

Peter Fagan Colour Box Guide to Base Labels and Markings

This document is to act as a guide to help identify pieces by giving details of base labels and markings that can be found on pieces. Please note however this is not a definitive guide and is based on my current knowledge and observations.

Markings

Markings on pieces do vary and have done so over the years. Here is a quick list to what to look out for when trying to identify that a piece is indeed Colour Box or a Peter Fagan creation. Markings are never found on the base of an item, they are usually found on the visible face of a piece but can be quite small and hard to spot at first glance.

- Touch mark with Peter's initials "PF", sometimes within a round circle, especially on the Baby Animal collection pieces
- Full signature
- Copyright symbol © and date (not full date just year i.e. 92)
- Combination of signature, copyright symbol and date
- Some pieces have no markings
- In 1992 a new form of mark was introduced and pieces were embossed with a rosette and the words Hand Painted. However these were hard to read and the use was discontinued.

Base Labels

On the base of items can usually be found a paper label (sometimes called backstamps). Over the years they have varied in colour and text. The base label can give an indication to identifying the approximate production date of a piece.

The common theme with all labels for Bronze Age and Colour Box pieces is that they are round in shape. Later pieces created post the closure of Colour Box are oblong.

Bronze Age pieces



Round yellowy beige label that states: Bronze Age Hand Made in Scotland.



Larger Bronze Age pieces can be found with labels that state: Bronze Age Ltd. Scotland written in capitals and the text Moulded from an original sculpture. The % of bronze powder, iron powder and resin by approx. weight are also stated.



Some bronze pieces also feature small gold stickers that purely state: Made in Scotland

Colour Box

1983 – 1986



Small round blue labels that state: Made and Hand Painted in Scotland

1986 - 1992



These blue labels are larger than the early labels and state: Made and Hand Painted in Scotland. They also feature Peter's signature which looks like 'Pop Fagan'. The year of issue is also stated along with a copyright symbol ©.

1993 - 1996



Blue round label which states: The name of the piece, code number, year of issue and a copyright symbol ©. Peter's signature is also present put is much more identifiable as 'Peter Fagan'.

1996 – 1998



Round label but the colour is changed to cream and states: The name of the piece, code number and year of issue along with a copyright symbol ©. Peter's signature is also present.

1997



Cream round label which states: The name of the piece, code number, a copyright symbol © and Peter's signature, but no date.

Post Colour Box



After the closure of Colour Box in 2000, Peter continued making pieces which featured the following base labels.

Oblong gold label which states: A Peter Fagan Collectable. Made and Hand Painted in Scotland. A website is also stated (www.peter-fagan.co.uk), but please note this is no longer live.

This white oblong label states all the same text as found on the gold label stated above. The label size and colour is the only difference.

Please note that Peters more recent work do not feature any labels.

Identifying Pieces as Colour Box

If you are unsure a piece you come across either online or when out and about is a genuine Colour Box or Peter Fagan item there are a few things you can do:

- Check to see if the item has a base label as described above, however it is worth noting that with time base labels can fall off but usually a mark is left were the label would of originally been
- Has the piece been signed by Peter? Pieces signed by Peter have usually been done so in black ink, sometimes they also have some form of personalisation i.e. To (name), Peter's signature and sometimes the date
- Can you see any markings? However be aware that some pieces don't have them!
- Does the piece have a box, certificate, leaflet or in the case of the bears a story to accompany the piece
- Even if a "piece" comes with a box it still does not mean it is a Colour Box piece and will require further investigation if you are unsure what the piece is
- Does the seller have any info? I.e. When and where did they acquire it, how long have they had it
- Check the quality of the painting – Colour Box pieces have a certain look and feel to them and all the painters were trained to a high standard and precision
- Go with your gut instinct, if something about a piece does not feel right then you are probably correct
- The bear collection was based on real bears owned by the Fagan's so the sculpting and painting reflects this
- The cats have a certain look to them often in cheeky situations
- If your still not sure especially with an item found on line, ask for advice from fellow collectors through the Facebook group or email Rachael theworldofpeterfagan@yahoo.com