GROCER*Ease*   Patent Information

Summary

The following is a summary of all patent activity for GrocerEase Corporation.

Granted Patents

The following is a list of all granted patents.

United States of America - Patent #5,905,246

United States of America _ Patent #6,932,270

United States of America - Patent #7,367,500

Canada - Patent #2,269,624

Mexico - Patent #218,834

Great Britain, France, Germany - Patent #EP 0948767

Pending Patents

The following is a list of pending patent applications.

United States of America - Application #12/115,309

Japan - Application #10-520603

Specific Claims by Patent

See following pages for individual patents and claims protection.

U.S. Patent #5,905,246

U.S. Patent #5,905,246

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.

Acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Claims

1. An integrated data card to enable scanning and recording of bar codes from coupons for subsequent transmittal to a periphery device containing purchase data from a cash register, said data card comprising:

a. a microprocessor,

b. a random access memory means,

c. a bar code entry means for entering bar codes printed on said coupons, and

d. a communications port for receiving redemption requirement data associated with said bar codes from a periphery device, wherein said microprocessor, said random access memory means, said entry means, and said communications port are operatively connected and can communicate with said periphery device; to permit said bar codes entered by said entry means and redemption requirement data received from said periphery device through said communications port to be stored in said random access memory means; and wherein bar codes from said random access memory means are transmitted through said microprocessor to said periphery device for comparison with said purchase data and said microprocessor indicates in said random access memory means what bar codes corresponded with said purchase data.

2. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein coupon data is stored in said data card with a day counter marker indicating the order in which said coupon data was entered onto said data card relative to other coupons.

3. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said data card has an operating key and programming allowing the transfer of coupon data from said data card to a another data card.

4. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said data card has a means for identifying a person to whom said data card is registered and said means for identifying is readable by a periphery device.

5. An integrated data card according to claim 4, wherein said data card is selectively activated and deactivated by data received from a remote database.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said bar code is contained in a coupon record and said coupon record contains a marker identifying the origin of said coupon bar code.

7. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein coupon data is stored in said data card with a data marker indicating the date on which said coupon data was entered onto said data card.

8. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein a marker is placed in a coupon record indicating said coupon may be redeemed after an expiration date of said coupon.

9. A method to enable easy recording an storage of coupon bar codes in a data card and the subsequent transmittal to and display of coupon records containing said bar codes in a periphery device, said data card being an integrated data card having a microprocessor, a random access memory means, a scanner to read bar codes printed on coupons, and a communications port for receiving coupon redemption requirement data from said periphery device, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

a. scanning said bar codes with said scanner,

b. operatively connecting said data card to said periphery device to allow said periphery device to read what coupon bar codes were recorded in said random access memory means of said data card,

c. transmitting from said periphery device through said communications port to said random access memory of said data card updated coupon redemption requirement data received from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located,

d. comparing the read bar codes to purchase data from a cash register to determine what credits should be recorded by said periphery device, and

e. recording in said random access memory of said data card those bar codes used to record credits by said periphery device.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon bar codes not yet scanned into said data card.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon bar codes residing on said data card which have no previous redemption requirement data.

12. A method according to claim 9, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon bar codes which are to be altered.

13. A system for the electronic storage and redemption of coupons, comprising:

a. an integrated data card comprising a microprocessor, a random access memory means, a scanner, and a communications port; wherein said data card is capable of scanning coupon bar codes and receiving redemption requirement data; transmitting bar codes and redemption requirement data to a periphery device; and storing what bar codes correspond to purchase data received from a cash register memory;

b. a periphery device comprising:

i. a microprocessor, a first communications port for communicating with said data card, and a second communications port for communicating with a cash register; wherein said periphery device receives purchase data from a cash register memory and compares said purchase data to coupon bar codes received from said data card; and

ii. a display screen and a plurality of operational keys allowing selective manipulation of individual coupons prior to said coupons being applied to a sale of goods.

