



## How to spot FAKE Cubans

Enjoy your vacations, your family get togethers, or your Saturday afternoons better after diving into this Cigar 101 course by Industrial Cigar Co. Education is power and knowing without a doubt that the Cuban cigar you're smoking are true and verified will elevate your entire experience.

**CIGARS 101**





# No Cuban Company offers Glass Top Boxes



# If it seems to good to be true, It probably is.

The most popular and faked cigars are COHIBA. The pricing to the right is current AUTHENTIC Cohiba pricing from a trusted source. **Cohiba Robusto is \$18.40 each.**

PRELIE

<u>COHIBA Behike 52 - 10 Cigars (Petit Robusto - T)</u>	Full Box \$500
<u>COHIBA Behike 54 - 10 Cigars (Robusto Extra - T)</u>	\$700.00
<u>COHIBA Behike 56 - 10 Cigars (Double Robusto - T)</u>	\$800.00
<u>COHIBA Coronas Especiales - 25 Cigars (Laguito No.2) - 89* Rated C.A.'s Sept'16</u>	\$440.00
<u>COHIBA Esplendidos - 25 Cigars (Churchill)</u>	\$750.00
<u>COHIBA Exquisitos - 25 Cigars (Seoane)</u>	\$345.00
<u>COHIBA Lanceros - 25 Cigars (Laguito No.1)</u>	\$675.00
<u>COHIBA Maduro 5 Genios - 25 Cigars (Genios)</u>	\$800.00
<u>COHIBA Maduro 5 Magicos - 25 Cigars (Magicos)</u>	\$650.00
<u>COHIBA Maduro 5 Secretos - 25 Cigars (Secretos)</u>	\$400.00
<u>COHIBA Panetelas - 25 Cigars (Panetela)</u>	\$280.00
<u>COHIBA Pirámides Extra - 10 Cigars (Pyramid Extra) - 90* Rated C.A.'s Sept'16</u>	\$495.00
<u>COHIBA Robustos - 25 Cigars (Robusto)</u>	\$460.00





# RULE 2



1931 - 1999



2000 - 2009



2009 to present

## THE LABEL

There are several areas on the outside of the box that will determine if Authentic Cubans are in the box. If there is a single checkpoint that doesn't add up, odds are they are fake. Fake Cubans can even be found at Duty Free.

Keys to look for:

**Color:** should be dark forest green, not light faded green.

**Hologram:** Should have the Habanos Logo in the hologram

**Serial Number:** Visit <http://verificacion.habanos.com/>

Enter the Serial Number – the results will reflect the brand and model of the cigar.





