

# LEARN TO DIFFERENTIATE NINE JITALS

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## Abstract

This study aims to analyze nine type of bull and hoserman jitals, which so far has caused controversy amongst the international numismatic community, who collect and study medieval indian coins. I hope this work will shed more light on these fascinating coins and well bring benefit to and open new ground on the coins of medieval India.

PALABRAS CLAVE: India, Shahi, Post-Shahi, Jital, Sri Samanta Deva

## Resumen

El estudio tiene como objetivo analizar nueve tipos de jitals (toro y jinete), los cuales están creando dudas y controversia entre la comunidad numismática internacional, que colecciona y estudia las monedas medievales de la India. Espero que este pequeño trabajo pueda abrir nuevos caminos en las monedas de la India medieval y arroje más luz sobre estas fascinantes monedas.

KEYWORDS: India, Shahi, Post-Shahi, Jital, Sri Samanta Deva

## 1. Introduction

The study aims to benefit fellow numismatists based on studies and metric-style graphics. All studies are conducted on used and worn coins. All weights discussed here exceed three grams. As there were millions<sup>1</sup> of these Jitals produced and with different artistic styles it is safe to say, like other authors on the subject of jitals, i agree there were several Mints operating simultaneously<sup>2</sup>. The quantity and variety suggests that there were several Mints operating. This will explain the circulation in Kabul jital 1b (1b jital and khudarayakah<sup>3</sup> jitals are the first two dots at the end of the legend).

There are different types of coins which are obvious to the naked eye, however this study will show us other like coin varieties in detail which may look similar but in fact are not. This small study will teach us how to correctly identify these varieties of jitals.

Why have I chosen these jitals and not others? Very simple, by the appearance on the international numismatic market of large amounts of these types and also because other jitals are very easy to differentiate.

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\* Independent researcher. E-mail: franciscopack1@hotmail.es I want to thank Rober Tye for his comments and especially Peter Bradford, without their help it would have been impossible to finalize this article.

<sup>1</sup> DEYELL 1990: 57 (Estimate of circulating quantities).

<sup>2</sup> DEYELL 1990: 58.

<sup>3</sup> TYE 1995: numbers 22 and 23; DEYELL (1990): numbers 34 and 35; MN (1979): 29. 'That 'Khudarayakah' coins, are imitations of the time.

As previously stated i think there were several Mints in operation<sup>4</sup>, and that there was a high probability that these coins too were copied by the Muslim rulers of the time<sup>5</sup>.

If someday one is allowed access to the actual sites where these coins are found or excavated, a more accurate appraisal can be concluded. For example coins 4a, 4b y 4c are all from the same mint in my view.

I want to point out in a major way that parts of jitals are taken from other jitals with the same style, as it is impossible to put a jital with all the features in perfect condition.

