

# SCHEDDELEAKS

Tutto ciò che avreste voluto sapere sulle schede telefoniche

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5th - The world of Codes

9th - Urmet white and red

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Everything you ever wanted to know about calling cards

## The world of Codes

### 9-Urmet white and red

A separate paragraph is intended for the first horizontal technology telephone cards that appeared on the market between 1986 and 1988: the so-called Urmet Bianche and Urmet Rosse.

Before describing in detail the logic of the internal codes of these boards, it is necessary to briefly explain their production process. The production of these cards, after preliminary studies that involved various companies, including Technicard System SpA, was assigned to the Mantegazza Arti Grafiche company in Bollate. Mantegazza produced both the supports for the white series and the supports for the red series, both in pressed cardboard.

The cards arrived in Urmet totally anonymous, without any numerical indication and, obviously, demagnetized.

In addition to impressing the magnetism, Urmet also printed the OCR. This concept is fundamental, as will be seen shortly, for verifying the authenticity of these cards, too often artificially produced in subsequent years.

Let's start with the Urmet Bianche study. As is known, 8 different cards of this series are known, 5 with the writings in Italian, English and French and 3 with the addition of the writings in German. Here are the 8 emissions in detail:

Face value	Languages
3.000 Lire	3 languages
5,000 Lire	3 languages
6,000 Lire	3 languages
10,000 Lire	3 languages
20,000 Lire	3 languages
3.000 Lire	4 languages
6,000 Lire	4 languages
10,000 Lire	4 languages

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Thanks to the analyzes carried out, we were able to determine a simple method for identifying the original cards using OCR. Let's see the results.

3000 Lire - 3 languages

The table shows some examples of the codes and related OCR of this rare card.

OCR	CL	EM	ID	PR	SC
100519	01	01	001	00519	15
100551	01	01	001	00551	15
100589	01	01	001	00589	15

It is immediately clear that the white Urmets 3000 Lire with 3 languages have OCR composed of two parts:

1. The first 3 numbers are always 100;
2. The last 3 numbers instead correspond to the 3 digits of the progressive.

5000 Lire - 3 languages

This is a very rare card. The few specimens we have had the pleasure of analyzing have always been magnetized, but it has never been possible to verify their internal codes as they have a slightly different magnetism from that of normal cards that can be used in the cabin. We therefore believe that this is a prototype. This hypothesis is also supported by the fact that it is the first card with a 5,000 lire denomination, never used up to now by SIP-Urmets. Finally, the OCRs analyzed also appear different from the logic used for the other white Urmets: the 5,000 lire Urmets analyzed all have OCRs of the 0000XX type.

6000 Lire - 3 languages

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Also for this sheet there is a table in which we report some examples of the codes and related OCR.

OCR	CL	EM	ID	PR	SC
102925	01	01	02	00925	30
102948	01	01	02	00948	30
102952	01	01	02	00952	30

It is immediately evident that also for the white Urmet of 6000 Lire in 3 languages the OCR is composed of two parts:

1. The first 3 numbers are always 102;
2. The last 3 numbers instead correspond to the 3 digits of the progressive.

10000 Lire - 3 languages

Even more interesting is the analysis relating to the white Urmet with three languages of 10,000 lire.

These cards can have two different types of magnetism.

1. The vast majority of cards on the market, inserted in the internal SIP code reader, return "error 02". Thanks to information in our possession, we know that this type of error means "cards destined for NATO bases". The analysis carried out on the magnetism of cards of this type allowed us to actually find a substantial difference on the type of coding. Having no further information on this, we can only hypothesize their actual use. So let's try to explain their existence. In our opinion it is possible that these are:

a. prototypes, as never found even only partially used;

b. cards intended for NATO bases located on Italian territory, but never distributed.

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These cards are easily recognizable as they have OCR starting with 0 (or 00).

2. Much rarer are cards with correct magnetism. Once again we refer to the codes and OCRs of some of the cards we have analyzed, shown in the table.

