

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A magnetic card (10) has a base card (11), a magnetic stripe (12) formed on the base card (11), and a plurality of optical fibers (15) extended within the base card (11) substantially perpendicularly to the magnetic stripe (12). The magnetic stripe (12) consists of an arrangement of a plurality of unit magnetic segments (12a) each having a recording capacity of a predetermined number of bits, for example, eleven bits. The optical fibers (15) are assigned
10 to the unit magnetic segments (12a), respectively. A read/write head (23) reads magnetic information from the magnetic stripe (12), an optical read device including a light-emitting device (20) and a light-receiving device (22) read optical information from the optical fibers (15),
15 and a controller (25) examines the magnetic information with reference to the optical information to authenticate the magnetic information.

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