14. A system according to claim 6 wherein said periphery device transmits to said coupon card, redemption requirement data that is not already in said random access memory means of said coupon card.

15. A system according to claim 14 wherein said coupon card has a plurality of operational keys allowing the storage of coupon records in selective sub-groups.

16. A system according to claim 13, further comprising a server computer which receives redeemed coupon data from said periphery device.

17. A system according to claim 16, further comprising a clearinghouse that receives redeemed coupon data from said server computer.

18. A system according to claim 17, wherein said clearinghouse receives redeemed coupon data from a plurality of local server computers utilizing high speed modems and compiles payment and marketing data in formats useful to business entities.

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19. A system according to claim 13, wherein said server computer is a local server computer receiving redeemed coupon data from a plurality of periphery devices and said local server computer calculates the monetary value of coupons redeemed during a given time period.

20. A system according to claim 13, wherein said periphery device receives updated redemption requirement data from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located, said updated redemption requirement data corresponding to coupon bar codes not yet scanned into said data card.

21. A system according to claim 13, where said periphery device is connected to a clearinghouse.

22. A system according to claim 13, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes accepting for redemption coupons that are not otherwise redeemable and placing an electronic marker in a record of said coupons not otherwise redeemable to indicate said coupons have been misredeemed.

23. A system according to claim 13, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes searching for coupons which said periphery device does not indicate are redeemable.

24. A system according to claim 13, wherein said periphery device includes two display screens, one of said display screens viewable by shoppers and the other of said display screens viewable by a cashier.

25. A system for the electronic redemption of coupons, comprising a periphery device having:

i. a communications port for receiving electronic coupon data, a communications port for communicating with a cash register and a microprocessor; wherein said periphery device receives purchase data from a cash register memory and compares said purchase data to said coupon data to determine whether said coupon data contains redeemable coupons; and

ii. a display screen and a plurality of operational keys allowing selective manipulation of individual coupons prior to said coupons being applied to a sale of goods.

26. A system according to claim 25, wherein said periphery device is connected to a local server computer.

27. A system according to claim 25, wherein said periphery device receives updated redemption requirement data from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located, said updated redemption requirement data corresponding to coupons to be published at a future date.

28. A system according to claim 25, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes placing a marker in a coupon record indicating said coupon may be redeemed after an expiration date of said coupon.

29. A method of advertising and disseminating electronic coupon data originating from a remote database which allows individuals to receive video and audio advertising information concerning the products represented by the coupons and then to receive and store electronic coupon data on an appropriate data storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving in an coupon dispenser electronic coupon data and advertising data from a remote database;

b. displaying said advertising information at said coupon dispenser;

c. transferring from said coupon dispenser said coupon data in an electronic form to individual data storage devices having a method of identifying the person receiving the coupon data.

30. An apparatus for disseminating electronic coupon data and transferring said electronic coupon data to an appropriate data storage device, said apparatus comprising:

a. a first communications port receiving electronic coupon data and advertising data from a database located remotely from a store wherein said apparatus is located;

b. a memory means for storing electronic coupon data;

c. a second communications port for transmitting electronic coupon data to a data storage device; and

d. a microprocessor for controlling the transfer of said electronic coupon data, wherein said microprocessor transfers the same electronic coupon data to said data storage device;

e. a means for broadcasting said advertising data received from said remote database.

31. In a system for the electronic storage and redemption of coupons having a coupon card electronically storing a first bar code corresponding with said coupon and a periphery device storing a second bar code representing an alternate value of said first bar code, a method for altering the value of said coupon comprising the steps of:

a. transmitting said first bar code to said periphery device;

b. replacing said first bar code with said second bar code;

c. transmitting said second bar code to said coupon card.

