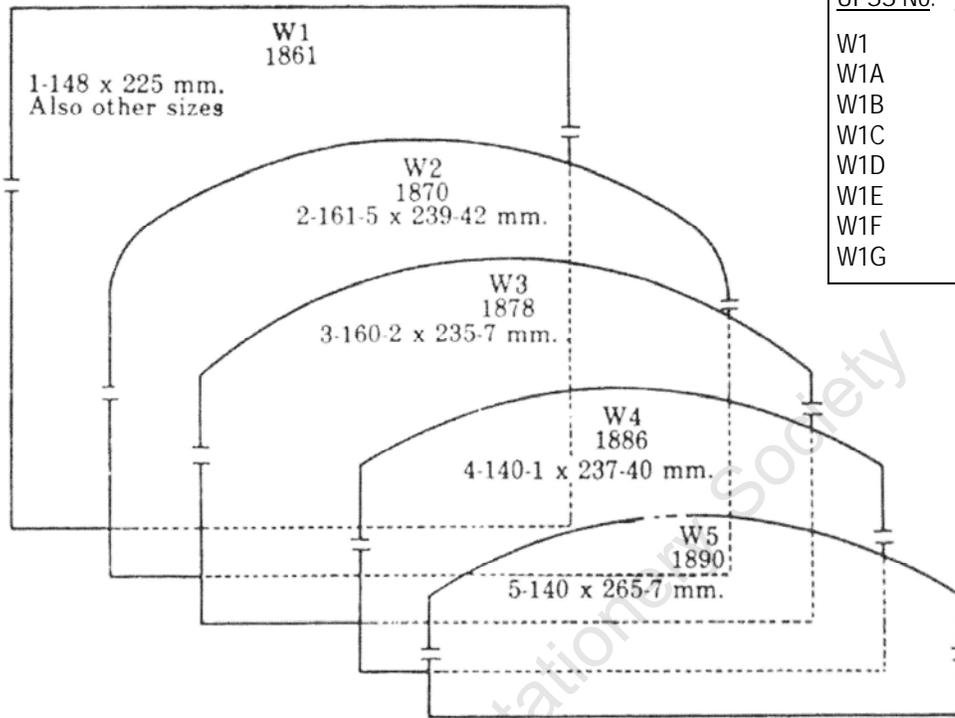
Plimpton-Morgan Knife, sides over bottom, side flaps are slightly rounded.

**Knife 124**



Plimpton-Morgan Knife, bottom over side flaps, side flaps are slightly rounded.

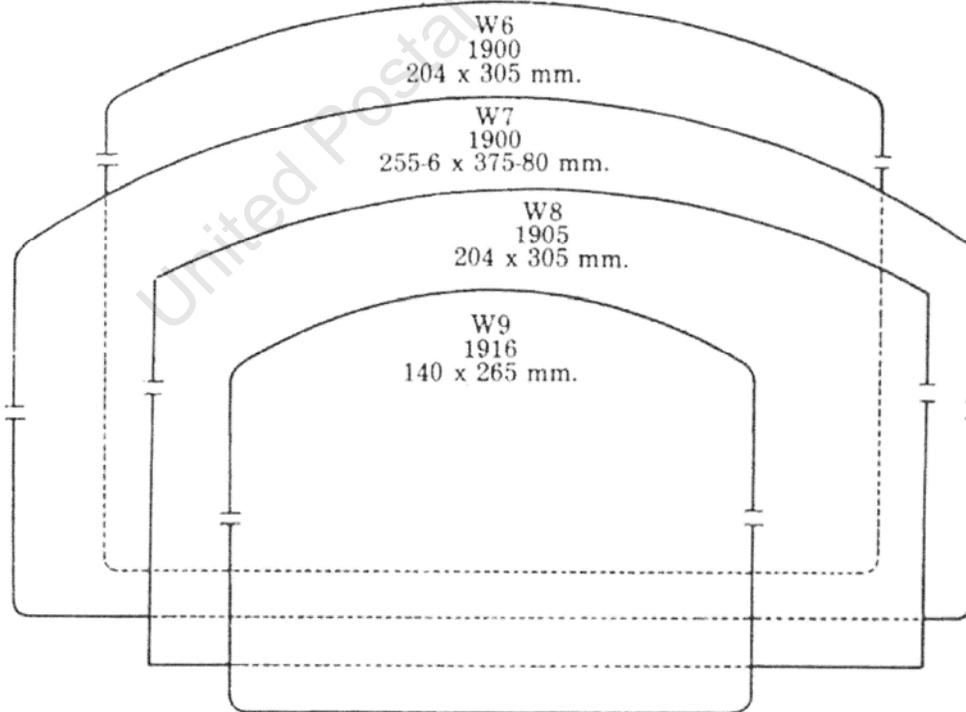
## WRAPPER KNIVES



### W1 Wrapper Types

UPSS No. Size (mm)

