

ABSTRACT

PERPENDICULAR MAGNETIC HEAD HAVING MODIFIED SHAPING LAYER FOR DIRECT PLATING OF MAGNETIC POLE PIECE

A magnetic head of the present invention includes a first magnetic pole that is exposed at
5 the air bearing surface of the magnetic head and a second magnetic pole shaping layer that is not
exposed at the air bearing surface. A layer of non-magnetic material is fabricated between the
air bearing surface and the shaping layer, where the non-magnetic material is also electrically
conductive. The pole tip of the magnetic head is electroplated on top of the non-magnetic
electrically conductive material subsequent to the fabrication of the shaping layer, and in
10 magnetic flux communication with the shaping layer.