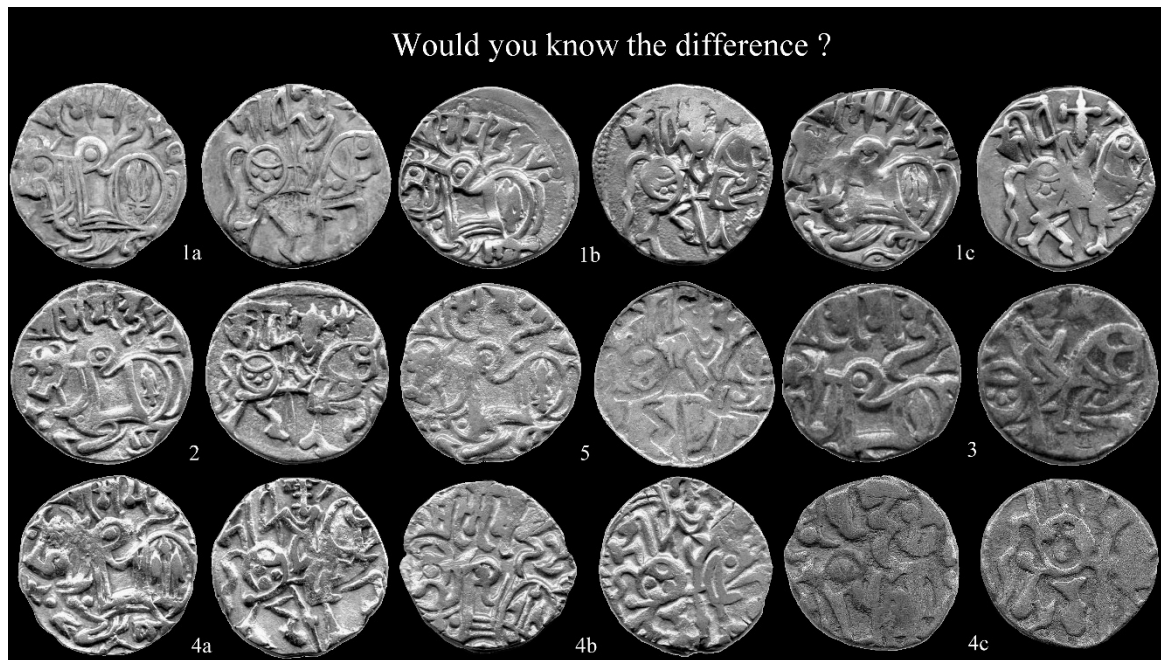


Fig. 1. Author collection.

**2. Study**

**Differences between 1a and 1b**



Fig. 2 (jital 1a)

<sup>4</sup> DEYELL 1990: 58.

<sup>5</sup> TYE 1995: 37. Late and Post Shahi Anonymous issues. DEYELL (1990): 55; MN (1979): 78.



Fig. 3 (jital 1b)

This jital presents the same style and the same metrics that of jital 1a.

The legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' ends at the two dots (visarga)<sup>6</sup>. I want to show here that there are other varieties such as number 4 which end in two dots.

If we see two dots we automatically assume it to be a "variety of two dots". In fact take note you will see many more varieties of this coin. It is important to mention that this is the first jital of 'Sri Samanta Deva' to shown with two dots at the end of the legend.

Do you see any connection with jitals of 'Khudarayakah'? Yes, the two dots. Obviously these pieces were in circulation at the time of the Muslim conquest of Kabul. All authors, MacDowall, Mitchiner, Deyell and Tye, agree 'Khudarayakah' jitals are imitations Muslims which circulated at the time and were produced with the conquest<sup>7</sup>. We can not think that Muslims placed the two dots, without the advice of an Indian official.

### Differences between 1a and 1c



Fig. 2 (jital 1a)

<sup>6</sup> MACDOWALL (1968): PL.XVII, number 19; MN (1979): Number 116. It reads "Devah" not "Deva", (different variety of two dots).

<sup>7</sup> MACDOWALL (1968): 198; MN (1979): 29; DEYELL (1990): 343; TYE (1995): 36.



Fig. 4 (jital 1c)

**1c** and **1a** jitals are practically the same, only small details can make a difference.

I wanted to introduce this jital in the study because as you can see it is a late mint or different style. However, we will go with it:

- 1) Jital **1c** is clearly seen as the design is made with thicker lines, the same bull and legend, but no stylized design. You can see a more coarse, rough design and deeper engraving.
- 2) The reverse design is different horse with shorter and thicker legs. The horses back is larger and disproportionate, measuring the length of the legs. The design of the horse can be seen disproportionately.
- 3) The lance ends long before **1a**, is shorter. (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5

### Differences between 1a and 2



Fig. 2 (jital 1a)



Fig. 6 (jital 2)

The jital 2 there are in good silver and billon, which is leading to confusion many numismatic. Although the differences seem fairly clear at first sight, it still tends to confuse numismatics, we will distinguish:

- 1) The spelling to the naked eye is the same, but no, the script is much smaller and less stylized with shallow engraving. A Less stylized coin than number 1a, in the Jhula<sup>8</sup> bull. Also you can see a difference with the tridents. (Fig. 7)



Fig. 7

Because of its size the tridents can be difficult to recognize. See Fig. 8



Fig. 8

<sup>8</sup> Deyell 1990: 344. Wearing jhula (saddle cloth).

