

# SCHEDDELEAKS

Tutto ciò che avreste voluto sapere sulle schede telefoniche

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## 2 - Magnetism

### 1 - Control tools

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## **2.1.1 - INTRODUCTION**

Excluding rare exceptions, all Italian telephone cards issued on behalf of SIP and Telecom use a magnetic stripe technology on which a magnetism is imprinted, thanks to which they can be used for the purpose for which they were produced: telephone!

This concept is the starting point for the classification of the types of magnetism present on telephone cards, of which we will write extensively in chapter 2.2, widely used in the world of collecting. Demagnetized or reloaded cards should not be thrown away, of course, but their value is lower than correctly magnetized cards: it is therefore essential for every collector to know the subject in order to avoid nasty surprises.

In the previous chapters we have described the structure of a magnetism, but ... how can you identify a magnetic charge on a card? Through what tools? In the next paragraphs we will try to answer these questions and deepen the effectiveness, pros and cons of these tools.

## **2.1.2 - IRON POWDER**

The first method we will talk about, already known on the collecting market since the mid-90s, is iron powder.

The iron powder, also called "filing", exploits the ferromagnetic properties of the iron itself, which allow the small particles to arrange themselves along the field lines of the magnetic field impressed on the board.

Easy to find, the iron powder must be as fine as possible and during its use care must be taken in order to

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do not scratch the cards. It should be removed without rubbing it on the card, dropping it and gently wiping the residue with a clean cloth.

This method of control is very economical, but if not properly stored it risks dispersing and transport can be complicated. The great technological limit of this solution lies in the impossibility of having a clear reading of the magnetism of the card, but its low cost and its easy availability still make it a very popular tool for those who are content to identify only the demagnetized cards.

It can be used for both SIDA technology cards and Urmet technology cards.

## 2.1.3 - MAGNETIC LENTINO

Coming from the United States, it is an instrument that exploits the presence of a magnetic liquid in which a very thin powder of

iron to be able of  
arrange, as well as dust  
of iron,  
second the traced  
magnetic imprinted  
on the board.



Figure 1 - Arnold magnetic loupe detail

Its diffusion in the collecting field dates back to the late 90s, thanks to the appearance on the market of numerous demagnetized cards passed off as good, but whose value, as written above, is much lower.

It is a simple tool to use, pocket sized and always at hand. The magnetism, thanks to the magnetic liquid, is displayed in detail and it is possible to see if a board is

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demagnetized, if a balloon is present and sometimes it is possible to recognize a clearly non-original magnetism (i.e. that does not have the classic shapes shown above, or that has different cuts than it should have).

In addition to easy handling and practicality, the great advantage of the Arnold loupe lies in the fact that it is the only tool, together with the iron powder, capable of showing the magnetism of SIDA technology cards. Of course it is also effective for Urmet technology cards.

Among the disadvantages are the high cost, which is affected by customs costs, and the need for simple maintenance: the loupe, in fact, requires a humid environment inside its package, in order not to allow the magnetic liquid to dry out. .

Although the identification of a card with non-compliant magnetism is more precise, the Arnold loupe does not allow you to have absolute security regarding the originality of the card: it does not allow you to read the so-called "internal codes", the only true index of originality .

## **2.1.4 - ELECTRONIC CONTROL**

The tools described above allow  
of locate there  
presence of magnetic traces. Even an expert  
eye, however, may not always be able to  
understand whether these traces have been  
printed on behalf of SIP / Telecom in order to  
obtain telephone traffic, or by third parties who,  
having come into possession of



Figure 2 - SIP card reader

originally demagnetized, fraudulently have  
manipulated surplus stocks of printed cards.

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The only effective method to be able to identify with certainty a card on which there is a magnetism not suitable for telephoning is the electronic control. To date, there are two different tools for reading the so-called internal SIP / Telecom codes:

1. the SIP card reader (Figure 2) composed

from two set off distinct, electronically connected: a reading system with two slots for the input and output of the card and a calculator, capable of decoding and transforming the magnetic inputs received by the actual reader into numbers.

2. a reader experimental, called "L'Ettorino" (Figure 3), which combines the above in a single component and allows to obtain the same results as the SIP card reader.



Figure 3 - Experimental card reader

As mentioned, the two tools allow for identical results. Both can be used to read only Italian (and foreign) telephone cards with Urmet magnetic stripe technology and, if used by expert and competent people, they represent the only method to guarantee the originality of the card.

The cost is obviously higher and for their correct use it is essential to have a thorough knowledge of the subject "internal codes", which we will deal with in detail in the next chapters.

The experimental reader "L'Ettorino" also has the important advantage of being portable and can work indifferently with a 9V battery (to be used while traveling) or a household power supply.

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**Adottatelo  
nella vostra  
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Oggi con L'Ettorino  
la collezione è al sicuro.



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