

Abstract**TEXTURING OF DATA RECORDING SLIDERS**

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A method of forming a textured surface region on a slider for a data storage assembly, includes providing a heat-texturable layer (32) on the slider (2), and directing electro-magnetic energy at the layer to heat and thereby cause flow in the layer. This is effective to texture the layer to form surface roughness (22,37,36) which provides an air bearing surface for the slider. The surface roughness includes one or more raised elements (22,37,36) defining rounded contact surface segments to provide controlled contact with a moveable surface of a data storage element, and to reduce stiction and friction between the slider and the surface of the data storage element during start up and seeking operations of the slider. Also disclosed is a slider for a data storage assembly.

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(Figure 1)