



Speck, David W. (2010) *untitled*. ASCII encoded English text, ECMA-10 hand punched paper tape. 1 x 19 inches. London.

Punched paper tape is one of the few high density information storage mediums that are easily written and read by both human and machine. It was originally developed in the 19th Century for storing weaving patterns and is now considered to be obsolete. ECMA-10 is the European standard for punched tape used for data interchange. ECMA-10 requires the use of ECMA-6 for encoding text; however, the encoding used on this tape is the more limited yet widespread American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII).

This tape contains instructions for the generation of an artwork. They are easily followed by a suitably skilled reader. A suitably equipped machine would be able to read the instructions yet may be unable to follow them as it is unlikely that it understands the English language. Although the machine may face difficulty in following the instructions, it can easily read, decode and transmit them, which is of great use to someone who is unable to read ECMA-10 ASCII encoded punched paper tapes.

David W. Speck, London, 2014.