

Directions for penny, nickel, and dime strips

Penny/dime strips have ten pennies on one side and one dime on the other side. The pages from which you make these have six columns of ten pennies on one side and six columns with one dime on the other side. There are no vertical lines on the dime side because it is almost impossible to line up the pages perfectly, so you cut on the lines on the penny side and then the dime side strips look good. When the six strips are cut along the dotted lines on the penny side, each strip will have ten pennies on one side and one dime on the other side.

Penny/nickel strips have five pennies on one side and one nickel on the other side. The pages from which you make these have six columns of ten pennies on one side and six columns with two separated nickels on the other side. There are no vertical lines on the nickel side because it is almost impossible to line up the pages perfectly, so you cut on the lines on the penny side and then the nickel side strips look good. When the six strips are cut along the dotted lines on the penny side, each strip will have ten pennies on one side and two nickels on the other side. The penny/nickel strips then need to be cut in half horizontally so that each nickel strip has five pennies on one side and one nickel on the other side.

Aligning the fronts and backs of the pages: Make one 2-sided copy on regular paper using the bypass tray and then hold that page up to the light. That way, you can see how to adjust the originals so that they align well. The alignment on each copy machine is different, so you have to check each machine. After you have one perfect copy, you can switch to cardstock.

Cutting the strips of cardboard: You might be able to find a copy shop that has equipment to do aligning and especially cutting the strips. In the classroom studies before Math Expressions was published, I had a great copy shop that ran off many of these penny/dime strips and penny/nickel strips on gold card stock and cut them for us (they had a machine that could cut a stack of 100 copies). Then we would get boxes of them.