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(54) Title: FOUR CHANNEL AZIMUTH AND TWO CHANNEL NON-AZIMUTH READ-AFTER-WRITE LONGITUDINAL MAGNETIC HEAD		
(57) Abstract A read-after-write head (100) for four channel azimuth recording in one mode of operation and two channel non-azimuth recording in another mode of operation. Four forward write head gaps (104, 106, 108, 110), four read head gaps (120, 122, 124, 126), and four backward write head gaps (112, 114, 116, 118) are geometrically positioned within a rotatable and laterally indexable face plate (102) of a recording head housing. The read and write head gaps collectively provide four forward write channels, four read channels, and four backward write channels. During the azimuth mode of operation, the head is rotated to the preselected positive or negative azimuth angle and all of the read and write channels are utilized. During the non-azimuth, or vertical, mode of operation, write channels two and four are used in combination with read channels one and three to provide two channel non-azimuth, or vertical, operation.		