

DISK DRIVE HEAD ASSEMBLY

ABSTRACT

A data recording disk drive a low-flying air-bearing slider that is also able to be in contact and near contact with the lubricant film on the disk. The slider (20) has a front air-bearing surface in the form of a pair of equally-spaced air-bearing pads (25, 27) a rear air-bearing pad (29), and a central nonair-bearing recessed surface (28) which separates the front and rear air-bearing pads. The two front pads have a surface area greater than that of the rear pad and thus provide a positive pitch up of the slider. This causes the rear pad to also be pitched up so that air can flow beneath the rear pad to generate an air bearing in the rear portion of the slider. The presence of the central nonair-bearing region eliminates any lift in the central part of the slider, which allows for the low-flying.

Fig. 4