Xico, Inc. 9736 Eton Avenue Chatsworth, CA 91311-4305 USA

MODEL 5607 MAGNETIC STRIPE CARD READER/VERIFIER

Features

- Easy to use manual swipe reader
- Full 4-line by 40-character backlit display
- Accepts cards 7 to 35 mils thick
- Reads and displays ISO Track #1 or #2 or #3
- Recognizes ISO BCD, ISO ALPHA, AAMVA, CAL DMV #1, CAL DMV #3 and multi-image ISO data formats
- Indicates card data read errors with "*"
- Housed in a rugged metal enclosure to minimize damage from rough handling

Description

The Model 5607 Card Verifier reads and displays the data encoded on all three tracks of the magnetic stripe on credit cards, ATM cards, driver's licenses (both AAMVA and California DMV formats), plus any other card, badge or ticket which uses ISO F/2F encoding (e.g., ID-badges, ATB airline boarding passes, some transit tickets and proprietary cards etc.).

For simplicity in operation, the Model 5607 has only two controls: an ON-OFF switch on the back panel and a Track Select push button switch on the front panel. The Track Select switch cycles continuously through the magnetic stripe tracks in the order #1-#2-#3-#1 etc. The selected track is indicated on the bottom line of the 4-line display. The reader module is a top-entry, swipe-to-stop configuration which retains the card in the module after a swipe for positive correlation with the displayed data. Card retention is also convenient for multiple swipes on the same card since the Model 5607 reads swipes in either direction.

Recognized Data Formats

To decode the data encoded on a magnetic stripe, a reader must know the "data format" used to encode it. In essence, a data format puts framing characters (called Start Sentinel and End Sentinel) around the data, and provides checks (called parity bits) to catch read errors. The Model 5607 has the following four different data formats built in and automatically selected:

ISO ALPHA: This alphanumeric format is used on Track #1 of ISO standard financial cards, on Tracks #1 and #3 of AAMVA standard DL/ID cards, on Tracks #1, #2 and #3 of IATA standard ATB airline tickets, and on many other cards, badges and tickets where an alphanumeric character set is required. It contains all letters of the alphabet, the numerical digits and various punctuation marks and symbols. Multi-image ISO ALPHA is also accepted and displayed.

ISO BCD: This numeric format is used on Tracks #2 and #3 of all ISO standard financial cards, on Track #2 of AAMVA standard and California DMV DL/ID cards, and on many other cards, badges and tickets where a numeric character set only is required. It contains the ten digits 0 thru 9 plus various punctuation marks and symbols. Multi-image ISO BCD is also accepted and displayed.

CAL DMV #1: This alphanumeric format is used on Track #1 of the California DL/ID card. It uses the same character set as ISO ALPHA, but different framing and parity rules.

CAL DMV #3: This alphanumeric format is used on Track #3 of the California DL/ID card. It uses the same character set as ISO ALPHA, but different framing and parity rules from either ISO ALPHA or CAL DMV #1.

The appropriate data format is automatically selected by the Model 5607 for each card swipe irrespective of the track selected and independent of the data density used to encode the track.

Operation

To verify the data encoded on a card, connect the Model 5607 to a 120 VAC outlet, turn the unit ON with the Power Switch on the rear panel, and select the desired track number by pressing the Select Button on the front panel.

Insert the card in the reader entry ramp at the top right of the Model 5607 with the magnetic stripe down and facing to the front of the Model 5607 (as indicated by the icon). Swipe the card smoothly from right to left.

After passing the read head, the card will come to a stop within the reader module. It is good practice to leave it there while analyzing the displayed read data. If a repeat read of the same track is desired, simply swipe the card from left to right, where it will again come to a stop within the module.

To read a different track on the same card, press the Select Button for the desired track (the card may be left in the module at either end) and swipe the card again.

For each selected track, a card swipe will result in one of the following situations:

(1) If data encoded on the track satisfies all the requirements of one of the data formats without any errors, that data is displayed on lines 1 to 3 of the display (without the format “framing characters”), and the relevant data format is displayed on line 4 along with the track number and “VALID DATA.”

(2) If there is no fully valid read, but data encoded on the track satisfies some of the requirements of a data format (i.e., there are errors in the read). The data actually decoded is displayed followed by an asterisk (*) at the end. Individual data characters within the data string which have read errors are also replaced with an asterisk. The relevant data format is again displayed on line 4 with the track number and the error detected: “NO END SENTINAL,” “PARITY ERROR,” or “LRC ERROR.” If this situation occurs for two or more formats, the most probable format is selected and displayed.

(3) If there is data encoded on the track but none of the data formats is satisfied even in part, the display will read “UNKNOWN FORMAT,” and an F/2F encoded data bit-string will be displayed as Hex characters. If the encoding is other than F/2F (e.g.,MFM), the Hex display does not represent valid data.

(4) If the track is encoded with zeros only (so-called “clocking bits”) but no data, the display will read “NO DATA.”

(5) If the track has no encoding on it, the display will read “BLANK CARD.” Note that this is also the response obtained if the card is incorrectly inserted with the magnetic stripe facing toward the rear of the Model 5607 since, in this case, the stripe will not pass over the read head and it will see no encoding.

The swipe speed is not critical for properly encoded cards and need not be constant. Just remember that if you stop during a swipe, or lift the card up in the slot during a swipe, the read will be ruined and you must swipe again.
If a card is improperly encoded or is damaged, it may read when swiped in one direction but not the other, or at a slow speed but not a high speed. Hence, when read errors are displayed, try swiping in both directions and at various speeds.

Specifications

- Power Supply: +5 VDC (supplied)
- Environment: 5° to 45°C
- Dimensions: 9.0”W x 2.3”H x 6.5”L
- Weight: 4.5 lbs, including power module
- Material: Metal enclosure

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