32. A system according to claim 31, wherein said second bar code is received from a remote database.

33. A method for a point-of-sale acceptance of a rebate offer comprising the steps of:

a. providing a periphery device which may receive purchase data from a cash register at a point-of-sale;

b. transferring data on rebate offers to said periphery device from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located;

c. comparing in said periphery device data on rebate offers to purchase data to determine if any purchased items have corresponding rebates;

d. providing a means for a customer to indicate acceptance of said rebate offer;

e. calculating the monetary value of said rebate offers which correspond to said purchase data;

f. providing said periphery device with information from which the identity of a customer accepting the rebates may be determined; and

g. providing said remotely located database with notice of said customer's acceptance.

34. In a system for electronic storage and redemption of coupons having a data card electronically storing first and second coupons, a method for altering the value of said second coupon comprising the steps of:

a. redeeming said first coupon;

b. determining whether said second coupon has been redeemed;

c. altering the value represented by said second coupon if said second coupon has not been redeemed.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said step of altering the value represented by said second coupon comprises replacing said second coupon with a third coupon.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein said third coupon is transferred to said data card from a periphery device.

37. A method for a point-of-sale acceptance of a rebate offer comprising the steps of:

a. providing purchase data from a cash register at a cashier stand;

b. transferring data on rebate offers to said cashier stand from a database located remotely from a store wherein said cashier stand is located;

c. comparing in said data on rebate offers to purchase data to determine if any purchased items have corresponding rebates;

d. providing a means for a customer to indicate acceptance of said rebate offer;

e. calculating the monetary value of said rebate offers which correspond to said purchase data;

f. providing said cashier stand with information from which the identity of a customer accepting the rebates may be determined; and

g. providing said remotely located database with notice of said customer's acceptance.

U.S. Patent #6,932,270

U.S. Patent #6,932,270

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

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Claims

1. A method for a radio broadcast of electronic coupon data to a specified storage device comprising the steps of: a. registering a plurality of customers with a pager based service; b. providing each customer with a storage device comprising a pager means for allowing each storage device to receive a signal which in not receivable by other storage devices within said service; a. predetermining what coupon data will be broadcast to each of said a specific storage device devices; and b. broadcasting signals carrying said coupon data wherein said signals are modified to be receivable by said pager means in each storage device such that each storage device receives said coupon data predetermined for said storage device, but not coupon data predetermined for other storage devices within said service.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said pager means comprises a radio frequency receiver tuned to one or two frequencies.

US Patent #7,367,500

U.S. Patent #7,367,500

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Claims

1. An integrated data card to enable receiving of coupon data for subsequent transmittal to a periphery device containing purchase data from a cash register, said data card comprising: a. a microprocessor; b. a memory; c. a coupon data receiver; and d. a communications port for receiving redemption requirement data associated with said coupon data from a periphery device; wherein said microprocessor, said memory, said receiver, and said communications port are operatively connected and said communications port can communicate with said periphery device to permit said coupon data acquired by said receiver and redemption requirement data received from said periphery device through said communications port to be stored in said memory; wherein coupon data from said data card and purchase data from said periphery device are compared to determine what coupon data corresponds with said purchase data; and wherein said data card has a plurality of operational keys and programming allowing arrangement of coupon records in selective sub-groups.

2. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said data card has an identifier associated with a person to whom said data card is registered and said identifier is readable by a periphery device.

3. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said receiver allows said data card to receive a signal unique to said data card such that coupon data is selectively received only by said data card and not other data cards in a system comprising a plurality of data cards.

4. An integrated data card according to claim 3, wherein said receiver is a pager receiver tuned to at least one pager frequency.

5. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein coupon data is stored in said data card with a day counter marker indicating the order in which coupon data is entered onto said data card relative to other coupon data.

6. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said data card is selectively activated and deactivated by data received from a remote database.

7. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein coupon data is stored in said data card with a data marker indicating the date on which said coupon data was entered onto said data card.

8. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein a marker is placed in a coupon record indicating a coupon may be redeemed after an expiration date of said coupon.

