

What about barcodes and 666: The Mark of the Beast?

by Terry Watkins

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Is the barcode the Mark of the Beast?

Do barcodes really contain the number 666?

Is the barcode paving the road to 666: the Mark of the Beast?

Before we answer these questions, we need to briefly examine the barcode technology. . .

What are barcodes?

Barcodes, of course, are those ever-familiar "bars" and "numbers" on virtually everything. In 1973, "Mr. Barcode" (or is it Mrs. Barcode?) quietly strolled into our world. In just over 25 years, Mr. Barcode has literally taken over the world. Now there's a barcode for virtually everything. There's short barcodes, and tall barcodes. There's skinny barcodes and fat barcodes. There's postal barcodes and international barcodes. There's 2-D barcodes. And there's even barcodes for the humble "bumble-bee". From letters, to cokes, from fishes to smokes - it's "clothed" with friendly "Mr. Barcode".

As someone truthfully said, "If it exists, bar code it".

The primary barcode used in the United States is the UPC (Universal Product Code) barcode. The UPC is also the "original" barcode. The UPC was designed for the grocery industry. Because of the large number of items normally "checked-out" at the grocery store, a method was needed to speed up and eliminate "human" cashier errors. In 1973, the UPC barcode was born.

To the average person, the barcode looks confusing and complex, but to a "bar-coded" friendly computer, it's actually very simple.

How does a computer-scanner reads a barcode?

A single barcode number is actually seven units. A unit is either black or white. A unit that is black would display as a "bar". A unit that is white would display as a "space". Another way of writing a barcode unit is "1" for a single unit "black bar" and "0" for a single unit "white space". For instance, the number "1" is composed of the seven units, "0011001" or "space-space-bar-bar-space-space-bar". Remember, a single barcode number requires seven units.

Also, on a UPC barcode the same numbers on the left-hand side (the Manufacturer Code) is coded different than the numbers on the right-hand side (Product Code). The left side numbers are actually the "inverted" or "mirrored" codes of the right side numbers, for instance what is a "bar" on the right-side, is a "space" on the left-side. The right-side codes are called "even parity" codes because there is an even number of "black bar" units. For instance the right-side "6" is "101000" - 2 even-numbered "black bar" units. The left-side is called "odd-parity" because there is an odd number of "black bar" units. For instance, the left-side "6" is "0101111" - 5 odd-numbered "black bar" units. Having different coded numbers for each side allows the barcode to be scanned in either direction.

The following tables are the left and right side codes matching the corresponding numbers, separated into the seven single units.

LEFT SIDE (ODD PARITY) CODES																																																																												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	1	2	3																																																				
0							1							2							3							4							5							6							7							8							9													
0001101							0011001							0010011							0111101							0100011							0110001							0101111							0111011							0110111							0110111							0001011						

RIGHT SIDE (EVEN PARITY) CODES																																																																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	1	2	3																																													
0							1							2							3							4							5							6							7							8							9						
1110011							1100110							1101100							1000010							1011100							1001110							1010000							1000100							1001000							1110100						

Notice, a few things about the codes:

1. As previously mentioned, the left and right numbers are "inverted" or "mirrored".
2. Every barcode number is equal to "four" different marks. A "mark" can be either "black" (bar) or "white" (space). The "marks" vary in width, but there is always four different marks, 2 "bar marks" and 2 "space marks". For instance, the left code number "one" is "3 spaces (mark 1), 2 bars (mark 2), 1 space (mark 3), 1 bar (mark 4)".
3. The left side codes always begins with a "space" or "0" and ends with a "bar" or "1". The right is just the opposite, it begins with a "bar" or "1" and ends with a "space" or "0".

Anatomy of a Barcode



Note: The computer does not read the numbers underneath the barcode. These Human Readable (HR) numbers are printed so a "human" can easily read the barcode, if necessary.

Number System Character: This number is a UPC system number that characterizes specific types of barcodes. In a UPC barcode it is normally on the left of the barcode. The actual "barcode" (the "bars" and "spaces") is the first "barcode" after the first "guard bar". The Number System Character is the blue box on the "Anatomy of a Barcode".

