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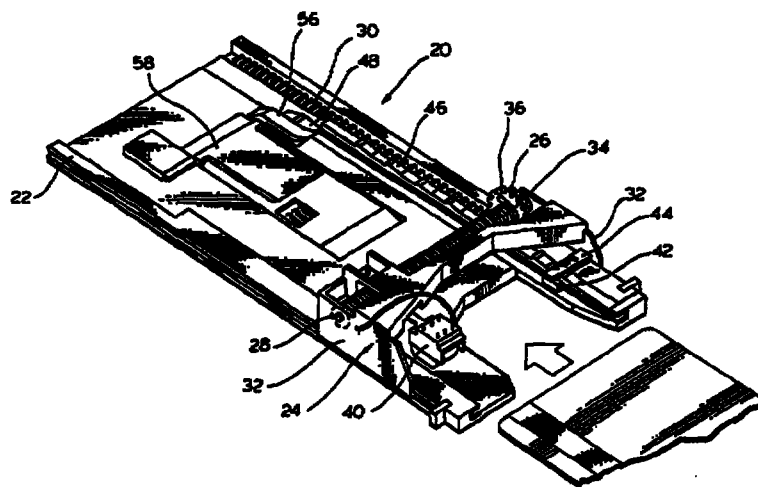
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(54) Title: CARD READER ✓



(57) Abstract

The present invention is directed to an interface for reading data stored on a recording stripe on a card. The interface comprises a base having slidably mounted thereon a carriage assembly, the base being provided with drive arrangement connected to an energy storage structure. Movement of the carriage from a first to a second position stores energy in said energy storage arrangement. At the second position arrangement, the carriage is released and is driven by the drive arrangement powered by said energy storage arrangement and the carrier returns to the first position. The carriage assembly has a magnetic read head mounted thereon and further has a card engaging means for engaging the edge of a card inserted into the device. The insertion of a card in the device slidably moves the carriage assembly from the first position to the second position. An actuating means releases the carriage assembly at the second position allowing the carriage assembly to sweep the card and read information on the stripe of the card. The interface can also accommodate reading and writing to Smart cards.