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**MAGNETIC SPIN VALVE SENSOR HAVING AN EXCHANGE STABILIZATION
LAYER RECESSED FROM THE ACTIVE TRACK EDGE**

ABSTRACT

A magnetic spin valve sensor (400) is provided which has antiparallel coupled end tabs (422, 424) to magnetically stabilize the free layer (406). The antiparallel coupled bias stabilization tabs (422,424) include antiferromagnetic layers (420,436) which are laterally recessed from the ends of the ferromagnetic bias layers (410,426). A disk drive is provided having the novel spin valve sensor as the read element.

FIG. 4