Codes of the Number System Character:

- 0 - Standard UPC number.
- 1 - Reserved.
- 2 - Random weight items like fruits, vegetables, and meats, etc.
- 3 - Pharmaceuticals
- 4 - In-store code for retailers.
- 5 - Coupons
- 6 - Standard UPC number.
- 7 - Standard UPC number.
- 8 - Reserved.
- 9 - Reserved.

3 Guard Bars: There are "3 guard bars". They are located at the beginning, middle and end. The beginning and ending guard bars are encoded as a "bar-space-bar" or 101. The middle guard bar is encoded as "space-bar-space-bar-space" or 01010. The guard bars "tell" the computer-scanner when the manufacturer and product code begin and end. For example, when the computer-scanner reads the first "101" or guard bar, the computer knows the next series of numbers is either the manufacturer or product code. And when the computer reads the "01010" or middle guard bar, the computer knows another number is coming. The 3 guard bars are also the supposedly "666" hidden in the barcode (we'll look at this in detail later). The 3 guard bars are highlighted with a green box on the "Anatomy of a Barcode".

Also, the first guard bar scanned is used by the computer to calculate the "width" of one unit.

Manufacturer Code: This is a five digit number specifically assigned to the manufacturer of the product. The manufacturer codes are maintained and assigned by the Uniform Code Council (UCC). Every product the manufacturer makes, carries the same manufacturer code. For example, the manufacturer code for Kellogg's is 38000. Every product Kellogg makes carries 38000 as the manufacturer code in the bar code. The manufacturer code is yellow on the "Anatomy of a Barcode".

Product Code: The product code is a five digit number that the manufacturer assigns for a particular product. Every different product and every different packaging or size, gets a unique product code. For instance, a 16oz bottle of coke gets a different product code than a 24 oz bottle of coke. For example: Kellogg's 13.5 oz Rice Krispies barcode is 38000 90530 — the 38000 is the manufacturer code for Kellogg and the 90530 is the product code for 13.5oz Rice Krispies. Kellogg's 16oz Mini-Wheats is 38000 02720 — the 38000 is the manufacturer code for Kellogg (the manufacturer never changes for Kellogg products) and the 02720 is the product code for 16oz Mini-Wheats. A manufacturer can have 99,999 unique product codes. The product code is orange on the "Anatomy of a Barcode".

Check digit: Also called the "self-check" digit. The check digit is on the outside right of the bar code. The check digit is an "old-programmer's trick" to validate the other digits (number system character, manufacturer code, and product code) were read correctly. The check digit is red on the "Anatomy of a Barcode".

How the computer calculates the check digit:

1. Add all the **odd** digits. In our "Anatomy of a Barcode" we would add 0 (yes, you include the number system character digit) + 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 + 0 = 20
2. Multiply the sum of step 1 by 3. Our example would be $20 \times 3 = 60$.
3. Add all the **even** numbers. In our "Anatomy of a Barcode" we would add 1 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 9 = 25. You do not include the 5 or the check digit because that's what you are calculating.
4. Now add the result from step 2 and step 3. $60 + 25 = 85$.
5. The check digit is the number needed to add to step 4 to equal a multiple of 10. $85 + 5 = 90$. 5 is the check digit in our example. Another way to calculate the check digit would be simply to divide the number from step 4 by 10. The remainder is the check digit. Example $85/10 = 8.5$

You'll notice the price was NOT included in the barcode.

Where is the price?

The price is kept in the store's centralized computer database. The store's "item database" contains a record for every item the store sells. The item record is "keyed" by manufacturer code and product code (same numbers as on the barcode). The price is kept for each item in this database. When the item is scanned by the employee, a computer program reads the barcode. It then converts the "bars and spaces" into the manufacturer and product "digital number". Using the manufacturer and product "digital number", the program reads the store's "item database". It then retrieves the price from the "item database" for that item. When a price changes, all the store has to do is update it once in the store's centralized database.

Is the number 666 "hidden" in the UPC barcode?

