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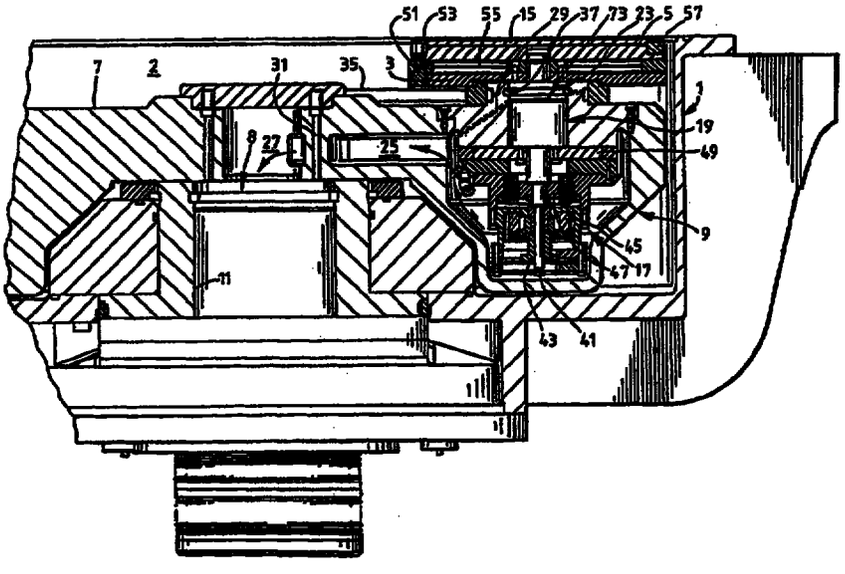
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(54) Title: A VACUUM APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

A vacuum apparatus particularly suitable for disk recording systems has a rotatable shaft (73) mounted on a support body by an air bearing (19), the air bearing (19) being provided within a vacuum chamber (2). A second rotatable shaft (8) extends through the wall of the vacuum chamber (2) in which it is mounted by a second air bearing (11). The second shaft (8) has a hollow centre (27) which communicates with an output of the air bearing (19) for removal of air exhausting from the air bearing (19). The air bearing (19) may be provided within a second chamber (9) within the vacuum chamber (2) and may be movable relative to the axis of the second shaft (8). In a disk recording system, the air bearing (19) may support a turntable (3).