

MagTek 21040108

MagTek 21040108 Magnetic Stripe Card Reader User Manual

Model: 21040108

1. INTRODUCTION

The MagTek 21040108 is a compact USB magnetic stripe card reader designed for reliable data capture. This device reads data from magnetic stripe cards, typically used for identification, access control, or point-of-sale applications. It features triple track reading capability and operates as a keyboard emulation device, meaning it inputs data directly into applications as if typed from a keyboard.

Package Contents

- MagTek 21040108 Magnetic Stripe Card Reader
- USB Cable (integrated or separate, depending on model revision)
- User Manual (this document)

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Do not expose the device to moisture, extreme temperatures, or direct sunlight.
- Avoid dropping or subjecting the device to strong impacts.
- Do not attempt to disassemble or modify the device. This will void the warranty.
- Use only the provided or recommended power source (via USB port).
- Keep the device away from strong magnetic fields, which can interfere with its operation.

3. SETUP

The MagTek 21040108 card reader is designed for simple plug-and-play installation.

1. **Connect the Reader:** Plug the USB connector of the MagTek 21040108 into an available USB port on your computer or host device.
2. **Driver Installation:** For most operating systems (Windows, macOS, Linux), the device will be recognized automatically as a standard USB HID (Human Interface Device) keyboard. No special drivers are typically required.
3. **Verification:** Once connected, the device should be ready for use. You may see a confirmation message from your

operating system indicating that a new device has been installed.



Figure 1: The MagTek 21040108 Magnetic Stripe Card Reader. This image shows the compact black device with a USB cable, ready for connection to a host system.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The MagTek 21040108 operates by reading data from magnetic stripe cards as they are swiped through the reader slot.

1. **Open an Application:** Ensure you have an application open on your computer where you want the card data to be entered (e.g., a text editor, spreadsheet, or point-of-sale software). Place the cursor in the field where the data should appear.
2. **Prepare the Card:** Hold the magnetic stripe card with the magnetic stripe facing the reader slot.
3. **Swipe the Card:** Insert the card into the reader slot and swipe it smoothly and consistently from one end to the other. A successful swipe will typically result in the card data appearing in your active application.
4. **LED Indicator:** The reader may have an LED indicator that illuminates or changes color to confirm a successful read. Refer to the device's specific behavior for confirmation.

As a keyboard emulation device, the reader sends the decoded magnetic stripe data as keystrokes. This means the data will appear wherever your cursor is positioned, just as if you had typed it manually.

5. MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and reliable performance of your MagTek 21040108 card reader.

- **Cleaning the Read Head:** Over time, dust and debris can accumulate on the read head, affecting performance. Use a specialized magnetic stripe reader cleaning card (available separately) to clean the read head. Follow the instructions provided with the cleaning card.
- **Exterior Cleaning:** Wipe the exterior of the device with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or spray directly onto the device.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the reader in a clean, dry environment, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Reader not recognized by computer.	Loose USB connection, faulty USB port, or operating system issue.	Ensure the USB cable is securely connected to both the reader and the computer. Try a different USB port on your computer. Restart your computer. Test the reader on another computer if possible.
Card data not appearing after swipe.	Incorrect swipe technique, dirty read head, damaged card, or application focus issue.	Ensure the magnetic stripe is facing the correct direction and swipe smoothly. Clean the reader's magnetic read head using a cleaning card. Try swiping a different magnetic stripe card. Ensure the cursor is active in the desired input field of your application.
Incorrect characters or garbled data.	Dirty read head, damaged card, or software configuration.	Clean the reader's magnetic read head. Try a different card. Verify that your application is configured to accept magnetic stripe data correctly.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	21040108
Brand	MagTek
Connectivity Technology	USB
Hardware Interface	USB

Special Feature	Compact
Color	Black
Compatible Devices	Computer (as keyboard emulation)
Data Transfer Rate	127 Megabits Per Second (USB 2.0 standard)
Slot Count	1 (for magnetic stripe cards)

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official MagTek website or contact MagTek customer service directly. Specific warranty terms may vary by region and purchase date.
MagTek Official Website: www.magtek.com

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

Anonymous

Email

you@example.com

After a successful submission, we securely hash the supplied account or form email before sending it to Microsoft Advertising for conversion attribution. [Privacy details](#).

Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question