One of the most popular and shocking accusations concerning the number "666" is that the number "666" is quietly "hidden" in every UPC barcode. Mary Stewart Relfe's book, "The New Money System 666", published in 1982, is the "pioneer" of the "666 in the UPC barcode" teaching. Relfe's book contains over 50 pages of excellent documentation on the UPC barcodes. Relfe's discovery is repeated in many publications touching the mark of the beast, within the last fifteen years. Including tracts published by this author.

Here's a few samples:

Terry Cook, The Mark of the New World Order, 1996:

". . . the entire system [UPC barcode] is very deceptively designed around the infamous numerical configuration, Biblically known as 666, the mark of the Antichrist or devil (Revelation 13:16-18). . ." (Terry Cook, The Mark of the New World Order, 1996, p. 376)

Bob Fraley, The Last Days in America, 1984:

"The interpretation of the Universal Product Code marks is most revealing in that the three numbers '666' are the key working numbers for every designed Universal Product Code. Every group of Universal Product Code marks has in it three unidentified numbers. All three of these numbers are 6, making the use of the numbers '666' the key to using this identifying marking system. . . There is no deviation. Every Universal Product Code has three unidentified marks whose number equivalent '6' encoding it with the code number '666'. " (Bob Fraley, The Last Days in America, 1984, p. 225, 228)

Here's how to "discover" the "hidden 666 in the UPC barcode".

The "hidden" 666 in the Barcode



Notice the three "guard bars" (colored RED) at the beginning, middle and end. Now, notice **the same bar pattern** ("bar-space-bar" or "101") for the number 6 (colored BLUE).

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By "looking" at the above barcode, the number "666" clearly, appears to be there. . .

But is it?

Is the number 666 TRUTHFULLY "hidden" in the UPC barcode?

Technically, no it is not.

Here's the "technical" truth. . .

The number 6 and the three guard bars are NOT the same. They do "appear" to be identical, but they are different.

GUARD BARS AND THE NUMBER 6

B			M					6						
1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
101			01010					1010000						

Notice. The beginning and ending guard bars are "bar-space-bar" or "101" (the B in the above table). The middle guard bar is "space-bar-space-bar-space" or "01010" (the M in the above table). The number six is "1010000" (the 6 in the above table). Remember, technically a barcode number consists of **seven** units. The beginning and ending guard bars are only **three** units, and middle guard bar is only **five** units.

So, technically, from a computer's perspective the number "666" is NOT in the UPC barcode.

But. . .

Look again. . . All three guard bars contain the pattern "bar-space-bar" or "101". **There is only ONE number, in TWENTY numbers (remember right and left numbers have different patterns) that contains the "101" pattern and that number is the right code SIX.** Not the number one, or two, or three, etc. — but ONLY the right code SIX. I do seem to remember something about a mark on the RIGHT hand (Rev. 13:16).

Technically, from a computer's perspective the number "666" is NOT in the UPC barcode. . . **but from a human's perspective — YES, the "appearance" of 666 is there!**

What does the inventor of the UPC barcode say about the number "666" in the UPC barcode?

The inventor of the UPC barcode is George J. Laurer. In 1971, while Mr. Laurer was an employee with IBM, he was assigned the task "to design the best code and symbol suitable for the grocery industry". In 1973, Mr. Laurer's UPC barcode entered the world, and the rest is history.

On Mr. Laurer's web site, he has a "Questions" page, where he answers various questions about the UPC barcode. On the "Questions" page, Mr. Laurer answers the "666" question, as follows:

Question #8 - Rumor has it that the lines (left, middle, and right) that protrude below the U.P.C. code are the numbers 6,6,6... and that this is the international money code. I typed a code with all sixes and this seems to be true. At least they all resemble sixes. What's up with that?

Answer- Yes, they do RESEMBLE the code for a six. An even parity 6 is:

1 module wide black bar 1 module wide white space 1 module wide black bar 4 module wide white space

There is nothing sinister about this nor does it have anything to do with the Bible's "mark of the beast" (The New Testament, The Revelation, Chapter 13, paragraph 18). It is simply a coincidence like the fact that my first, middle, and last name all have 6 letters. There is no connection with an international money code either. (From website)

Even, Mr. Laurer, the inventor of the UPC barcode admits, "Yes, they do RESEMBLE the code for a six."

