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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP97/03285 (22) International Filing Date: 23 June 1997 (23.06.97) (30) Priority Data: 96401433.6 28 June 1996 (28.06.96) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: DE et al. (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DEUTSCHE THOMSON BRANDT [DE/DE]; Göttinger Chaussee 76, D-30433 Hanover 91 (DE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KAADEN, Jürgen [DE/FR]; Thomson Multimedia, 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne Cedex (FR). OLDERMANN, Klaus [DE/FR]; Thomson Multimedia, 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne Cedex (FR). (74) Agent: ZHANG, Jianguo; Thomson Multimedia, 46, quai Alphonse Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne Cedex (FR).		(81) Designated States: JP, KR, NO, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report.
(54) Title: MULTITRACK TAPE DEVICE USING A MOVABLE MAGNETIC HEAD WITH A PLANAR SURFACE AND COMPRISING TAPE SUPPORTING MEANS		
(57) Abstract The invention relates to a tape recorder and/or playback device for a multitrack tape. The device comprises a magnetic head (13) having active parts for recording and/or reading microtracks, the active parts being arranged in a two-dimensional matrix within a substantially planar surface of the magnetic head and pressure means (16) assuring contact between the microtracks (2) and the active parts by acting on a back side surface of the tape (11) opposite to the front side surface the magnetic head is on. Means for moving allow to position the magnetic head in front of either one of at least two macrotracks bundling addressed microtracks. Means for supporting a portion of the tape surface adjacent to the macrotrack bundling the addressed microtracks prevent unwanted tape deformation. 		