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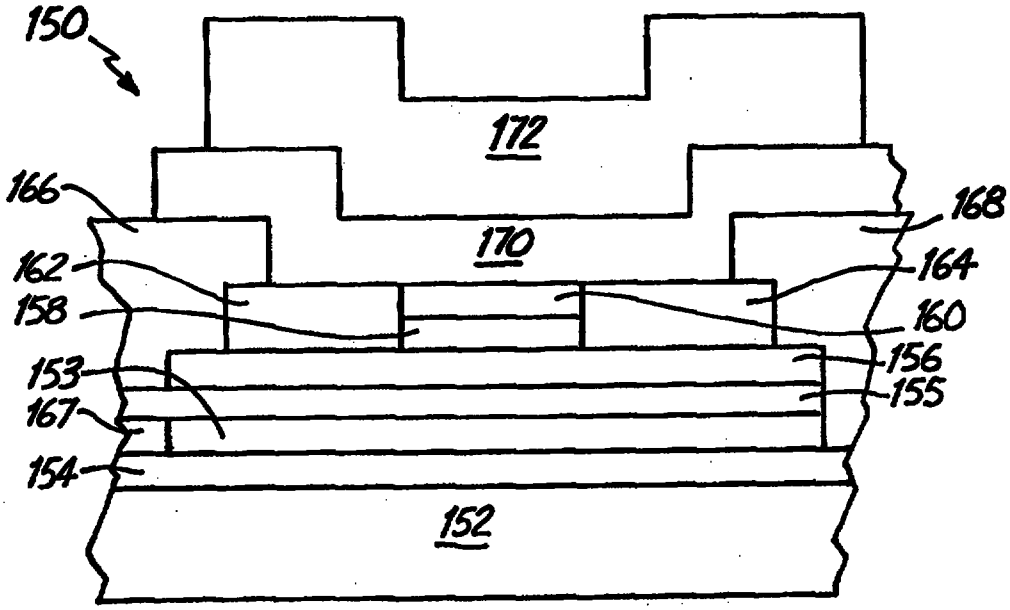
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(57) Abstract

A reader portion (150) of a magnetoresistive head is disclosed. The reader portion (150) includes a magnetoresistive read element (156) for reading information from a magnetic media (216) and a non–magnetic element (153) to detect and cancel thermal changes in the read head. A spacer (155) is positioned between the magnetoresistive read element (156) and the non–magnetic element (153). A plurality of electrical contacts (166, 167, 168) connect the magnetoresistive read element (156) and the non–magnetic element (153) to external circuitry.