Figure 8.11   *Section of an activity diagram illustrating the use of the multiplicity symbol * to indicate repetition of an activity*
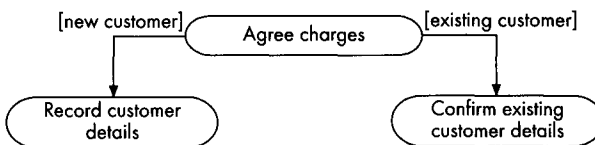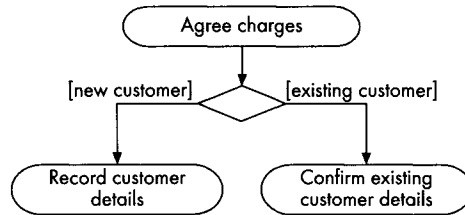

Figure 8.12   *Two versions of part of Figure 8.5, with and without the diamond decision symbol*

Partitioning the diagram. A subset of related activities on a diagram can be enclosed and labelled as shown in Figure 8.13, where the activities concerning the handling of customer details are represented as a subsection of the main diagram with its own start and stop states.

Partitioning an activity diagram in this way can help the readability of the overall diagram, and also supports reuse, since this subsection of the main diagram can be reused in any activity diagram which includes handling customer details.

Object flows. It is often useful to include in an activity diagram information about the input that an activity needs from a specific object, or how an object is affected by the output from an activity. In this way the processing represented in an activity diagram can be linked to its input and outputs.

Sometimes the name of an object is used as the name of an activity as in Figure 8.14.

Usually, however, the links between activities and objects are shown by including the relevant objects in the activity diagram, together with object flows to or from the associated activity. If an object provides input for an activity, an object flow (dashed arrow)