

Claims:

1. A method for controlling the reading from and writing to a multi-memory card comprising:

positioning a first memory of the multi-memory card within a first read/write component to facilitate reading from the first read/write component;

reading information from the first memory;

providing selectable functions in the form of a menu to a user;

receiving a first selected function, the first selected function having an associated second read/write component;

transporting the multi-memory card to the second read/write component according to the first selected function;

positioning a second memory of the multi-memory card within the second read/write component to facilitate reading from and writing to a second read/write component; and

performing the first selected function.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first selected function comprises reading from the second memory.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first selected function comprises writing to the second memory.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

displaying the results of the first selected function to the user;

providing selectable functions to the user;

receiving a second selected function, the second selected function having an associated third read/write component;

transporting the multi-memory card to the third read/write component according to the second selected function;

positioning a third memory of the multi-memory card within the third read/write component to facilitate reading from or writing thereto according to the second selected function; and

reading from or writing to the third memory according to the second selected function.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first read/write component is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic read/write component, an electronic read/write component, and an optical read/write component.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second read/write component is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic read/write component, an electronic read/write component, and an optical read/write component.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first memory is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic memory, an electronic memory, and an optical memory.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second memory is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic memory, an electronic memory, and an optical memory.

9. The method according to claim 4, wherein the third read/write component is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic read/write component, an electronic read/write component, and an optical read/write component.

10. The method according to claim 4, wherein the third memory is selected from the group consisting of a magnetic memory, an electronic memory, and an optical memory.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first selected function is selected from the group consisting of:

resetting at least one of the first and second memories;

reviewing account balances in at least one of the first and second memories;

reconciling accounts based on information in at least one of the first and second memories;

updating account information in at least one the first and second memories;

transferring money to or between at least one of the first and second memories;

and

dispensing the multi-memory card.

12. The method according to claim 4, wherein the second selected function is selected from the group consisting of:

resetting at least one of the first and second memories;

reviewing account balances in at least one of the first and second memories;

reconciling accounts based on information in at least one of the first and second memories;

updating account information in at least one the first and second memories;

transferring money to or between at least one of the first and second memories;

and

dispensing the multi-memory card.

13. A system for controlling the reading from and writing to a multi-memory card comprising:

a read/write device;

a transport device connected to the read/write device for transporting the multi-memory card within the read/write device; and

a control device operatively coupled to the transport device and the read/write device for controlling the transport device and the read/write device;

wherein the read/write device comprises at least 2 from read/write components selected from the group consisting of, a magnetic read/write component, an optical read/write component, and an electronic read/write component for reading from or writing to a magnetic memory, an optical memory and an electronic memory of the multi-memory card; and

wherein the transport device comprises at least two transport mechanisms selected from the group consisting of a magnetic transport mechanism, an optical transport mechanism, and an electronic transport mechanism for transporting the multi-memory card through the magnetic read/write component, optical read/write component and the electronic read/write component.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein the control device comprises at least two transport controllers selected from the group consisting of a magnetic transport controller, an optical transport controller, and an electronic transport controller for controlling the magnetic transport mechanism, the optical transport mechanism, and the electronic transport mechanism.

15. A system according to claim 14, wherein the control device further comprises a central processing unit for supplying commands to the magnetic transport controller, the magnetic read/write component, the optical transport controller, the

optical read/write component, the electronic transport controller, and the electronic read/write component.

16. A system according to claim 14, further comprising a motor, wherein the electronic transport controller controls the motor for driving the electronic transport mechanism.

17. A system according to claim 14, further comprising a solenoid, wherein the electronic transport controller controls the solenoid for driving an electronic contact head located within the electronic read/write component.

18. A system according to claim 14, further comprising at least one optical position sensor, wherein the electronic transport controller controls the at least one optical position sensor for sensing the position of the multi-memory card within the electronic read/write component.

19. A system according to claim 14, further comprising a motor, wherein the optical transport controller controls the motor for driving the optical transport mechanism.

20. A system according to claim 15, further comprising a motor, wherein the magnetic transport controller controls a motor for driving the magnetic transport mechanism.

21. A system for controlling the reading from and writing to a multi-memory card comprising:

means for positioning a first memory of the multi-memory card within a first read/write component to facilitate reading from the first read/write component;

means for reading information from the first memory;

means for providing selectable functions in the form of a menu to a user;

means for receiving a first selected function, the first selected function having an associated second read/write component;

means for transporting the multi-memory card to the second read/write component according to the first selected function;

means for positioning a second memory of the multi-memory card within the second read/write component to facilitate reading from and writing to a second read/write component; and

means for performing the first selected function.