



CodeFacts

AIDC (Automated Identification and Data Collection) Technical & Informational Documents
Written for Everyone

Some Bar Code Facts

Amaze your family and friends! Astound your peers with your intimate knowledge of bar code technology! Be the life of the next neighbourhood cocktail party!

Did you know...

...the typical keyboardist (formerly referred to as a typist) statistically will make one mistake in 300 keystrokes? By comparison, the chance of a misread bar code symbol is somewhere between one in a million and one in four trillion!

...the most well-known bar code is the U.P.C. (Universal Product Code) now found on most retail products sold in North America? Contrary to popular belief, the U.P.C. doesn't contain the price of the product, just a unique product code.

...a "light pen" and a "bar code wand" are two completely different things?! The term light pen is properly used when describing a device that allows the operator to draw or select things directly off the computer screen. A light pen is not something that scans bar codes.

...the first commercial bar code scanning operation took place in 1974 in Troy, Ohio at Marsh's Supermarket when a tenpack of Wrigley's Doublemint Gum was passed across a scanner?

..."barcode" is improper spelling? Rather, it should be spelled as two words; bar code.

...bar code symbols are scanned in only one dimension? That is, only the widths of the bars and spaces matter. Height is given to the symbol to give it redundancy and make it easier to scan.

...there are over a hundred different bar code symbologies (languages) invented? However, only a half-dozen are used regularly. (They are Code 39, Codabar, U.P.C., Interleaved 2 of 5 and Code 128.)

...laser and imager scanners work at a speed of about 40 to 200 scans-per-second?

...bar code symbols were found painted on the interior walls of the Great Pyramid in Egypt? Also discovered were prototypical drawings of bar code laser scanners and blueprints of efficient scanning lanes for future Egyptian grocery stores.

...the previous paragraph is completely untrue?