

United States Patent [19]

Weinberger

[11] Patent Number: 4,958,065

[45] Date of Patent: Sep. 18, 1990

[54] METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CODING HEAT SENSITIVE MEDIA

[75] Inventor: Zvi Weinberger, Jerusalem, Israel

[73] Assignee: Prepaid Card Services, Inc., Pearl River, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: 227,468

[22] Filed: Aug. 1, 1988

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 773,801, Sep. 9, 1985, abandoned.

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

Sep. 14, 1984 [IL] Israel 72951

[51] Int. Cl.⁵ G06K 7/10

[52] U.S. Cl. 235/455; 235/487; 235/488; 346/76 R; 350/353; 430/336

[58] Field of Search 235/488, 455, 469, 487

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,584,934 6/1971 French 350/353

3,836,754	9/1974	Toye et al.	235/469 X
4,246,302	1/1981	Benton et al.	350/351 X
4,273,362	6/1981	Carrier et al.	283/102 X
4,332,872	6/1982	Zingher	350/353 X
4,505,498	3/1985	Weinberger	235/488 X

Primary Examiner—David L. Trafton

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Kenyon & Kenyon

[57] ABSTRACT

A method of coding an optically-readable medium comprises: applying to the medium at least one coating of a heat-sensitive material to produce a specified combination of at least two optical changes as a function of time when heated to a predetermined temperature above ambient; heating the medium to the predetermined temperature; and sensing the optical changes undergone by the medium to determine whether the sensed changes match the specified combination. The method and apparatus are described particularly to an optically-readable medium wherein the heat-sensitive coating is in a plurality of windows formed in the medium, each window signifying a value element.

24 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

