

# Half cent (United States coin)

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First authorized on April 2, 1792 <sup>[1]</sup>, the **half cent coin** was produced in the [United States](#) from 1793-1857. The half-cent piece was made of 100% copper. It was slightly smaller than a modern [U.S. quarter](#). Diameters are: 22 mm (1793), 23.5 mm (1794–1836) and 23 mm (1840–1857).<sup>[2]</sup>, Coinage was discontinued by the Act of February 21, 1857. Every Half cent was produced At the Philadelphia Mint.

There are several different types of half cents:

- [Liberty Cap, Left](#) (designed/engraved by [Henry Voigt](#)) - issued 1793
- [Liberty Cap, Right](#) (large head designed by [Robert Scot](#), small head designed by Scot-John Gardner, engraved by Robert Scot) - issued 1794 to 1797
- [Draped Bust](#) (obverse designed by [Gilbert Stuart](#) and Robert Scot, reverse designed by Scot-John Gardner, engraved by Robert Scot) - issued 1800 to 1808
- [Classic Head](#) (designed/engraved by John Reich) - issued 1809 to 1836
- [Braided Hair](#) (designed by [Christian Gobrecht](#)) - issued 1840 to 1857

There are no mint marks on any of the coins (all minted at the [Philadelphia Mint](#)) and the edges are plain on most half cents.

On the 1793 coin and a variety of the 1797 coin it was lettered TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR and another 1797 variety had a gripped, or milled, edge.

Mintage figures are the following:

## Liberty Cap, Left

- 1793 - 35,334

## Liberty Cap, Right

- 1794 - 81,600
- 1795 - 139,690
- 1796 - 1,390
- 1797 - 127,840

## Draped Bust

- 1800 - 202,908
- 1802 - 20,266
- 1803 - 92,000
- 1804 - 1,055,312

Half Cent (United States)	
	
Value:	0.005 <a href="#">U.S. dollar</a>
Mass:	6.739 <a href="#">g</a> (1793–1795)
	5.443 <a href="#">g</a> (1795–1857)
Diameter:	22 mm (1793) - 23.5 mm
Thickness:	2 mm
Edge:	lettered (1793,1797)
	plain (1794–1857)
	gripped (1797)
Composition:	100% <a href="#">Cu</a>

- 1805 - 814,464
- 1806 - 356,000
- 1807 - 476,000
- 1808 - 400,000

**Classic Head** (Shown at top right.)

- 1809 - 1,154,572
- 1810 - 215,000
- 1811 - 63,140
- 1825 - 63,000
- 1826 - 234,000
- 1828 - 606,000
- 1829 - 487,000
- 1831 - 2,200
- 1832 - 51,000
- 1833 - 103,000
- 1834 - 141,000
- 1835 - 398,000
- 1836 - *proof only, restrikes were made*
- 1837 - *No half cents were struck by the United States government, however due to the need for small change half cent tokens were produced by private businessmen.*

**Braided Hair**

- *1840 through 1849 were proof only issues. There were restrikes made.*
- 1849 - 39,864
- 1850 - 39,812
- 1851 - 147,672
- *1852 - proof only. Restrikes were made.*
- 1853 - 129,694
- 1854 - 55,358
- 1855 - 56,500
- 1856 - 40,430
- 1857 - 35,180