Smart Cards

A Smarter Way to Park, Pay, and Go

Consumers looking for a convenient alternative to cash when paying for parking can now take advantage of T2 Systems (T2) smart card solution. Parking operators will notice upfront revenue from card sales and reloads, reduced meter collection costs, and compatibility with both single-space and multi-space meters. By providing smart card acceptance on its Digital pay stations, T2 continues to lead the way in consumer convenience and operator satisfaction.

What Are Smart Cards?

The smart card acts as an electronic purse in lieu of hard currency. It is a pocket-sized card with an embedded microprocessor (chip), which contains a stored dollar value that is deducted to pay for parking transactions, similar to debit card transactions.

Smart cards can be used with both single-space meters and T2's Digital multi-space pay stations. Because of their dual-purpose use, operators with existing single-space meters opting to upgrade to Digital multi-space pay stations, have a seamless migration with no hardware or software updates required. All that's needed is the security code of the existing group of smart cards to enable the pay stations to accept and process smart card transactions.

Smart cards use high-grade data encryption and are managed in Digital Iris to provide safeguards against misuse. Consumers no longer need to scour for loose change to feed the meter. The chip-based smart card offers consumers a convenient, hassle-free way to pay.

Benefits For Consumers

- More convenient than cash; no need to remember to bring cash to pay for parking
- Easier than cash; exact change every time
- Safer than cash
- Card is reloadable and reusable
- Easily add funds onto the card at the pay station*
Benefits For Parking Operators

- A secure method of payment that uses state-of-the-art encryption to protect card data and prevent card copying or "topping up"
- Reduced collection costs due to less currency in meter vaults
- Less coin acceptor maintenance
- Simplified management through cross-platform use; cards can be used in both single-space meters and Digital multi-space pay stations
- Prevention of misuse through creation of a smart card bad list
- Upfront revenue from card sales and reloads; in the bank earning interest while it may take weeks or months before a card’s value is depleted
- Additional revenue is possible by selling advertising on the card

Smart Cards and Digital Pay Stations

During the course of a transaction, the pay station shows the smart card’s current card balance and also prints the remaining balance on the receipt once the transaction has been completed. Additionally, the consumer can add funds to the card at the pay station.*

Smart cards can operate in both online and offline mode. In offline mode, connectivity to Digital Iris is not required to accept or reload cards. However, in online mode, operators can conduct real-time credit card authorization at the pay station during the card-reloading process.

Compatible Smart Cards

Digital pay stations are compatible with smart cards from POM—a manufacturer of single-space parking meters. Several T2 clients have deployed POM smart cards and are already realizing the benefits of cashless payment.

* Feature only compatible with POM smart cards