- 2) You will see in Fig. 6 that the horses head, rear and legs disproportionate, jital **1a** the horse are provided.  
 If we measure the two tridents, we realize that the trident jital **1a** is larger that number **2**.
  
- 3) Jital **2** is smaller, measuring between 17,2 and 17,6 mm, whilst jital **1a** measures between 17,7 and 18,5 mm. Therefore the differences can be seen at first glance.

### Differences between 2 and 5



Fig. 6 (jital 2)



Fig. 9 (jital 5)

The differences are noticeable after seeing many of these types of jitals.

The jital **5** is difficult to differentiate because of the state of consevation which is normally found with these coins. Here i will show a few differences that will, i hope help the reader.

Although as i said the jital **2**, there are silver and billon coins, the jital **5**, only exist in billon.

Either **2** or **5** never have two dots after the legend 'Sri Samanta Deva' (visarga).

With number **5** you can see that the line is thicker and larger.

However, let's look at the differences:

- 1) Different script. (Fig. 10)

On the obverse the syllable 'TA' always ends in a hook and the script is larger.

The aksaras 'Sri Samanta Deva' has a triangular shape and line that links them (it is available to see it completely). The appearance suggests this is late jital.



Fig. 10

2) The reverse of jital 5 frequently appears so. (Fig. 11)



Fig. 11

Which leads to uncertainty, what is it?<sup>9</sup> (Fig. 12)

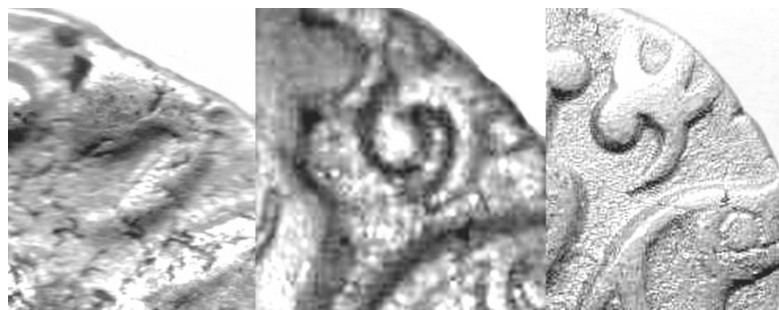


Fig. 12

<sup>9</sup> MACDOWALL 1968: 195. Plume corrupted and separate horse head. Term corrupt is used to explain the deterioration the plume with the passage of time to mingle with the Brahmi script. The coins 'Spalapati Deva' degradation begins leading to a variety of feathers, which will be represented in many different ways.

3) The size of the bull, rider and writing on jital **5** is different and much higher. If we examine each coin we quickly realize. Let's take an example: the trident in Jital **2** measures between 3 and 4 mm and in Jital **5** between 5 and 6 mm.

4) The different trident are larger and a different style. (Fig. 13)



Fig. 13

5) Reverse of number **5**, the joint of the fourth leg protrudes. (Fig.14)

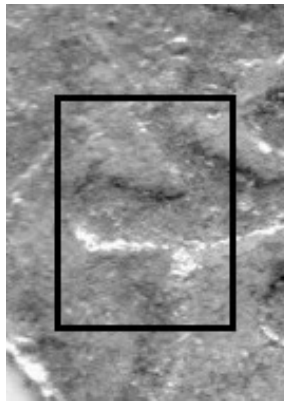


Fig. 14

6) Aksara 'BHI' always ends on the horse's rear. (Fig. 15)

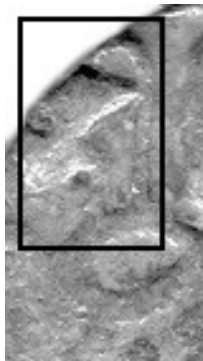


Fig. 15

7) The coin is thicker.