In fact, as we've documented — SIX is the ONLY number they could RESEMBLE.

You would certainly think because of the "antichrist connections" to "666" they would have picked another number besides '6' to pattern the three 'guard bars' after? Why not 1 or 3, or 5, etc. — **any number but '666'**. Surely they knew Christians would, sooner or later, "discover" the clear "appearance" of 666 in the UPC bar code.

Maybe they had no choice?

Is the barcode the mark of the beast?

In the 1993 British movie, *Naked*, directed by Mike Leigh and starring David Thewlis, the following conversation takes place:

"What is the mark? **Well the mark Brian, is the barcode.** The ubiquitous barcode that you'll find on every bog roll, and every packet of johnny's and every poxie-pot pie. **And every [expletive-removed] barcode is divided into two parts by three markers and those three markers are always represented by the number six. Six-six-six.** Now what does it say? No one shall be able to buy or sell without that mark. And now what they're planning to do in order to eradicate all credit card fraud and in order to precipitate a totally cashless society. **What they're planning to do; what they've already tested on the American troops; they're going to subcutaneously laser tattoo that mark onto your right hand or onto your forehead.**" (*Naked*, British movie, 1993, directed by Mike Leigh and starring David Thewlis)

There's no question Mary Stewart Relfe, author of *When Your Money Fails, The "666" System" is Here*, and *The New Money System 666*, believes the barcode is the Mark of the Beast.

Mary Stewart Relfe, When Your Money Fails...The "666" System" is Here, 1981

"And he causeth all . . . to receive a mark . . ."

In Greek this word mark is *charagma*, which literally denotes a stamp, an impress, and is translated mark. Notice that John did not say that he causeth all to receive a number in the right hand or forehead. This astute prophet could have certainly delineated between a series of numbers, and an unexplained stamp or mark. . .

The same Electronic Eye which scans the UPC marks [barcodes] will in the near future scan the marks that will be required to be inserted on the body. . .

While some specifics remain vague, of this we are certain: All commerce will be conducted in the near future with a number, a name, or an identifying mark in the hand or forehead. **It is my sincere deduction that the 'mark of the beast' will not be the insertion of numbers per se on the body, but of vertical lines which will represent encoded messages and digits. "**

(Mary Stewart Relfe, *When Your Money Fails The "666" System" is Here*, 1981, pp. 56,57,58)

Mary Stewart Relfe, The New Money System 666, 1982

"The Prophet John identified this Cashless System of Commerce 1900 years ago as one in which business would be transacted with a 'Mark' and a Number; **the Mark will obviously be a Bar Code**; the Number will be '666;' the combination of the two, about which you will read in this book, will be an integral part of the '666 System'. . .

RECEIVING OF ONE'S OWN VOLITION THE MARK (BRAND) IN THE RIGHT HAND OR FOREHEAD; **which I believe will be a Bar Code** facsimile incorporating a concealed use of '666,' unintelligible to the eye.. . ." Mary Stewart Relfe, *The New Money System 666*, 1982, pp. xii, 206)

A bizarre coincident? concerning the barcode is the Greek word *charagma* translated 'mark' in Revelation. Here's how Robert Van Kampen, in *The Sign* describes this coincident:

"It is interesting to note that the Greek word translated 'mark' is *charagma* which comes from the Greek word *charax*, which means 'a palisade, like a picket fence.' When one realizes that this specific word was used back in the first century, and **we see today the use of the computer-related bar code**, we find the possibilities becoming more than a reality in our day and age." (Robert Van Kampen, *The Sign*, 1992, p. 231)

Here's the explanation: The Greek "root" word for *charagma* (translated "mark") is *charax*. One of the meanings of *charax* is "a palisade" which is like a "picket fence, or vertical lines". The "idea" is, the reason John used the Greek word *charagma*, rather than *stigma*, etc., is **because he was describing a 'mark' with vertical lines — a "bar code"**.

But is all this true?

Well, sort of. . .