3.

OCR	CL	EM	ID	PR	SC
104600	01	01	003	00600	50
104692	01	01	003	00692	50

Also in this case the OCR is composed of two distinct parts:

- to. The first 3 numbers are always 104;
- b. The last 3 numbers instead correspond to the 3 digits of the progressive.

20000 Lire - 3 languages

Finally, let's move on to the white Urmet from 20,000 lire in 3 languages. So far we have only encountered "error 02" cards on this card. We believe it is unlikely that there are cards with standard telephone magnetism for this card, as there would be no dedicated identifier. In fact the IDs 001, 002, 003 are used respectively by the 3,000 Lire, 6,000 Lire and 10,000 Lire white series cards. The following IDs 004, 005 are instead used by the red series, as we will see later.

The table shows a summary of what has been described so far.

Cut	OCR		Code			
3000	100	XXX	01	01	001	00XXX
5000	000	0AA	UNREADABLE -			
6000	102	YYY	01	01	002	00YYY
10000	104	ZZZ	01	01	003	00ZZZ
	0AA	AAA	ERROR 02 - NATO BASES			
20,000	0AA	AAA	ERROR 02 - NATO BASES			

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We now pass to the description of the results of the analysis of the red series cards. First of all it is useful to divide the cards of this series into 5 different periods of issue, in chronological order:

1. Cards with 7-digit OCR;
2. Cards with 6-digit OCR;
3. Cards with 8 alphanumeric characters OCR (including variants with letters only);
4. Cards with 8 alphanumeric characters plus \* OCR (including variants with letters only);
5. Cards with white rectangle.

As for the white series, also the red Urmet 7 and 6 digits (the first in chronological order) have the OCR which recalls the internal code of the card.

In fact, all 7-digit red Urmet's have OCR composed of two distinct parts:

1. The first two digits indicate the cut of the card:
  - a. 02 for the 5,000 Lire cards;
  - b. 04 for the 10,000 Lire cards;
2. The remaining 5 digits indicate the progressive number of the card.

A further interesting analysis concerns the difference between cards with 0 "normal" and 0 "crossed out". The study of the codes allows us to state that the first to appear on the market were the cards with "normal" 0, with runs between 10,000 and 15,000 copies for each cut, followed by the cards with 0 "crossed out", with runs of approximately 25 / 30,000 copies.

Here are some examples of the internal codes detected by us.

OCR	Type	Zero Emission Class	Progressive identifier
0216391	Barred	01	00416391

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0400434	Normal	01	01	005	00434
0407945	Normal	01	01	005	07945
0413033	Barred 01		01	005	13033
0420771	Barred 01		01	005	20771

The following table provides a summary of what has been written so far.

Cut		OCR		Code			
5000	0 normal	02	ABCDE	01	01	004	ABCDE
5000	0 crossed out	02	ABCDE	01	01	004	ABCDE
10000	0 normal	04	ABCDE	01	01	005	ABCDE
10000	0 crossed out	04	ABCDE	01	01	005	ABCDE

The 6-digit red Urmet also have OCR composed of two distinct parts:

- The first digit corresponds to the cut of the card:
  - 2 and 3 for the 5,000 Lire cards;
  - 4 and 5 for the 10,000 Lire cards;
- The remaining 5 digits indicate in some way the progressive number of the card (exactly, or through a linear combination thereof).
- 

The logic of the combination of OCR and internal code is similar to that explained in detail used for 7-digit cards, with some small complications. Thanks to our analyzes we were able below.

to understand that the red 6-digit Urmet can be guessed from the identification code. We see figures were issued in two moments some time apart. This follows the detail of the 5,000 Lire in the table that cards.

Emission	Class Progressive Identifier	Shots	OCR	01	
	01	004	53972	0	253972

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01	01	004	63462	0	263462
01	01	008	17482	0	348482
01	01	008	39405	0	370405

As mentioned, the 6-digit 5,000 Lire red Urmet were issued in at least two distinct moments. A first part has identification 004, a second part has identification 008.