### Differences between 2 and 3



Fig. 6 (jital 2)



Fig. 16 (jital 3)

The jital 3 is a continuation of jital 2.

The three differences are the size, thickness and metal. Identical varieties exist and can only be differentiated by the metric studies.

It is very important to mention that there are varieties with higher line connecting the syllables. There are many varieties.

- 1) The jital 2 measure between 17,2 and 17,6 mm.  
The jital 3 measure between 14,4 and 14,6 mm.
- 2) Coin thickness 2 measure between 1,6 and 2,0 mm.  
Coin thickness 3 measure between 2,4 and 2,5 mm.
- 3) The jital 2 exist in billon and silver.  
The jital 3 only exist in billon and copper.

### Differences between 1a and 4a



Fig. 2 (jital 1a)



Fig. 17 (jital 4a)

- 1) The major difference is the trident on the jhula bull.  
Most tridents are different, the problem is that often you cannot see them due to the poor condition of the coin. (Fig. 18)  
The trident in jital 4a is large and measures between 6 to 7 mm.



Fig. 18

- 2) Silver coins are thicker lines, less stylized and engraving deeper.
- 3) The rear on the reverse the syllable 'BHI' at the horse left, always ends at the horse's rear, this is due to the large size of the script. (Fig. 19)



Fig. 19 (Both the bull, horse and the script are larger.)

- 4) The joint of the fourth leg of the horse always stands out with a large dot. (Fig. 20)

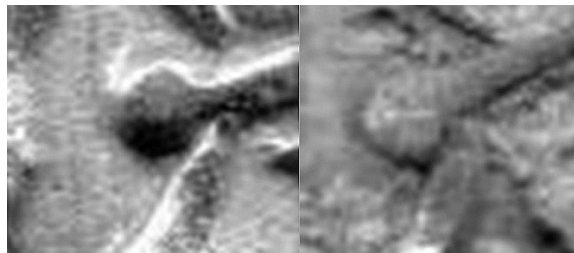


Fig. 20

- 5) On the obverse the syllable 'TA' always ends at the rear of the bull. (Fig. 21)



Fig. 21

- 6) On the obverse of the bull, the legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' has a different script which is elongated.
- 7) The lance bearing a dot at the end the bottom. (Fig. 22)



Fig. 22

- 8) Two dots at the end of the legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' (visarga).

**Differences between 1a and 4b**



Fig. 2 (jital **1a**)



Fig. 23 (jital **4b**)

At first these jitals should be in no doubt, however frequently misclassified see, maybe it's because the legend ends with two dots, these two jitals are easy to differentiate.

Jitals **4b** are a clear derivation of jitals **4a**, however abstraction begins to rule. The lines start forming together and begin to abstract forms. These jitals have a high silver content, but are also found in billon. We will begin to differentiate:

- 1) Different trident that **1a** and same trident that **4a**, but the trident always appears lopsided to the right. (Fig. 24)



Fig. 24

- 2) Different bull design, as you can see in the 2nd figure the line is broken. (Fig. 25)



Fig. 25

- 3) Different script and more elongation occurs.
- 4) On the reverse, the joint of the fourth leg of the horse stands as **4a**, but now you can see how the joint is much longer. (Fig. 26)



Fig. 26

- 5) Lance with a dot at the end. (Fig. 27)

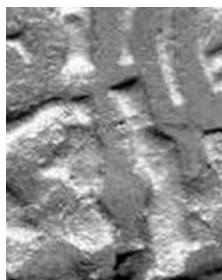


Fig. 27

- 6) Two dots at the end of 'Sri Samanta Devah' (visarga).

