

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An IC card reader that can output data in an audio form. The IC card reader includes a small portable case in which an IC card can be inserted. A microcontroller powered by a battery within the case reads the stored data from the IC card and
5 encodes the read data into a series of voice commands. A voice synthesizer circuit produce a synthetic speech signal from the encoded data. An amplifier within the case is connected to the voice synthesizer circuit for amplifying the synthetic speech signal. A speaker also internal to the case is responsive to the synthetic signal for outputting an audio signal corresponding to the stored data through small holes in the front face the
10 case. A membrane switch within the case can be closed using a push button on the front face of the case to electrically connect the microcontroller to the card. Thus, in use of the IC card reader, when the button is depressed to close the switch, the microcontroller is caused to interrogate the card so that the data stored on the card is read into the microcontroller. The microcomputer produces a synthetic speech signal
15 that is amplified by the amplifier and output by the speaker as synthetic speech which can be heard by the user by holding the card reader with the speaker against the user's ear.

