

01 MAY 2003

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISK SHOCK PROTECTION

ABSTRACT

A data storage device (12) includes a disk (14) having a surface zone for storing data, and an access head (18) mounted on a slider (20) for writing data to and reading data from the data zone. The head (18) flies across the data zone to access selected data tracks during spinning of the disk (14). And, the slider (20) seeks a predetermined shock buffer zone atop the spinning disk (14), where critical data is not stored, during an idle mode for confining thereto any shock induced contact between the slider (20) and disk surface.

Fig. 1



G00002



162162