**Differences between 4c and 4b**



Fig. 28 (jital 4c)



Fig. 23 (jital 4b)

The jital 4c clearly derived from 4b, the biggest difference is that it is thicker, with a smaller diameter (equal to number 3). It is a style more rough and crude.

The script is thicker with shallow engraving, but the stylistic characteristics are identical to 4b with the same legend and visarga which always look incomplete.

The trident jital 4c appears lopsided to the right as jital 4b.

The jital 4c appears in poor billon, while the jital 4b has a higher amount of billon and silver.

**3. Subparagraphs**

- 1a, 1b, and 1c coins are of the Shahis, and size and weight we can see them using the same metric.

There are varieties of 1a, which are not included in this study.

The diameter of the jitals 1 may exceed 19 mm.

The plume to the right of the hoserman can vary as shown below: looking to the right, up right and looking up left. (Fig. 29)<sup>10</sup>



Fig. 29

<sup>10</sup> Representative drawings. Just pretend to indicate the direction, there are a variety of ways due to corruption of the plume.

- The coins **2** and **5** are anonymous Post Shahi kingdom. In the metric studies, we can see how jital **2** larger diameters and thicknesses lower than number **5**.

Whilst it is normal to find jital **5**, which measures between 15 mm and 16 mm, it is not the case for the silver jital **2**. Finding these measures, billon is normal.

I think that the different Mints and dates are very close between the two, but the number **2**, began to Mint a little earlier (AD 1000-1100), because the coins with a high silver content as used in the work. Obviously, the number **2** in billon are from the time the number **5** (AD 1000-1200).

The big problem, which creates great confusion, is to differentiate the jital **2** and **5** billon, this becomes a tough task.

The metric studies of the billon jital **2** are not included in this work.

The only differences are; slightly thicker lines, trident passes measure between 4 and 5 mm, intermediate thickness from **2** (Silver) and **5**.

Aksara 'TA' very similar to the number **5**.

Mitchiner in his book " Non islamic states and western colonies' includes them (numbers 469-476). Mitchiner attributed to the Ghaznavids or Chahamanas.

The plume can vary as in Fig. 30<sup>11</sup>. Looking up and looking right.



Fig. 30

- Coins **4a**, **4b** and **4c** may be Shahis. The coin **4a** has all the characteristics of Shahi coin and **4b**, **4c** are referrals made by the passage of time and the lack of good silver.

I think were minted in a short period of time between three varieties (50 or 60 years).

The piece **4a** has a good silver content and similar characteristics to Shahis jitals, which are very similar to the **1a**, if we differentiate, we have to go to the stylistic studies.

We must highlight the thickness of the jitals number **3** and **4c**, are very similar, although the number **3**, there is one that exceeds 3 mm.

I think that while circulated at the same time, have a different Mint.

The diameter of the smallest jital **3** is measured between 14.4 and 14.6 mm and **4c** jital between 15.2 mm and 15.5 mm. The jital **3** does not exceed 15mm, **4c** may surpass.

The jital **4b** after metric studies, as can be seen in step jital to **4c** are reduced size, thickness, and acquiring an aspect of billon, ranging up to 4 mm in length.

<sup>11</sup> Representative drawings.

The reverse (horseman) number **4b** and **4c**, have long been confusing and looks like 'Mahi Pala'<sup>12</sup> or other reverse Post-Shahi<sup>13</sup>. Could have something relation?

The coins **4b** and **4c** have similar characteristics to the coins after the Shahi (post-Shahi), with metal degradation and abstraction.

- Jital **3** is an anonymous Post Shahi kingdom. The coins **5** and **3** begins ligation in aksara (syllables), the problem is that in most coins can not be seen. There are varieties of jital **3** which have no ligation, surely be the first.

If a jital exceeds 15 mm in diameter, surely not a jital **3**, have to think it's a jital **2** or **5**.

- Jital **2** is smaller, without exceeding 18 mm, whilst jital **1a** is very easy for exceeded. However, one can always find jitals **1a** and **2** very similar measures.

