Abstract

An interface device for chip cards in standardized credit card format has a flat housing in likewise standardized PCMCIA format and is intended for insertion into a corresponding accommodation slot (30). The housing has a plug-in socket (12) at its front end and, extending from its rear end, an accommodation channel (32) for a chip card (18). The breadth of the housing in its edge region (A) adjoining the plug-in socket (12) is the same as that of the standardized chip card format. In order to avoid that any parts project outwardly from the accommodation slot (30) and yet to ensure a lateral guidance of the chip card (18), the housing, in its condition fully inserted in the accommodation slot (30), does not or not essentially protrude therefrom. The accommodation channel (32) terminates before the edge region (A) of the housing adjoining the plug-in socket (12). Furthermore, the housing is closed on the sides at least at its rear end (B) and has a breadth there which only slightly exceeds that of the chip card format. The width of the accommodation channel (32) at the rear end (B) of the housing is about the same as the breadth of the chip card format.

Figure 1