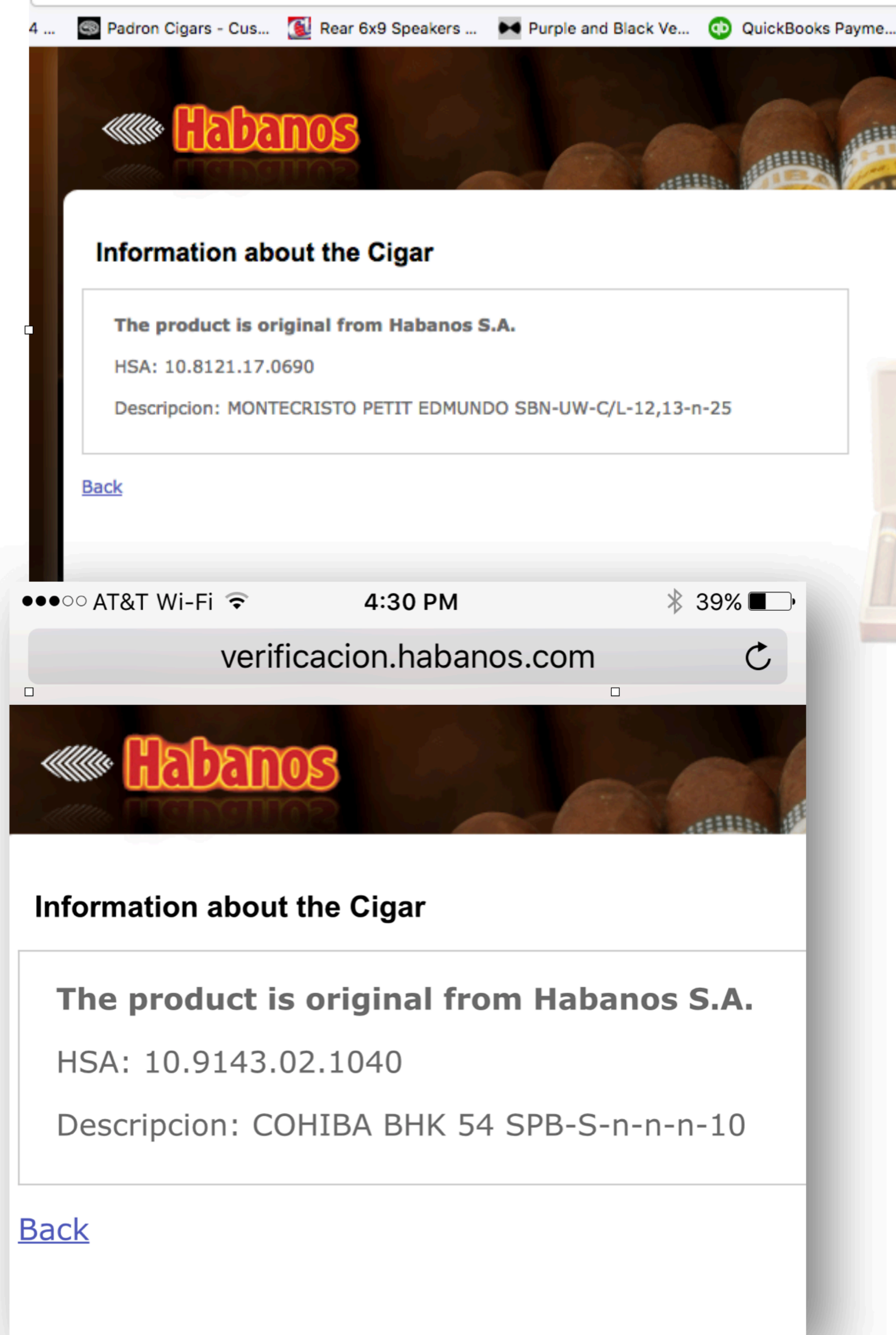


# Habanos Verification

Just because there is a serial number do not assume they are authentic.

The 2 results here were from a real and fake box of COHIBA Behike's.

Note the FAKE Cohiba's had a serial number from a MONTECRISTO.



03

R U L E





Proper placement in containers



in already sealed boxes



placement of the seal in a recently produced cigars

## The Label Placement

Seal will be 3mm to 6mm lower left with the Serial # visible on front.





# Label and Seal Positioning

In the end it's about perfection versus simply sticking labels on a box. Here you see how the Habanos label is centered versus off center. The Cuba Seal is straight versus at an angle.







# Printing will be perfect

Cuban companies pay attention to details like graphic placement, spacing, sizing and cutting.



## Photos explained

Note the alignment of the die cut graphic.

The embossing should be exactly centered with the printed graphic.