In jital **2** the average diameter is between 17 mm and 18 mm, jital **1a** is 18 mm and 19 mm.

If we place a jital of each type and together, we will quickly realize the differences.

#### 4. Cataloging



##### 1a

Shahi

Obv: script 'sarada', legend 'Sri Samanta Deva', trident on 'jhula'.

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman, to the right the plume is corrupt<sup>14</sup>.

In front of the horse, one corrupted Brahmi<sup>15</sup> script (meaningless characters), which resemble the Arabic number 814<sup>16</sup>.

Weight: 3,15g

Diameter: 17,7-18,5 mm

Thickness: 1,4-1,9 mm

Metal: silver.

Mint: Ohind?<sup>17</sup>

<sup>12</sup> TYE 1995: number 39; DEYELL 1990: number 232.

<sup>13</sup> TYE 1995: number 34; DEYELL 1990: number 237.

<sup>14</sup> MACDOWALL 1968: 195.

<sup>15</sup> TYE 1995: 34; MACDOWALL 1968: 192.

<sup>16</sup> MACDOWALL 1968: 192; DEYELL 1990: 54.

<sup>17</sup> Probably was Mint in Ohind.



Date: (ND), AD 850-1000

Cataloging: MacDowall 24, MN 117, Deyell 47 and Tye 14.1

Very common



**1b**

Shahi

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' (visarga).

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,25g

Diameter: 18,5-18,7 mm

Thickness: 1,1-1,9 mm

Metal: silver

Mint: Ohind?

Date: (ND), AD 850-1000

Cataloging: MacDowall 19, MN, Deyell and Tye

Scarce



**1c**

Shahi

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Deva'.

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,27g

Diameter: 17,5-18,0 mm

Thickness: 1,3-1,6 mm

Metal: silver

Mint: Ohind?

Date: (ND), AD 850-1000

Cataloging: MacDowall 25, MN 119, Deyell 45 and Tye

Very common



**2**

Anonymous 'Post-Shahi'.

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Deva'.

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,26g

Diameter: 17,2-17,6 mm

Thickness: 1,6-2,01 mm

Metal: silver and billon

Mint: (N W India)<sup>18</sup>

Date: (ND), AD 1000-1100

Cataloging: MacDowall 33, MN 473, Deyell 48 and Tye 32

Very common



**3**

Anonymous 'Post-Shahi'.

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Deva'.

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,36g

Diameter: 14,4-14,6 mm

Thickness: 2,4-2,5 mm

Metal: copper and billon

Mint: (N W India)

Date: (ND), AD 1000-1200

Cataloging: MacDowall 33bis, MN 473, Deyell 235-236 and Tye 33

Very common

<sup>18</sup> North west India (TYE 1995: 6).



**4a**

Shahi?<sup>19</sup>

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' (visarga).

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,16g

Diameter: 17,6-17,8 mm

Thickness: 1,4-1,8 mm

Metal: silver

Mint: (N W India)

Date: (ND), AD 950-1014<sup>20</sup>

Cataloging: MacDowall, Mitchiner, Deyell and Tye

Common



**4b**

Shahi?

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' (visarga).

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,05g

Diameter: 17,1-17,9 mm

Thickness: 1,4-1,7 mm

Metal: silver and billon rich<sup>21</sup>

Mint: (N W India)

Date: (ND), AD 950-1014

Cataloging: MacDowall, MN, Deyell and Tye

Common.

<sup>19</sup> It is likely to be Shahi.

<sup>20</sup> DEYELL 1990: 58. Capture of Nandana by Mahmud.

<sup>21</sup> Rich: mintage with high content of silver.



**4c**

Shahi?

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Devah' (visarga).

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,14g

Diameter: 15,2-15,5 mm

Thickness: 2,0-2,5 mm

Metal: billon poor<sup>22</sup>

Mint: (N W India)

Date: (ND), AD 1000-1021<sup>23</sup>

Cataloging: MacDowall, MN, Deyell and Tye

Scarse



**5**

Anonymous 'Post-Shahi'.

