

Magnetic Stripe Reader Quick Start Guide



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Introduction

This magnetic stripe reader can read 1, 2 or 3 tracks of magnetic strip information, available in keyboard, USB/KB, USB/HID and RS-232 interfaces. It is fully programmable with a configuration utility. The data can be formatted with preamble/postamble and terminator characters to match the format expected by the host.

Operation

1. Make sure the reader is properly connected and is receiving sufficient power, indicated by lighted LED and beep.
2. Read a card by sliding it in either direction through the reader slot with the magnetic stripe facing a magnetic head.
3. While swiping the card through the reader, the LED goes off.
4. Once the magnetic stripe has been read, the LED lights green indication a good read. If a good read is not obtained, the LED indicator lights red.
5. A beep will also sound to indicate a good read on each track. When all three tracks are read successfully, the reader beeps three times.

Configuration Utility

The decoded stripe data is in a fixed format defined by the ISO standards, but the ISO fixed format is not always convenient or useful for card reading applications. Therefore, this intelligent magnetic stripe reader provides extensive formatting capability with a Configuration Utility. This easy-to-use Configuration Utility has new file saving capability; configurations are to be saved and used again without having to repeat the full configuration process with each reader.

For the configuration software and more technical support, please contact your distributor.

Specifications

Operating Current:	40 mA maximum.
Operating Temperature:	0°C ~ 55°C (32°F ~ 131°F)
Storage Temperature:	-30°C ~ 70°C (-22°F ~ 158°F)
Relative Humidity:	Maximum 95% non-condensing.
Magnetic Head Life:	1,000,000 passes minimum.
Rail and Cover Lift:	1,000,000 passes minimum.
Magnetic Stripe Recording Method:	Two frequency coherent phase (F2F) compatible with ISO 7811, ANSI, AAMVA and California DMV.
Maximum Number of Tracks:	3 tracks.
Swipe Speed:	7.6 to 152.4cm (3 to 60 inches) per second, bidirectional
Card Thickness:	0.38 to 1.14mm (0.015 to 0.045 inches).
Slot Width:	1.27mm (0.050 inches).
Cable Length:	180cm (6 feet) straight cable.

Default Settings

The reader is shipped from the factory with the “default configuration” programmed. The default configuration has the least restrictive settings, thus making it able to read all data of a standard encoded magnetic stripe card. See the below information for default settings:

Magnetic Track Basic Data Format

Track 1: <SS1><T₁ Data><ES><ENTER>*

Track 2: <SS2><T₂ Data><ES><ENTER>*

Track 3: <SS3><T₃ Data><ES><ENTER>*

where: SS1(start sentinel track 1) = %

SS2(start sentinel track 2) = ;

SS3(start sentinel track 3) = ; for ISO, ! for CDL, % for

AAMVA

ES(end sentinel all tracks) = ?

Keyboard/USB Communication Default Settings

Terminal type: IBM PC/AT

Intercharacter delay: 2 ms

Language: US English

Start or End Sentinel: Characters in encoding format which come before the first data character (start) and after the last data character (end), indicating the beginning and end, respectively, of data.

Track Separator: A designated character which separates data tracks.

Terminator: A designated character which comes at the end of the last tract of data, to separate card reads.

LRC: Check character, following end sentinel.

CDL: Old California Drivers License format.

** Note: The <ENTER> characters (shown above) between track 1 & 2 and 2 & 3 denote the default character for this position, the Track Separator position. The <ENTER> characters shown for track 3 denotes the default character for this position, the Terminator position.*