

# From Charge Plates to Digital Wallets: A Journey through the Evolution of Credit Cards

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**Abstract:** *Although credit systems have existed since ancient times, the credit cards we use today are a modern American invention. Western Union began issuing metal plates in 1918 that were similar to modern credit cards and allowed customers to postpone payments. However, these plates have drawbacks. While the Diner's Club, established in 1949 by Frank McNamara and Ralph Schneider, introduced a broader concept of credit cards, the 1946 "Charg-It card" rendered them outdated. The Interbank Card Association (ITC) introduced Mastercard in 1966, and Bank of America issued its first bank credit cards in 1958. American Express first offered plastic credit cards in 1959, and in the 2010s, EMV chip cards improved security.*

**Keywords:** Credit cards, Plastic money, Charge plates, Digital payments.

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