WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the reduction of receive data of a radar having the following steps:

   - Receiving a radar echo signal (S10) emanating from a chirp-like transmit signal;

   - Specifying a temporal receive window of a radar echo signal as a function of an area to be detected by a radar (S12);

   - Dividing the received radar echo signal into a plurality of spectral sub-bands (S14);

   - Determining sub-band windows for each spectral sub-band (S16);

   - Activating the sub-band window within the temporal receive window of the radar echo signal as a function of receive time of the radar echo signal (S18); and

   - Sampling the radar echo signal using a sampling rate which is adjusted as a function of the number of sub-band windows active at the respective sampling instance (S20).

2. The method according to Claim 1,

   characterized in that

   switch-on and switch-off instants for activating the respective sub-band windows are selected in such a manner that each sub-band window masks a temporal receive area in which the radar echo signal in the respective sub-band window includes information about the area to be detected by the radar.

3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2,

characterized in that

the spectral sub-bands are selected in such a manner that they have spectral ranges approximately equal in size.

4. The method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3,

characterized in that

a baseline sampling rate F_S/M is specified as a function of the spectrum bandwidth F_S of the radar echo signal and the number M of the spectral sub-bands and the sampling rate is adjusted as a function of the baseline sampling rate.

5. The method according to one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

the division of the received radar echo signals into a plurality of spectral sub-bands may be carried out in such a manner that each spectral sub-band directly borders at least one adjacent spectral sub-band.

6. The method according to one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that

the sampling values of the radar echo signal are, in conjunction with the switch-on and switch-off instants for activating the sub-band windows, output as reduced receive data (S22).

7. The method according to Claim 6,

characterized in that

the reduced receive data are further reduced by a block adaptive quantization.

8. A method for processing receive data of a radar, reduced by a method according to one of the preceding claims, in which the signal represented by the receive data is digitally filtered by a filter bank which is configured to divide the signal into spectral sub-bands and to reduce the sampling rate according to the number of spectral sub-bands.

9. The method according to Claim 8,

   characterized in that

   a modified DFT filter bank is used as a filter bank.

10. A computer program having a program code to carry out all method steps of a method according to one of the preceding claims, if the computer program is executed by a computer.

11. A data carrier on which the program code of the computer program according to Claim 10, which is executable by a computer, is stored.

12. A device for the reduction of receive data of a radar comprising

    - a receiver for a radar echo signal emanating from a chirp-like transmit signal, wherein the receiver is configured in such a manner that a temporal receive window of a radar echo signal is specified as a function of the area to be detected by a radar; and

    - a data reduction means (50, 52) for dividing the radar echo signal into a plurality of spectral sub-bands, for determining sub-band windows for each spectral sub-band, for activating the sub-band window within the temporal receive window of the radar echo signal and for sampling the radar echo signal by a sampling rate which is adjusted as a function of the number of the sub-band windows active at the respective sampling instance.

13. The device according to Claim 12,

characterized in that

the data reduction means are configured to carry out a method according to one of Claims 2 through 7.

14. A device for processing receive data of a radar which have been reduced by a device according to Claim 12 or 13, having a filter bank for digitally filtering the signal represented by the receive data, wherein the filter bank is configured to divide the signal into spectral sub-bands and to reduce the sampling rate according to the number of spectral sub-bands.

15. The device according to Claim 14,

characterized in that

the filter bank is a modified DFT filter bank.