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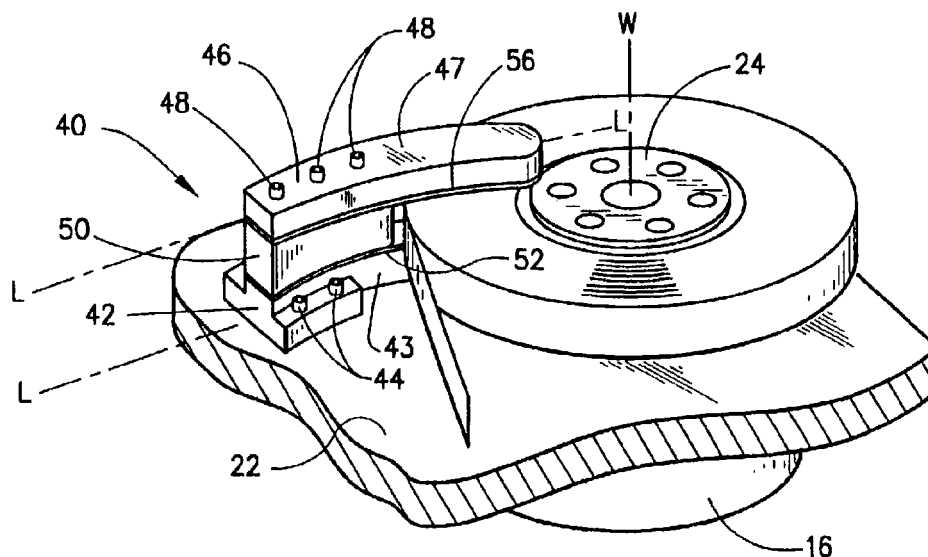
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(54) Title: GUIDE PACKING RECORDING MEDIA ALONG WITH CARTRIDGES AND APPARATUS INCORPORATING SUCH GUIDES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for winding a tape medium comprises a hub supported by a frame for wrappingly receiving the tape medium. A drive engages the hub and rotably drives it about a wind axis whereby a length of the tape medium is wound to form a spool-like tape pack with a portion of the tape medium entering the tape pack at a tangential nip and with the tape pack having opposite first and second surfaces. A packing arm includes a proximal end portion at the hub and extends to a distal end portion at the circumference of the tape pack. The packing arm has a contact surface for contacting the first surface of the tape pack. A support member supports the packing arm in contact with the first surface of the tape pack. A tape reel assembly for mounting to and demounting from a tape drive apparatus is also provided.

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