# Printing Placement

---



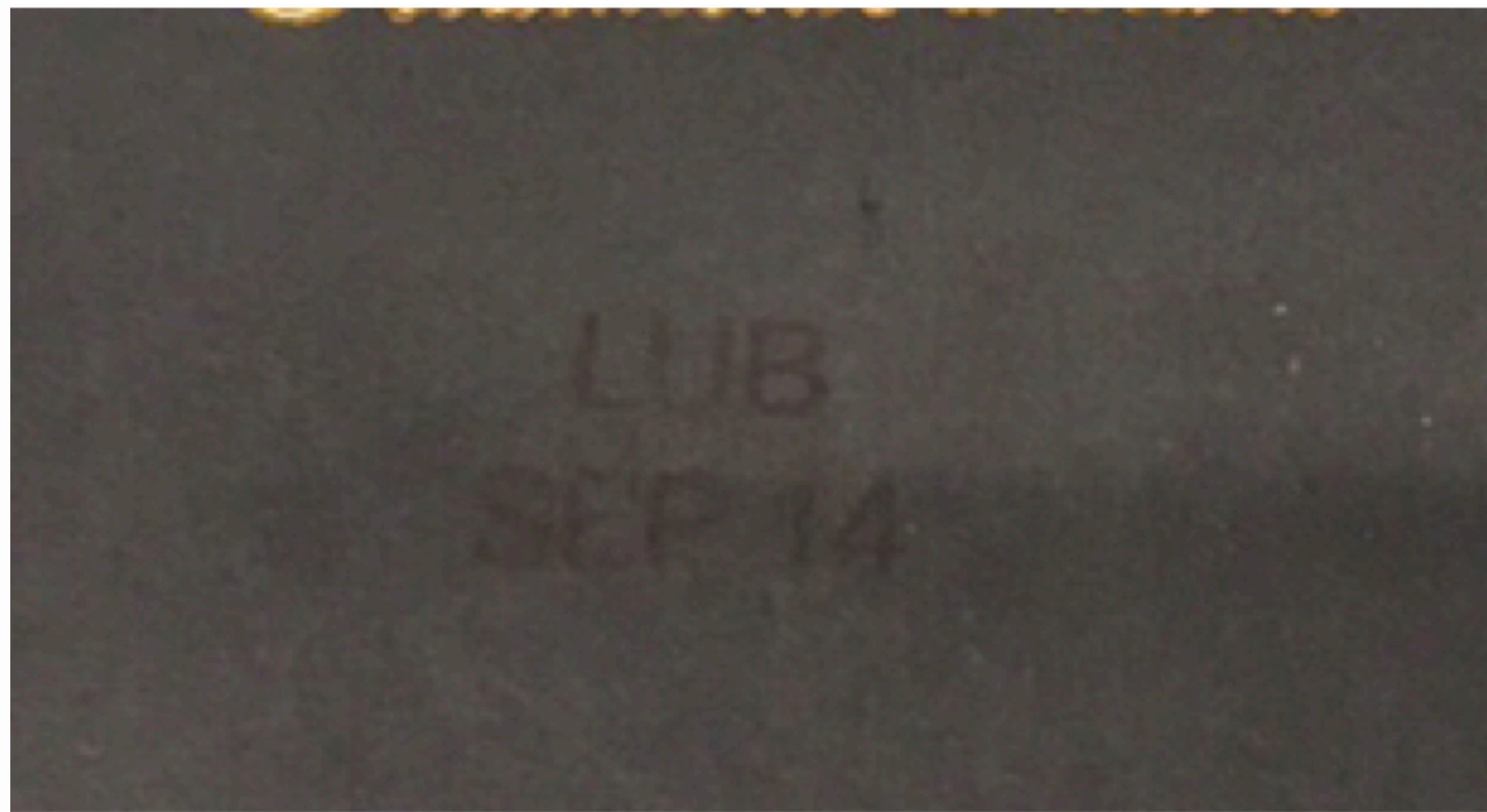




# Bottom of Box

Three major elements to inspect:

1. Habanos S.S. Logo will not be INK STAMPED it will be HOT STAMPED, so you will feel a definite de-bossed image.
2. Date Stamp: Will reflect MONTH and YEAR, as well as 3 letter factory code. If the outer box is black, they will put a white sticker on the box, than stamp it.
3. Some countries have Warning Labels - Mexico is the most evident.



08





# Inspect the Cigars

Depending on the brand, when you open the box you will be greeted with a HABANOS S.A. Rice paper.

There will than be a sheet of Cedar in most cases with the brand embossed. Cuban Cohiba's have a rounded notch out of the upper right hand corner.

Depending on the manufacturer, you may have a decorative flap of paper with the brand on it that appears first.

Some lay a full sheet of wax paper over the top row of cigars.

The printing on these elements should also be sharp and crisp.







# Inspect the Cigars

1. Triple Caps
2. Cuban Corojo wrapper does not have large veins.
3. The wrappers will fit good and be in perfect alignment.
4. Color of wrapper will be uniform and if off, it goes dark to light from left to right.
5. The foot will be sharp clean cut and the exact same length.
6. The feel of the cigar will be firm and consistent, will not have pockets where you won't feel tobacco.



Rule 9





## SMOKING THE CIGAR

Often times Cuban Cigars are rolled tight, so the draw is not great. On the other hand when you get a fake, they are often filled with scraps, and draw well, but burn very inconsistently.



Due to the high PH levels in the Cuban soil, the Cuban ash is very dark, whereas a Dominican ash is very white.





Categories ▾ Products ▾ What are you looking for...

