

U.S. Proof Set Collection Checklist

Year	Qty	Notes:
1950		
1951		
1952		
1953		
1954		
1955		
1956		
1957		
1958		
1959		
1960		
1961		
1962		
1963		
1964		
1965-1967 None Issued		
1968		
1969		
1970		
1971		
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1981		
1982		
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1988		
1989		

Year	Qty	Notes:
1990		
1991		
1992		
1993		
1994		
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2017		
2018		
2019		
2020		



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About U.S. Proof Sets:

Proof coins are the finest-quality specimens produced by the U.S. Mint. They're painstakingly created from highly polished, immaculately clean dies, which are again carefully cleaned and polished after as few as 15 strikes and soon replaced before the slightest imperfection can appear. Proof coin blanks are also individually polished to attain a stunning mirror-like finish. Each is then hand-fed into the minting press and struck at least two times to produce far more relief and sharpness than regular circulation coins can hope to show.

The first U.S. proof sets emerged in 1936; early mintages were low and production was suspended in 1942 during World War II. In 1950 U.S. proof sets were again issued and their mintages gradually ascended. With a great increase in demand, proof sets that had formerly only been created by the principal Philadelphia Mint became the exclusive province of the San Francisco Mint in 1968.

As the San Francisco Mint tooled up for its proof coin minting mission, no U.S. proof sets were issued in the years 1965-1967; instead, the U.S. Mint released a "hybrid" form of Special Mint Sets, which were a step above regular Brilliant Uncirculated mint set quality, but less than the distinction of proof sets.

How Proof Coins Are Made:

Proof coins are the finest-quality specimens produced by the U.S. Mint. They are painstakingly created from highly polished, immaculately clean dies, which are again carefully cleaned and polished after a limited number of strikes and replaced before the slightest imperfection can appear.

Proof coin blanks are also individually polished to attain a stunning mirror-like finish. Each is then hand-fed into the minting press and struck at least two times to produce far more relief and sharpness than regular circulation coins can hope to show.

Proof Set Packaging:

Early U.S. proof sets were packaged in a variety of ways involving cellophane packets and brown paper envelopes. Sets from the 1950s are difficult to find in any form and original packaging is not always available or preferred. Modern proof sets feature transparent plastic cases that protect the coins while displaying both sides.

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