

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF

# BARCODES

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Barcodes have been around for two generations, and as technology has progressed their use has increased exponentially.

1948



The First barcode was invented by **Norman J Woodland and Bernard Silver**. It featured a bullseye design.

1952



Woodland and Silver receive a **patent for their invention**, however technology hurdles made it impractical

1973



The **Committee on Uniform Grocery Product Code** recommends barcodes be used on most products in U.S.

1960s



The Association of American Railroads sponsors the **KarTrak Barcode System**, The size of a refrigerator featuring 13 horizontal labels.

1974



On June 26, 1974, a pack of Wrigley's gum became the **first commercially-scanned UPC barcode**



1974

The **Code 39** is invented, becoming the first alphanumeric barcode technology

1982



The first **charge coupled device (CCD) scanner** is introduced, paving the way for widespread adoption of barcode scanning technology

1975



90% of all US rail cars carry **KarTrak labels**, although the program would be abandoned 3 years later.

1986



The first **handheld fixed-beam laser scanner** is patented.

1999



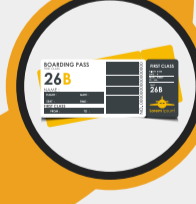
The two-dimensional **QR code** is unveiled in Japan

2008



Mobile phones gain the required technology to be able to display barcodes

2005



Airlines begin **printing barcodes on passenger boarding passes** to speed up the process.

2016



Scanning using the normal camera on mobile phones and tablets reaches performance parity with earlier laser scanners.

## Sources:

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