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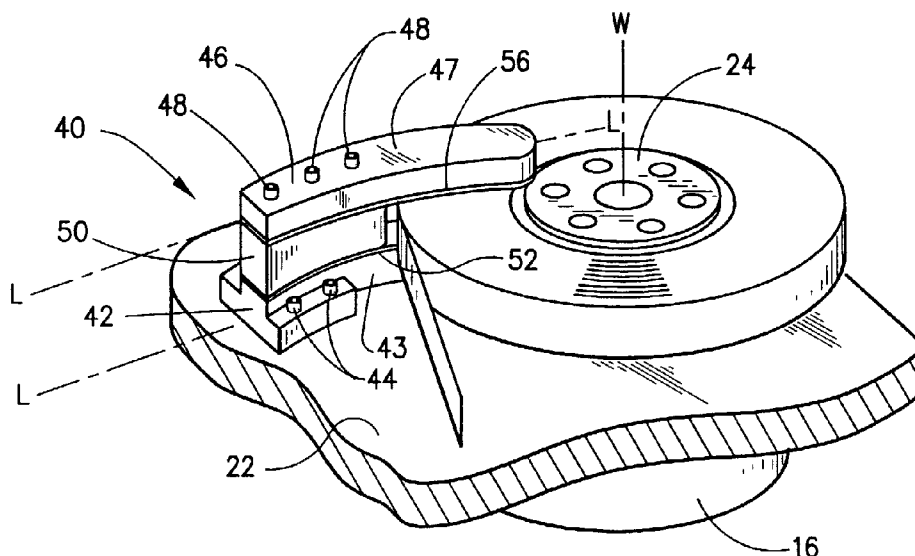
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(54) Title: GUIDE PACKING RECORDING MEDIA



(57) **Abstract:** An apparatus for winding a tape medium comprises a hub (24) supported by a frame (22) for wrappingly receiving the tape medium (14). A drive (16) engages the hub and rotably drives it about a wind axis (W) 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 (62) and second (66) surfaces. A packing arm (43, 47) includes a proximal end portion (70, 72) at the hub and extends to a distal end portion (74, 76) 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 (42, 46) 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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