W1	148 x 225
W1A	151/2 x 257
W1B	114/5 x 375
W1C	150/3 x 215
W1D	133 x 200
W1E	180 x 260
W1F	100 x 200
W1G	151x203



### Thorp to UPSS Knife and Size Conversion

Thorp		UPSS		Size	Thorp		UPSS		Size
Knife	Size	Knife	Size	h by w (mm)	Knife	Size	Knife	Size	h by w (mm)
1	1	2	2	73 x 120	48	3	31	7	83 x 139
2	3	20	7	83 x 139	49	4.5	38	8	85 x 149
3	7	94	21	98 x 221	50	5	54	10	89 x 160
4	3	21	7	82 x 139	51	7	100	21	98 x 225
5	3	22	7	83 x 139	51 a	7	101	21	98 x 225
6	1	1	1	65 x 118	52	8	123	25	111 x 257
6	1	1	1	65 x 121	53	2	11	4	80 x 130
7	2	12	5	77 x 137	54	10	82	14	90 x 117
8	2	13	5	77 x 137	55	11	85	15	105 x 130
9	3	23	7	83 x 139	56	9	74	13	95 x 171
10	1	3	2	76 x 122	57	9	75	13	95 x 171
11	3	24	7	83 x 139	58	N	86	16	107 x 132
12	5	47	10	90 x 160	59	H	106	23	105 x 241
13	7	95	21	96 x 224	59	H	107	23	105 x 241
14	8	105	22	100 x 241	59	H	116	23	105 x 241
15	8	119	24	104 x 249	60	H	108	23	105 x 241
16	8	121	25	110 x 260	60 a	H	109	23	105 x 241
17	8	125	26	118 x 271	61	I	124	25	111 x 257
18	2	14	6	78 x 140	62	P	43	9	93 x 148
19	7	96	21	97 x 226	63	Q	61	11	95 x 160
20	8	120	24	104 x 249	63 a	14	62	11	95 x 160
21	7	97	21	98 x 225	64	R	90	18	111 x 143
22	1	4	2	73 x 120	65	1	9	3	73 x 134
23 a	1	5	3	71 x 134	66	2	32	7	83 x 139
24	1	6	3	71 x 134	67	3	39	8	95 x 149
25	2	15	6	78 x 139	68	5	55	10	89 x 160
26	2	16	6	78 x 139	69	7	102	21	98 x 225
27	2	17	6	78 x 139	70	10	83	14	90 x 117
28	3	25	7	83 x 139	71	11	87	16	108 x 134
29	3	26	7	83 x 139	72	13	76	13	95 x 171
30	3	27	7	83 x 139	73	14	63	11	95 x 160
31	5	48	10	87 x 161	74	4	44	9	92 x 149
31 a	5	49	10	87 x 161	75	5	56	10	89 x 160
32	5	50	10	89 x 161	76	13	77	13	95 x 171
33	5	51	10	89 x 161	77	3	40	8	85 x 149
34	7	98	21	100 x 225	77 a	3	40	8	85 x 149
35	7	99	21	100 x 225	78	2	33	7	82 x 139
36	8	122	25	110 x 258	79	2	34	7	82 x 139
37	1	7	3	72 x 134	80	3	41	8	85 x 149
37 a	1	7 a	3	72 x 134	81	5	57	10	89 x 160
38	2	18	6	78 x 139	82	11	88	16	108 x 132
39	3	28	7	82 x 138	83	13	78	13	95 x 171
40	3	29	7	83 x 139	84	4	45	9	92 x 149
41	3	30	7	83 x 139	85	10	84	14	90 x 117
42	5	52	10	89 x 161	86	14	64	11	95 x 160
43	5	53	10	89 x 160					
44	4.5	36	8	85 x 149					
45	4.5	37	8	85 x 149					
46	1	8	3	73 x 134					
47	2	19	6	78 x 139					