9. A method to enable easy recording and storage of coupon data in a data card and the subsequent transmittal to and display of coupon records containing said coupon data in a periphery device, said data card being an integrated data card having a microprocessor, a random access memory, a receiver for acquiring coupon data, and a communications device for communicating with said periphery device, wherein said method comprises the steps of: a. acquiring coupon data via said receiver, b. said data card communicating with said periphery device to allow said periphery device to read what coupon data was recorded in said random access memory of said data card, c. transmitting from said periphery device through said communications device to said random access memory of said data card updated coupon redemption requirement data received from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located, d. comparing the read coupon data to purchase data from a cash register to determine what credits should be recognized by said periphery device, and indicating in said random access memory of said data card that coupon data used to record credits by said periphery device.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon data not yet scanned into said data card.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon data residing on said data card which have no previous redemption requirement data.

12. A method according to claim 9, wherein said communications device comprises either a light coupling device, a serial bidirectional data port, an infrared transceiver device, a magnetic disk writing device or a laser transmit-receive interface.

13. A system for the electronic storage and redemption of coupons, comprising: a. an integrated data card comprising a microprocessor, a random access memory means, and a communications device; wherein said data card is capable of receiving coupon data and redemption requirement data; transmitting coupon data and redemption requirement data to a periphery device; and storing what coupon data corresponds to purchase data received from a cash register memory; b. a periphery device comprising: i. a microprocessor and a first communications device communicating with said data card, wherein said periphery device receives purchase data from a cash register memory and compares said purchase data to coupon data received from said data card; and ii. a display screen and a plurality of operational keys allowing selective manipulation of individual coupons prior to said coupons being applied to a sale of goods.

14. A system according to claim 13, further comprising a server computer which receives redeemed coupon data from said periphery device.

15. A system according to claim 14, further comprising a clearinghouse that receives redeemed coupon data from said server computer.

16. A system according to claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse receives redeemed coupon data from a plurality of local server computers and compiles payment and marketing data in formats useful to business entities.

17. A system according to claim 13, wherein said server computer is a local server computer receiving redeemed coupon data from a plurality of periphery devices and said local server computer calculates the monetary value of coupons redeemed during a given time period.

18. A system according to claim 13, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes accepting for redemption coupons that are not otherwise redeemable and placing an electronic marker in a record of said coupons not otherwise redeemable to indicate said coupons have been misredeemed.

19. A system according to claim 13, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes searching for coupons which said periphery device does not indicate are redeemable.

20. A system according to claim 13, wherein said periphery device includes two display screens, one of said display screens viewable by shoppers and the other of said display screens viewable by a cashier.

International Patents

All international patents have <u>41 claims each</u>, identical to those found in Canadian Patent #2,269,624. This patent follows:

Canadian Patent #2,269,624

BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP
World Exchange Plaza
1100 - 100 Queen Street
OTTAWA Ontario
K1P 1J9

Date : 2006/07/20

Classification :
G07G 1/14

AVIS D'ACCEPTATION/NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

N° de demande/Application No.: 2,269,624	Date de dépôt/Filing date : 1997/10/27

Votre référence/
Your Reference
: PAT 44355W-1

Titre de l'invention/
Title of Invention
: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COUPON MANAGEMENT AND REDEMPTION

Propriétaire(s)/Owner(s) : FAJKOWSKI, PETER W.

Revendications/Claims : 041

Examiné tel que modifié/ : 2005/11/01
Examined as amended

La demande de brevet susmentionnée a été jugée acceptable.

Il faut payer la taxe finale de **CENT CINQUANTE DOLLARS (150 $)** ou de **TROIS CENTS DOLLARS (300 $)** selon que le demandeur est une petite entité ou une grande entité, et ce dans les six mois suivant la date du présent avis. Autrement la demande sera réputée abandonnée en vertu de l'alinéa 73(1)(f) de la Loi sur les brevets.

Une taxe additionnelle de six dollars (6$) par page excédant 100 pages du mémoire descriptif et dessins devra aussi être payée.