In addition to the difference of the "Identifier" code, there is also a difference on the combination between progressive and OCR.

Below are the two reports based on the different "identification" code.

Ocr cut emission		Relation identifier	
1	5,000	6 digits (initial 2) 004	OCR = progressive + 200,000
2	5,000	6 digits (initial?) ???	OCR = progressive + 265.500
3	5,000	6 digits (initial 3) 008	OCR = progressive + 331,000

We believe it probable that there is a further Identifier between the two found so far. We do not have certain data, but the analysis of the red 6-digit 10,000 Lire Urmet's suggests this hypothesis.

In other words, if you are holding a red 6-digit 5,000 Lire Urmet and the code is 01/01/004, then you will need to read an OCR that adds 200,000 to the progressive. If, on the other hand, the 6-digit red Urmet gives

5,000 Lire that you own has identification 008, then to verify its authenticity you will have to add 331,000 to the progressive and verify that this value is exactly the same as the OCR.

Let's now see some examples of the 6-digit red Urmet with a face value of 10,000 Lire.

Class	Issue	Progressive Identifier	Shots		OCR
01	01	007	10130	0	475630
01	01	007	23058	0	488558
01	01	008	12265	0	543265

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01	01	009	65167	50	596167
01	01	009	65198	50	596198

Even the red 6-digit 10,000 Lire Urmet were issued in at least 2 distinct moments.

The table shows the reports useful for verifying the validity of the internal codes of the cards in your possession.

Ocr cut emission			Relation identifier	
1	10,000	6 digits (initial?)	???	OCR = progressive + 400,000
2	10,000	6 digits (initial 4) 6 digits	007	OCR = progressive + 465.500 OCR =
3	10,000	(initial 5)	008 - 009	progressive + 531.000

Also in this case, we believe it probable that there is a first issue whose behavior is comparable to 5,000 cards (identification code 005?).

Summarizing what has been described so far regarding the red series cards, one cannot fail to notice the logical consequentiality of the same which present relationships between progressive and OCR in "jumps" of 65,500. It is very curious to observe that this value is very close to the maximum usable value for the progressive equal to 65535.

What is written therefore strengthens the hypothesis of the existence of "missing identifiers" in the two previous tables.

We summarize in the following tables what has been described so far for the 7 and 6-digit red series cards.

5,000 Lire	
OCR report e code	Identif.
OCR = progressive + 400,000	004
OCR = progressive + 465.500 OCR =	???
progressive + 531.000	008

10,000 Lire	
OCR report e code	Identif.
OCR = progressive + 200,000	005
OCR = progressive + 265.500	007
OCR = progressive + 331,000	008 - 009

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We remind you that the purpose of this publication is the disclosure of the concepts underlying the analysis of the internal codes of the telephone cards and therefore it is not our goal to draw up a list of internal codes relating to the individual cards. Precisely in virtue of this objective, we now dedicate a few lines to the explanation of the codes of the remaining types of red Urmet.

Given the growing demand for telephone cards, Urmet decided in 1987 to transform the OCR from numeric to alphanumeric, in order to make a greater number of combinations available. At a later time an "asterisk" was also added, which allowed to increase once again the possible combinations.

As for the 7 or 6-digit cards, we believe that also for the red Urmet with alphanumeric characters (with and without asterisk) there is a correlation between OCR and progressive. At the moment, however, we are unable to provide more details on this.

For a reason unknown to us, in 1988 Urmet stopped printing the OCR on the red series cards, leaving only a white rectangle devoid of any ink writing.

In this case, obviously, it is not possible to establish a univocal relationship between the support (the cardboard card) and the internal code, but a sequence of internal codes can be identified for each different card, as it will then happen for all the following cards. issued by SIP / Telecom.

These cards are among the most used to reproduce 7 or 6-digit OCR. This chapter therefore has the main purpose of protecting our purchases!

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