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FLEX SUPPORT AND SEAL APPARATUS FOR A DISC DRIVE

ABSTRACT

The flex circuit support and apparatus (148) comprises a flex circuit (150) with a conductor portion (154), a rigid dielectric support bracket (156), and a compressible, deformable resilient dielectric gasket seal (174), and extends through a connector aperture (162) of a basedeck (104). The support bracket (156) has a base portion (158) and a connector portion (160) vertically extending bi-directionally from the base portion (158). The gasket seal (174) is secured between the basedeck 104 and the support bracket (156). The connector portion 160 supports the conductor portion (154) of the flex circuit (150) and extends through the connector aperture (162). The support bracket and the attached flex circuit (150) is secured to the basedeck (104) in a conventional manner through the use of fasteners (161. The flex circuit support and seal apparatus (148) conducts electrical signals between read/write heads (132) of the disc drive (100) and an electrical spring connector on a printed circuit board (152). The support bracket (156) may include a flex circuit tensioning portion (166) and a strain relief portion (168). The flex circuit (150) may be attached to stiffener (146, 186) and to wire routing channels. The assembly may include a seal (212) having a nest portion (216) for sealingly fitting into a nesting portion (236) in the basedeck (104).

FIGURE 3



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