

Here's the scoop on the Bar Code System, Check out these links for the latest update to date information.

The Universal Product Code (<http://www.uc-council.org>) and GSI US

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This is a link to a commercial site that provides free generation of a bar code. UPC Bar Code Stickers . The company can provide bar code labels for a fee. Many companies offer this service. However , if you plan ahead, you can have the printing of your product's package include the bar code thereby eliminating the need for a separate label.

THE BAR CODE EQUATION - What happens when you scan the code?

Ever wonder how the bar code works? Reading the bottom line of numbers from left to right, the first single number represents the Retail Category or Function. The next five numbers represent the Manufacturer I.D. The next set of five numbers creates the Product Code or Item Number. The twelfth and last number is the key to verifying all the information is correct as well as providing an accurate price when scanned. It is the Check Character.

Grab any product bar code you wish and apply the following mathematical steps to arrive at the Check Character. Starting from left to right: (Note the bars and spaces are omitted.)

EXAMPLE: 0 12345 67890 5

1st - Add all odd positioned numbers: $0+2+4+6+8+0 = 20$

2nd - Add all even positioned numbers $1+3+5+7+9 = 25$

3rd - Multiply three times (3X) the odd sum $3 \times 20 = 60$

4th - Add 3X the odd sum to the sum of the even positioned numbers $60 + 25 = 85$

5th - Subtract the resulting sum of numbers from the nearest larger multiple of 10.

The nearest larger multiple of 10 from the number 85 is 90.

$$90 - 85 = 5$$

Well what do you know! Five (5) is the correct Check Character. Please pay the cashier now.

The scanner reads the bars and spaces, both dark and light lines representing the numbers. It goes on to perform the mathematical formula to arrive at the answer in the blink of an eye.