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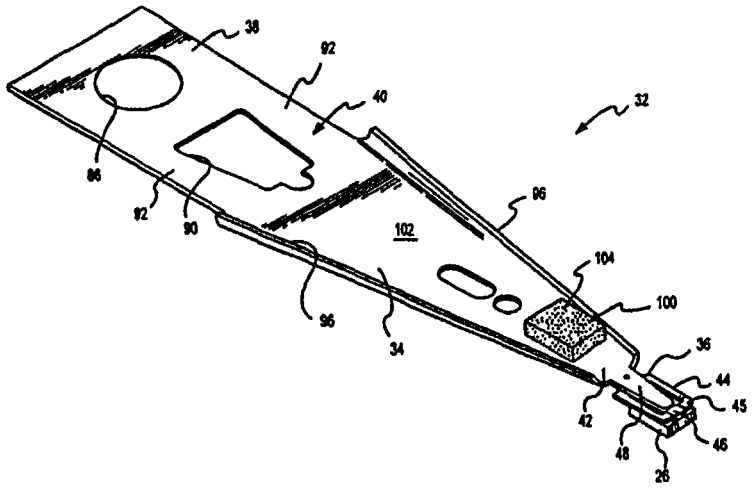


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(54) Title: DISC DRIVE ANTI-SHOCK SUSPENSION CUSHIONS



(57) Abstract

A suspension for connecting a slider to an actuator arm of a disc drive includes a cushion extending vertically from the suspension. The cushion limits vertical excursions and dampens motion of the suspension during a shock event to better maintain the slider in contact with a disc surface in the disc drive. The cushion can be formed as an external feature attached to the suspension, such as a foam or plastic cushion, or as an integral feature of the suspension. A disc drive assembly having a plurality of discs includes a first suspension and a first cushion extending vertically downward toward a second suspension. The second suspension may include a second cushion extending vertically upward toward the first suspension. The first cushion and one of the second suspension or the second cushion are spaced apart by a predetermined distance under normal operating conditions and engage one another to limit vertical excursions and dampen motion of the first and second suspensions when the disc drive undergoes a shock event.

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