Le brevet sera délivré au nom du dernier propriétaire inscrit à nos dossiers qui a fourni une documentation acceptable, au plus tard à la date du paiement de la taxe finale, conformément à l'article 41 des Règles sur les brevets.

La réponse au présent avis doit comprendre l'identification complète de la demande et la date de l'avis.

La publication des brevets canadiens délivrés dans la Gazette du Bureau des brevets peut comprendre aussi une note concernant la mise en vente d'un brevet ou de sa licence. Si vous désirez profiter de ce service gratuit, veuillez l'indiquer au moment de payer la taxe finale.

The above application for patent has been found allowable.

The final fee of **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS ($150.00)** or **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($300.00)** depending upon whether the applicant is a small entity or a large entity must be paid within six months following the date of this notice. Otherwise the application will be deemed to be abandoned pursuant to paragraph 73(1)(f) of the Patent Act.

An additional fee of six dollars ($6.00) per page over 100 pages of specification and drawings must also be paid.

The patent shall issue to the last registered owner who has submitted acceptable documentation on or before the date that the final fee is paid (as pursuant to Section 41 of the Patent Rules).

A reply to this notice must include full identification of the application including the date of the notice.

The publication of issued Canadian patents in the Patent Office Record can also include an indication that the patent is available for licence or sale. If you wish to take advantage of this free service, please indicate this when paying the final fee.

Commissaire aux brevets/Commissioner of Patents

Claims

CLAIMS

1. An integrated data card to enable scanning and recording of bar codes from coupons for subsequent transmittal to a periphery device containing purchase data from a cash register, said data card comprising:

5
    a. a microprocessor,

    b. a random access memory means,

    c. a bar code entry means for entering bar codes printed on said coupons, and

    d. a communications port for receiving redemption requirement data associated

10 with said bar codes from a periphery device,

    wherein said microprocessor, said random access memory means, said entry means, and said communications port are operatively connected and can communicate with said periphery device;

    to permit said bar codes entered by said entry means and redemption requirement data
15 received from said periphery device through said communications port to be stored in said random access memory means;

    and wherein bar codes from said random access memory means are transmitted through said microprocessor to said periphery device for comparison with said purchase data and said microprocessor indicates in said random access memory means what bar codes
20 corresponded with said purchase data.

2. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein coupon data is stored in said data card with a day counter marker indicating the order in which said coupon data was entered onto said data card relative to other coupons.

3. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said data card has an operating
25 key and programming allowing the transfer of coupon data from said data card to a another data card.

4. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein said data card has a means for identifying a person to whom said data card is registered and said means for identifying is readable by a periphery device.

30 5. An integrated data card according to claim 4, wherein said data card is selectively activated and deactivated by data received from a remote database.

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6.   A method to enable easy recording and storage of coupon bar codes in a data card and the subsequent transmittal to and display of coupon records containing said bar codes in a periphery device, said data card being an integrated data card having a microprocessor, a random access memory means, a scanner to read bar codes printed on coupons, and a

5   communications port for receiving coupon redemption requirement data from said periphery device, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

    a.   scanning said bar codes with said scanner,

    b.   operatively connecting said data card to said periphery device to allow said periphery device to read what coupon bar codes were recorded in said random access

10   memory means of said data card,

    c.   transmitting from said periphery device through said communications port to said random access memory of said data card updated coupon redemption requirement data received from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located,

    d.   comparing the read bar codes to purchase data from a cash register to

15   determine what credits should be recorded by said periphery device, and

    e.   recording in said random access memory of said data card those bar codes used to record credits by said periphery device.

7.   A method according to claim 6, wherein bar codes corresponding to purchase data are over-written in said random access memory means.

20   8.   A method according to claim 6, wherein the monetary value of said bar codes corresponding to said purchase data is cumulatively stored in said random access memory means.

