9705159-3
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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G11B 5/54, 21/22 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/36045

(43) International Publication Date: 14 November 1996 (14.11.96)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/06261

(22) International Filing Date: 3 May 1996 (03.05.96)

(30) Priority Data:
08/438,254 10 May 1995 (10.05.95) US

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(81) Designated States: CA, JP, SG, 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: HEAD LOADING MECHANISM FOR A DISK DRIVE

(57) Abstract

A head loading mechanism (10) for a removable cartridge disk drive comprises a support base (32) fixedly mounted in the drive, and a movable member (12) movably attached to the support base (32) via a pair of elongate flexures (28, 30). The movable member (12) has a ramped surface (14a, 14b, 16a, 16b) adapted to engage a suspension arm (52, 54) at the distal end of an actuator (41). A read/write head (56, 58) is mounted on the suspension arm (52, 54). The movable member (12) moves upon the flexures (28, 30) in tandem with the actuator (41) as it moves toward and away from the edge of a disk (62, 64) in the drive. The movable member (12) carries the suspension arm (52, 54) of the actuator (41) to the edge of the disk (62, 64), at which point the suspension arm (52, 54) can ride up and down the ramped surface (14a, 14b, 16a, 16b) of the movable member (12) in order to load the read/write head (56, 58) onto the surface of the disk (62, 64) and then subsequently unload the read/write head (56, 58).