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, defines the word *charagma* as:

5480 **charagma**, *khar'-ag-mah*; **from the same as 5482 (charax)** a scratch or etching, i.e. stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (*statue*): — graven, mark.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, defines the "root" word *charax* as:

5482 **charax**, *khar'-az* from **charasso** (to sharpen to a point; akin to 1125 through the idea of *scratching*); a stake, i.e. (by impl.) a **palisade** or **rampant** (military mound for circumvallation in a siege):—trench.

Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language (a must have for any serious Bible student!) defines **palisade** as:

PALISADE, A fence or fortification consisting of a row of stakes or posts sharpened and set firmly in the ground. In fortification, the posts are set two or three inches apart, parallel to the parapet in the covered way, to prevent a surprize.

Does all this "prove" John is describing a "barcode"?

No. Of course not. It's a long and rocky road to travel from "charagma" to a "barcode".

Is the barcode the mark of the beast?

Probably not.

A bar code would make a poor candidate for the mark of the beast for the following reasons:

1. The mark is described specifically in Rev. 14:11 as "the mark of his name". Even the wildest imagination would have a very hard time turning a "barcode" into "the mark of his name".
2. In the world of "high-level" security and identification, a barcode is not reliable enough. The reason for the "self-check" digit on the barcode is the probability of the scanner misreading the barcode. The next time you go through the grocery line count how many "beeps" or misreads the cashier gets.
3. Because the human skin stretches, it would be virtually impossible to get the precision needed for a "reliable" barcode. The skin continually stretches with age, weight, wetness, sun exposure, etc.
4. There is much more reliable and easier to implement technology than barcodes, such as biometric IDs or even biochips.
5. A barcode does not match the Bible's description of the Mark of the Beast. See [What is 666: The Mark of the Beast?](#) for more info.

Porter Lee Corporation has invented a barcode system for the identifying and recording evidence for law enforcement officers. The title of the system is interesting — BEAST — Bar coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking.

A fascinating development took place recently. On March 2, 1999, patent 5,878,155 was issued to Houston inventor Thomas W. Heeter described as a "Method for verifying human identity during electronic sale transactions".

Heeter's patent "abstract" reads:

"A method is presented for facilitating sales transactions by electronic media. A **bar code** or a design is tattooed on an individual. Before the sales transaction can be consummated, the tattoo is scanned with a scanner.

Characteristics about the scanned tattoo are compared to characteristics about other tattoos stored on a computer database in order to verify the identity of the buyer. Once verified, the seller may be authorized to debit the buyer's electronic bank account in order to consummate the transaction. The seller's electronic bank account may be similarly updated."

Heeter's invention is aimed toward the booming world of Internet E-commerce. In the very near future, many products will be purchased E-commerce via the Internet. WorldNet Daily writes, ". . . Internet e-commerce figures spiraling upward, and the European market expected to surpass the U.S. online community in a couple of years, potential sales online have been projected to reach nearly \$1 trillion by 2003." (WorldNet Daily, September 30, 1999)

Is the barcode paving the road to 666: the Mark of the Beast?

Yes. The barcode undoubtedly is paving the road for 666: the Mark of the Beast.

The barcode did something very important to help bring in 666: The mark of the Beast. . .

The barcode opened the door (in fact, it not only opened it, it kicked the door down) to the "digital world". Everything is now a number. Everything gets a barcode. As someone truly said, "If it exists, bar code it". I remember when barcodes first started appearing. I began telling people back then, the barcode was preparing the world for 666: the Mark of the Beast. Was I ever laughed at. . . even by the Christians. I can still remember their laughing and ridicule, "You mean to tell me, everything is getting one of those "marks". You mean, I'll go even to the local "7-Eleven" and they'll have laser scanners and they'll scan these "marks". No way. It would be too obvious what was happening. Everybody would know the mark of the beast is coming".

But isn't it amazing 25 years later. . . and nobody gives the "mysterious" barcodes even a "second thought".

Satan very carefully and subtly (see Genesis 3:1 and 2 Cor. 11:3) indoctrinated us to our wonderful, convenient, new "digital world".

And the road to 666 is just ahead. . .