9.   A system for the electronic storage and redemption of coupons, comprising:

    a.   an integrated data card comprising a microprocessor, a random access memory

25   means, a scanner, and a communications port; wherein said data card is capable of scanning coupon bar codes and receiving redemption requirement data; transmitting bar codes and redemption requirement data to a periphery device; and storing what bar codes correspond to purchase data received from a cash register memory;

    b.   a periphery device comprising:

30   i. a microprocessor, a first communications port for communicating with said data card, and a second communications port for communicating with a cash register; wherein said periphery device receives purchase data from a cash register memory

and compares said purchase data to coupon bar codes received from said data card; and

    ii. a display screen and a plurality of operational keys allowing selective manipulation of individual coupons prior to said coupons being applied to a sale of

5   goods.

10.   A system according to claim 9 wherein said periphery device transmits to said coupon card, redemption requirement data that is not already in said random access memory means of said coupon card.

11.   A system according to claim 10 wherein said coupon card has a plurality of

10 operational keys allowing the storage of coupon records in selective sub-groups.

12.   A system according to claim 9, further comprising a server computer which receives redeemed coupon data from said periphery device.

13.   A system according to claim 9, wherein said server computer is a local server computer receiving redeemed coupon data from a plurality of periphery devices and said

15 local server computer calculates the monetary value of coupons redeemed during a given time period.

14.   A system according to claim 13, further comprising a clearinghouse that receives redeemed coupon data from said server computer.

15.   A system according to claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse receives redeemed

20 coupon data from a plurality of local server computers utilizing high speed modems and compiles payment and marketing data in formats useful to business entities.

16.   A system according to claim 9, wherein said periphery device receives updated redemption requirement data from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located, said updated redemption requirement data corresponding to coupon bar

25 codes not yet scanned into said data card.

17.   A system according to claim 9, where said periphery device is connected to a clearinghouse.

18.   A system for the electronic redemption of coupons, comprising a periphery device having:

30   i. a communications port for receiving electronic coupon data, a communications port for communicating with a cash register and a microprocessor; wherein said periphery device receives purchase data from a cash register memory

and compares said purchase data to said coupon data to determine whether said coupon data contains redeemable coupons; and

> ii. a display screen and a plurality of operational keys allowing selective manipulation of individual coupons prior to said coupons being applied to a sale of
5   goods.

19.   A system according to claim 19, wherein said periphery device is connected to a local server computer.

20.   A system according to claim 19, wherein said periphery device receives updated redemption requirement data from a database located remotely from a store wherein said
10 periphery is located, said updated redemption requirement data corresponding to coupons to be published at a future date.

21.   A method of advertising and disseminating electronic coupon data originating from a remote database which allows individuals to receive video and audio advertising information concerning the products represented by the coupons and then to receive and store electronic
15 coupon data on a data storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

> a.   receiving in an coupon dispenser electronic coupon data and advertising data from a remote database;
>
> b.   displaying said advertising information at said coupon dispenser;
>
> c.   transferring from said coupon dispenser said coupon data in an electronic form
20   to individual data storage devices having a method of identifying the person receiving the coupon data.

22.   An apparatus for disseminating electronic coupon data and transferring said electronic coupon data to a data storage device, said apparatus comprising:

> a.   a first communications port receiving electronic coupon data and advertising
25   data from a database located remotely from a store wherein said apparatus is located;
>
> b.   a memory means for storing electronic coupon data;
>
> c.   a second communications port for transmitting electronic coupon data to a data storage device; and
>
> d.   a microprocessor for controlling the transfer of said electronic coupon data,
30   wherein said microprocessor transfers the same electronic coupon data to said data storage device.

e. a means for broadcasting said advertising data received from said remote database.

23. In a system for the electronic storage and redemption of coupons having a coupon card electronically storing a first bar code corresponding with said coupon and a periphery device storing a second bar code representing an alternate value of said first bar code, a method for altering the value of said coupon comprising the steps of:

a. transmitting said first bar code to said periphery device;

b. replacing said first bar code with said second bar code;

c. transmitting said second bar code to said coupon card.