Obv: legend 'Sri Samanta Deva'.

Rev: sarada aksara 'Bhi' to the left of the hoserman.

Weight: 3,10g

Diameter: 16,2-16,9 mm

Thickness: 1,4-2,3 mm

Metal: billon rich and poor

Mint: (N W India)

Date: (ND), AD 1000-1200

Cataloging: MacDowall, MN 469-471, Deyell and Tye

Very common

<sup>22</sup> Poor: mintage with a small amount of silver.

<sup>23</sup> MN (1979): 28. Shahi enclave last fall in Sirhind.

**5. Metric table<sup>24</sup>**

<b>Jital 1a</b>	<b>Jital 1b</b>	<b>Jital 2</b>	<b>Jital 3</b>
Diameter:17,7-18,5 mm Thickness: 1,4-1,9 mm Weight:3,15 g	Diameter:18,0-18,2 mm Thickness:1,2-1,6 mm Weight:3,31 g	Diameter:17,2-17,6 mm Thickness:1,6-2,0 mm Weight:3,26 g	Diameter:14,4-14,6 mm Thickness:2,4-2,5 mm Weight:3,36 g
Diameter:17,6-17,8 mm Thickness:1,3-1,9 mm Weight:3,07 g	Diameter:18,5-18,7 mm Thickness:1,1-1,9 mm Weight:3,25 g	Diameter:16,9-17,1 mm Thickness:1,6-1,9 mm Weight:3,25 g	Diameter:13,6-14,1 mm Thickness:2,5-2,7 mm Weight:3,01 g
Diameter:18,0-18,5 mm Thickness:1,2-1,8 mm Weight:3,30 g		Diameter:16,5-16,7 mm Thickness:1,5-1,8 mm Weight:3,24 g	Diameter:14,1-14,4 mm Thickness:2,4-2,8 mm Weight:3,35 g
Diameter:17,9-18,1 mm Thickness:1,2-1,5 mm Weight:3,27 g		Diameter:17,4-17,7 mm Thickness:1,3-1,6 mm Weight:3,16 g	Diameter:13,8-13,9 mm Thickness:2,4-3,2 mm Weight:3,28 g

<b>Jital 4a</b>	<b>Jital 4b</b>	<b>Jital 4c</b>	<b>Jital 5</b>
Diameter:17,6-17,8 mm Thickness:1,4-1,8 mm Weight:3,16 g	Diameter:17,1-17,9 mm Thickness:1,4-1,7 mm Weight:3,05 g	Diameter:15,2-15,5 mm Thickness:2,0-2,5 mm Weight:3,14 g	Diameter:15,0-16,5 mm Thickness:1,7-2,2 mm Weight:3,12 g
Diameter:17,9-18 mm Thickness:1,3-1,6 mm Weight:3,10 g	Diameter:17,4-17,8 mm Thickness:1,4-1,8 mm Weight:3,21 g	Diameter:14,4-14,6 mm Thickness:2,3-2,8 mm Weight:3,21 g	Diameter:16,9-17,3 mm Thickness:1,3-2,0 mm Weight:3,15 g
	Diameter:16,5-16,6 mm Thickness:1,4-1,9 mm Weight:3,18 g	Diameter:14,4-14,6 mm Thickness:2,3-2,8 mm Weight:3,13 g	Diameter:16,2-16,9 mm Thickness:1,4-2,3 mm Weight:3,10 g
	Diameter:15,6-15,9 mm Thickness:1,9-2,3 mm Weight:3,28 g	Diameter:13,7-13,9 mm Thickness:2,6-2,9 mm Weight:3,25 g	Diameter:16,2-16,6 mm Thickness:1,3-2,2 mm Weight:3,12 g

<sup>24</sup> Weights and measurements are made with weight and digital scaler. The jital **1c** is not included in the metric table but has the same metric **1a** and **1b**.

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