Home > All Industries > Home & Garden > Household Sundries > Lighters & Smoking Accessories > Cig



Cohiba Cigar Humidor Box

FOB Reference Price: [Get Latest Price](#)

**US \$3.8-8.9 / Piece** | 2 10 Cohiba Robustos Supremo

Supply Ability: 10000 Piece  
Manufacture

Port: Shanghai/Ni

[Contact Supplier](#)

[Chat Now!](#)


Seller Support: [Trade Assi](#)

[View larger image](#)

# IS IT EASY TO FAKE CUBAN CIGARS?

https://www.alibaba.com/trade/search?fsb=y&IndexArea=product\_en&CatId=&SearchText


614 ... Padron Cigars - Cus... Rear 6x9 Speakers ... Purple and Black Ve... QuickBooks Payme... Party Suit | SUITS O...



**US \$12.00-\$20.00 / Piece**  
200 Pieces (Min. Order)

Shape: Box  
Material: Wooden  
Capacity: 10 cigars  
Sample Time: Within 15 days  
Place of Origin: Guangdong,China (Mainland)  
Brand Name: Customized

[Add to Compare](#) [Similar Products](#)




**cohiba behike spanish cedar wood cigar humidor with slide lid**

**US \$2.00-\$15.00 / Piece**  
200 Pieces (Min. Order)

Shape: Cabinet  
color: various  
Material: Wooden  
Place of Origin: Zhejiang,China (Mainland)  
Brand Name: ffbox  
Model Number: HL Cigar1042

[Add to Compare](#) [Similar Products](#)



**Quality High Gloss Finish Cedar Wood Cigar Packing Box Behike 56 Packing Box**

**US \$10.00-\$20.00 / Piece**  
200 Pieces (Min. Order)

Shape: Box  
Material: Wooden  
Capacity: 10 cigars  
Sample Time: Within 15 days  
Place of Origin: Guangdong,China (Mainland)  
Brand Name: Customized

[Add to Compare](#) [Similar Products](#)

Yes, it's easy.





# Before Investing Hundreds of \$\$\$

- Pay attention to the details.
- Fake Cubans are everywhere - including CUBA
- Do NOT Trust retailers in foreign countries. They will sell you Fakes, including Duty Free
- When in doubt - call us. Take pictures, text them to us and we will help you.
- Also - be cautious of “credible” sources, ie: cigar shop owners, claiming they have Cubans. A local retailer was caught selling Fakes, at \$300+ per box.





# CIGARS

## Before Investing Hundreds of \$\$\$

- Freeze the cigars for 48 hours.
- Humidify at 65% versus 70%
  - Cubans are rolled tighter - drying them out a bit will open them up for better draw.
- Inspect for “Beetle Holes”, if there is one single hole, do not put them in your humidor. Throw them away.





# ICC is always here for you:



## Online Retailers selling Fakes

### ALL FAKE CIGAR SHOPS LIST (Updated 4.04.2018)

- SoloCigars.com
- FinestCigars.com
- GoCubans.com with new name is RocketCigars.com
- RoyalHabanos.com
- SwissCubanCigars.com
- VipCubanCigars.com
- CubanCigarsBest.com
- CigarSmokes.com
- CubanCigarPlaza.com
- LeopardCigars.com
- BuyCubanCigarsOnline.com
- HabanoStore.com
- HabanosCr.com
- CubanCigarLounge.com
- Big-Smokers-Online.com
- TrueCubanCigars.com
- BestCubanCigars.com
- CubanCigarExpert.com
- LuxeCubanCigars.com
- YouCigar.com
- TrCigar.com
- NyCigarLounge.com
- OurCigar.net
- CubanCigarOnline.com
- cubanCigarAficionados.com
- CubanHabanos.net
- GetCigar.com
- [BestSellerCigars.com](http://BestSellerCigars.com)

## Updated 04.10.2018)

### FAKE CIGAR REVIEW BLOGS (Updated 12.15.2017)

- ZohoCigars.com (This blog is inactive right now. The new name is CigarAdvisorBlog.com)
- CigarAficionadoBlog.com

These kinds of blogs are seen as cigar review blogs however their aim is totally different. They direct you to their own sale websites and those websites sell fake cigars also we have pointed out these websites above article;

SwissCubanCigars.com  
VipCubanCigars.com  
CubanCigarPlaza.com  
CubanCigarBest.com  
CubanCigarExpert.com  
CigarSmokes.com  
RocketCigars.com  
FinestCigars.com