

ABSTRACT:**TITLE: A LASER CLEANING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

A laser cleaning apparatus for cleaning a magnetic head slider, the apparatus comprising: a laser generator for generating a number of laser beam pulses having a predetermined laser fluence selected at a level below the damage threshold of a magnetic head slider to be cleaned; and means for directing the laser beam onto the slider to be cleaned. There is also disclosed a method of cleaning a magnetic head slider comprising the steps of: generating a number of laser beam pulses having a predetermined laser fluence selected at a level below the damage threshold of the magnetic head slider to be cleaned; and directing the laser beam onto the slider to be cleaned.

[FIGURE 1]