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## Introduction

DateDecode™ is the perfect companion for anyone who frequents garage sales, antique auctions, car auctions, etc. It allows you to determine the date of an item and assists you in making a more informed decision about the purchase or sale. DateDecode™ includes three different tools for determining the date and a built-in database for recording the items you have found. Those tools are: VIN Decoder, Patent Date and Roman numeral conversion.

### **Features:**

- VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) decoder - For over 30 years, all vehicles sold in the US have affixed a VIN number. This VIN number is more than just a serial number; it actually holds information about the vehicle itself. DateDecode™ can translate this number into useful information such as: Year the vehicle was manufactured, the country of origin, the manufacturer and even the sequence number off the assembly line! Not only can DateDecode™ decode the values, but it also validates the VIN Number entered is correct by calculating and validating the Check Digit. This makes DateDecode™ useful for Car dealers, insurance agents and law enforcement to verify the VIN number is correct. For newer cars, you can use a PalmOS device with an integrated barcode scanner (such as the Symbol SPT 17xx/18xx/15xx or CSM Series scanners) to automatically enter/decode the VIN from the barcode.
- Patent Date - By entering an items Patent number DateDecode™ can calculate the year the patent was issued. DateDecode™ supports U.S. patent dates from 1836-1999, including U.S. Utility Patents, U.S. Design Patents (Prefix of "D") and U.S. Reissue Patents (Prefix of "RE"). Simply select the type of patent you wish to decode, key it into the keypad and click 'Date It'!
- Roman Numeral conversion - On many antiques the date is commonly stated in roman numerals. With DateDecode™ you simply key in the Roman numeral, tap the 'Date It' button and date is converted to the numeric equivalent. You can also convert between Roman and numbers.
- Also included is a useful ItemPad feature. This feature allows you to easily save the most recently dated items directly on the handheld. When decoding a Patent number, VIN or Roman numeral you have the option of saving that information. When you do, the date (and age) of the item is calculated and a record saved to the database. You may then recall that information at anytime using ItemPad. You can also enter additional details about the item such as Cost, Price Paid, Purchased From, Qty, Condition and notes about the item.

## **PalmOS Installation**

Memory Requirements: Approx. 225k  
PalmOS Versions Supported: 3.1-5.2.x

The file you received was likely in the form of a .zip file. Open the zip file and run 'Setup.exe' to start the installer. If you are running Linux or some other operating system, you may install the 'DateDecode.prc' file directly using your sync software. The Windows installer is simply for convenience and not a requirement for installation.

After launching 'Setup.exe', follow the prompts and install to the handheld username (or Hotsync name).

Next, Hotsync your handheld to download the program to your device.

## **PocketPC Installation**

Memory Requirements: Approx 2Mb  
Versions Supported: PPC 2002+

The file you received was likely in the form of a .zip file. Open the zip file and run 'Setup.exe' to start the installer. Please follow the prompts to complete the installation process to your handheld.

## **Registration**

The Trial download you received is fully functional for 7 days and the ItemPad is limited to 5 entries. If you would like to register your copy of DateDecode™, simply tap the "Registration Info" button in the applications about screen to see where to purchase your copy. Once you purchase your copy you will receive an unlock key from us that will turn your trial copy into the full version (no additional download will be necessary).

## Using the VIN Decoder

This section of the document describes how to use the VIN Decoder. If you have a handheld with a barcode scanning device such as a Symbol SPT/CSM series, or the Socket In-Hand barcode scanner (using a button mapped to trigger the scanner), then you will be able to enter the VIN Number using the barcode scanner. If you don't have a scanner, DateDecode™ includes a useful keypad for easily tapping in the VIN directly from the car.

The VIN Number (or Vehicle Identification Number) is typically visible through the driver-side outside window on the dash. Sometimes there will be a barcode inside the driver-side door that also may be used for scanning / typing the VIN number into DateDecode™.

### Entering the VIN

- 1) Tap the "Date by VIN" option from the main DateDecode™ screen.
- 2) Tap in the VIN number exactly as you see it from the vehicle. You can also use a barcode scanner, graffiti, or keypad.
- 3) Tap the "Date It" button to decode the VIN.
- 4) You'll quickly receive a response letting you know the Year, Manufacturer, Country Mfg. and production sequence. Here you may select "OK" or "Save" to save the record to the ItemPad. Within ItemPad, you may also enter additional information about the item. There is also a very useful Note section (Yellow icon) where you can record free-form notes about the item.

## Using the Patent Date

This tool will help you identify the possible age for an item. In many cases, the date that a patent was issued is close to the date the item was manufactured. This of course varies by item. If no other markings are on an item this tool can provide a useful assessment. In any case, what the patent issue date will tell you is that the item was manufactured no earlier than the date listed. This alone is a valuable piece of information when dealing with antiques.

### ***Entering a Patent number***

- 1) Tap the "Date by Patent" option from the main DateDecode™ screen.
- 2) Select the type of Patent you wish to decode. There are three possibilities: U.S. Utility Patent (No prefix), U.S. Design Patent (Prefixed with a D), or a U.S. Reissue Patent (Prefixed with a "RE").
- 3) Tap in the Patent number into the keypad.
- 4) Tap the "Date It" button to determine the patent issue date.
- 5) You may now tap "OK" to return back to the Patent Date keypad or tap "Save" to save this item to ItemPad.

The image shows a software keypad for entering patent numbers. At the top, there's a title bar with 'Patent Date' and a 'BACK' button. Below that, a dropdown menu shows 'Patent Type: ▼ U.S. Utility Patent'. A text box in the center contains the number '3952145'. Below the text box are two buttons: 'CLR' (blue) and 'Back Space' (red). Below these is a numeric keypad with buttons for digits 0 through 9. At the bottom right of the keypad is a large green button labeled 'Decode'.

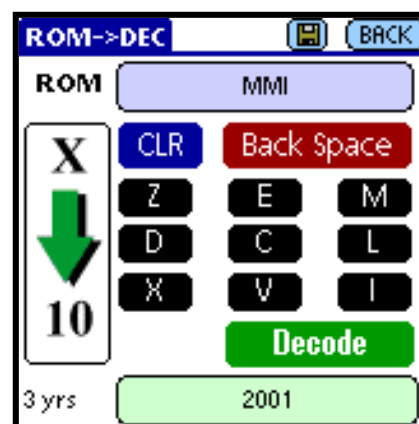
## Using the Roman Numerals Converter

On many old items the date is stated in Roman numerals. Accurately decoding the roman numerals can be a challenge. With this tool, you will be able to more accurately determine the date of an item by typing it into the keypad and letting the program tell you exactly what year the item was manufactured.

As an added bonus, DateDecode™ also allows you to convert from Decimal to Roman. This allows you full conversion between decimal and Roman numerals. To toggle between the two, simply click the image on the left of the form (X - > 10 or 10>X).

### Entering the Roman numeral

- 1) Select the "Date by Roman" tool from the main DateDecode™ screen.
  - 2) Tap in the year such as "MMI" and tap "DateDecode™"
  - 3) You will then see the year show up on the bottom area along with the number of years that have elapsed since the item was manufactured (3 years in the example above).
  - 4) If you wish to save this item, tap the save image to the left of the "Back" button.
- 1) \*NOTE - You can automatically toggle the entry of the converted number between Roman<>Decimal by tapping the year "2001" (in the example above). This will switch the calculation from Roman->Decimal to Decimal->Roman and enter the Decimal number for you.







## **Technical Support**

FREE E-mail technical support is available to registered customers at [support@wagware.com](mailto:support@wagware.com) or via [sales@wagware.com](mailto:sales@wagware.com).