24. A system according to claim 9, further comprising an adapter for converting recorded data on a disk device to electrical data for wireless transmission of the contents of said recorded data to a storage device, said adapter comprising an adapter body, said adapter body further comprising:

a. an insertion port for receiving said storage device;

b. a means for reading said recorded data;

c. a memory means for receiving the contents of said recorded data;

d. a wireless transmitting means capable of receiving electrical data and transmitting said electrical data in a wireless signal; and

e. a processor means for converting the contents of said recorded data into electrical data which may be transmitted through said wireless transmitting means.

25. A method according to claim 6, further comprising a method for the radio broadcast of electronic coupon data to a specific storage device comprising the steps of:

a. predetermining what coupon data will be broadcast to a specific storage device; and

b. broadcasting a signal carrying said coupon data wherein said signal is modified to be receivable by said specific storage device.

26. A method for a point-of-sale acceptance of a rebate offer comprising the steps of:

a. providing a periphery device which may receive purchase data from a cash register at a point-of-sale;

b. transferring data on rebate offers to said periphery device from a database located remotely from a store wherein said periphery is located;

c. comparing in said periphery device data on rebate offers to purchase data to determine if any purchased items have corresponding rebates;

  d. providing a means for a customer to indicate acceptance of said rebate offer;

  e. calculating the monetary value of said rebate offers which correspond to said purchase data;

  f. providing said periphery device with information from which the identity of a customer accepting the rebates may be determined; and

  g. providing said remotely located database with notice of said customer's acceptance.

27. A method according to claim 1, wherein said bar code is contained in a coupon record and said coupon record contains a marker identifying the origin of said coupon bar code.

28. A system according to claim 9, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes accepting for redemption coupons that are not otherwise redeemable and placing an electronic marker in a record of said coupons not otherwise redeemable to indicate said coupons have been misredeemed.

29. A system according to claim 9, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes searching for coupons which said periphery device does not indicate are redeemable.

30. A system according to claim 19, wherein said selective manipulation of individual coupons includes placing a marker in a coupon record indicating said coupon may be redeemed after an expiration date of said coupon.

31. A system according to claim 9, wherein said periphery device includes two display screens, one of said display screens viewable by shoppers and the other of said display screens viewable by a cashier.

32. A system according to claim 24, wherein said second bar code is received from a remote database.

33. In a system for the electronic storage and redemption of coupons having a data card electronically storing first and second coupons, a method for altering the value of said second coupon comprising the steps of:

  a. redeeming said first coupon;

  b. determining whether said second coupon has been redeemed;

  c. altering the value represented by said second coupon if said second coupon has not been redeemed.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein said step of altering the value represented by said second coupon comprises replacing said second coupon with a third coupon.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said third coupon is transferred to said data card from a periphery device.

5   36. A method according to claim 6, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon bar codes not yet scanned into said data card.

37. A method according to claim 6, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon bar codes residing on said data card which have no previous redemption requirement data.

10 38. A method according to claim 6, wherein said updated redemption requirement data corresponds to coupon bar codes which are to be altered.

39.   An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein coupon data is stored in said data card with a date marker indicating the date on which said coupon data was entered onto said data card.

15 40. An integrated data card according to claim 1, wherein a marker is placed in a coupon record indicating said coupon may be redeemed after an expiration date of said coupon.

41.   A method for a point-of-sale acceptance of a rebate offer comprising the steps of:

a.   providing purchase data from a cash register at a cashier stand;

b.   transferring data on rebate offers to said cashier stand from a database located

20 remotely from a store wherein said cashier stand is located;

c.   comparing in said data on rebate offers to purchase data to determine if any purchased items have corresponding rebates;

d.   providing a means for a customer to indicate acceptance of said rebate offer;

e.   calculating the monetary value of said rebate offers which correspond to said

25 purchase data;

f.   providing said cashier stand with information from which the identity of a customer accepting the rebates may be determined; and

g.   providing said remotely located database with notice of said customer's acceptance.

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