



# BULLETIN



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by  
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# 10-Strikes

been popular with a  
inception in 1938,  
most, collectors  
because of their  
'standard-sized covers' (20s or 30s),  
—which, come to think of it, is probably why I  
collecting them, myself.

Universal's 10-strike sized covers have always  
segment of collectors, ever since its  
although I suspect that more, if not  
don't collect them specifically  
size. Since they're not  
they're harder to deal with  
never got interested in

But, it doesn't matter if you specifically collect 10-strikes or not, because...unless you only collect something like DQs...you're going to run into them in whatever you do collect. Especially,



considering that Ohio and Match Corp. also made their own versions, as well [one of which is pictured below]. Although, Universal's Ten-Strike accounts for 90%+ of all the issues in this category. Thus, for example, I collect Navy Ships, Military, Holidays Inns, Chinese Restaurants, and a loooong list of others...and there are 10-strike issues in almost all of my categories. So, I have to deal with them whether I like it or not.

In the early days, it wasn't really a problem. I mounted all my covers on slotted sheets, and there were slotted sheets for 10-strikes, so... But now, I'm in a transition period, gradually moving everything to plastic pages...and guess what? They don't make plastic pages for 10-strikes! Now, what do I do?

Well, as it turns out, I'm only left with only two plausible options. I can put the 10-strikes in 20-strike pockets in my plastic pages I (maybe even two per pocket), or I can keep using the slotted pages just for my tens. Both options are less than ideal, as both have disadvantages. When you put 10s in a 20-strike pocket, they invariably will move around and become a helter-skelter arrangement that detracts from the entire page. I could put a tiny piece of tape on the inside of each cover to affix them to their 'assigned' positions, but then I run into the possibility of damaging the inside of the cover as well as the plastic page, not to mention that such a solution would be really time-consuming to begin with.

Keeping them mounted on slotted pages would solved those problems, but, working with slotted pages, you'd be back to damaging covers when trying to fit them into the slots, and you'd end up with these odd-sized paper pages in with your albums of otherwise plastic pages...and discontinuity always irks me. In the end, I've at least temporarily settled on using the slotted pages for my 10-strikes.

What else can I do? Well, in the interim since I originally asked that question, I've found out that at least



a few of our more creative peers actually make their own plastic pages *for* 40's and 10's by basically taking a hot iron to the plastic pages and creating their own custom-sized slots. So far, I've been too lazy to even approach that.

As you can see from the examples on p. 1, the earlier 10's also had wide strikers. And, although you can't tell from the pictures, they were of thicker stock, as well, just as you would expect.

Although I don't collect 10's as a distinct category, as earlier noted I certainly run into them in many of my other categories, especially the Fancies—lots of Uniglo 10s, Foilite 10s, etc. Plus, I have eight pages of 10s, just in my Holiday Inn collection. There are 10-strike Military, Girlies, and so on.

In fact, the numbers obviously indicate that the 10-strike size was a very popular variety with customers throughout its some five decades of production. John Williams, OH, reported having 8,000 of all varieties in October 1987 (although I suspect *Stella* has far more by now). And, just to give you an idea of the ratio of Universal 10's to other companies' types, Andy Anderson, MO, reported only 384 Ohio Match Co. 10s back in July 1996, and that's still on record as the largest known collection of such covers.

It's an interesting category, no doubt—a nice, long history; a huge amount of variety; very plentiful, easily obtained, cheap. New collectors, especially, might consider starting in on 10's.