

SCHEDDELEAKS

Tutto ciò che avreste voluto sapere sulle schede telefoniche

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SchedeTelefoniche.org



5th - The world of Codes

3 ° - Structure of the Codes

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Everything you ever wanted to know about calling cards

The world of Codes

3-Structure of the Codes

As we have seen previously, on the magnetic strip a sequence of "magnetic signs" is physically visible, which, translated thanks to a computer software, return the so-called internal codes.

The internal code, as it is widespread among collectors, is composed of 6 different numbers:

1. CLASS
2. ISSUE
3. SERIES or IDENTIFIER
4. PROGRESSIVE
5. BIT VALUE WEIGHT
6. VALUE (expressed in EQUIVALENT TOKENS)

The first four represent the "identity card" of the card and uniquely identify it in a time interval of about two years. The last two codes ("value bit weight" and "value") indicate the residual value present on the card, expressed in quantity of 200 Lire shots available for making calls.

The use of the "equivalent token" unit of measurement may seem strange, but it has a historical origin. In fact, as is well known, telephone cards were created to replace the old and uncomfortable telephone tokens with a value of 200 Lire and SIP considered it appropriate to continue to use the same unit of measurement for the new magnetic stripe technology.

Going into more detail of the structure of the internal codes, it can be stated that the combination of the "class" code and the "issue" code represents the period of issue of the lot of the card. The "series" code (or "identification") indicates the production lot, while the "progressive" code identifies the single card within a lot.

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When previously mentioned "cards with consecutive code", we were talking about cards with the first 3 identical codes, in which only the "progressive" code varies.

In the following chapters the concepts expressed so far will be easier to understand, also thanks to the examples shown.

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