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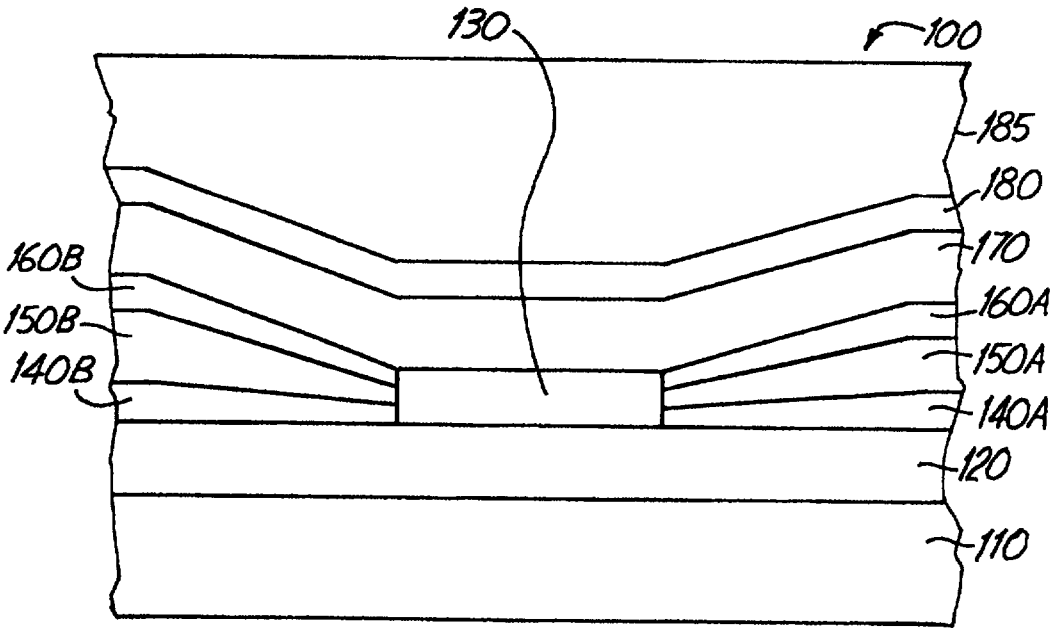
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(54) Title: DUAL LAYER MAGNETIC EXCHANGE STABILIZATION FOR MR HEADS



(57) Abstract

A magnetoresistive (MR) head (100) for use in a data storage system is disclosed. The MR head includes an MR sensor layer (170) and a soft adjacent layer (SAL) (120) disposed along a length of the MR sensor layer and adapted to vertically bias the MR sensor layer. A spacer layer (130) is formed between the MR sensor layer and the SAL in a central region (200) of the MR head. The MR sensor layer and the SAL are independently stabilized by first and second permanent magnet (PM) layers (160, 140) each formed in contact with one of the SAL and the MR sensor layer in first and second wing regions (210, 220) of the MR head. This allows a layer of low resistivity material (150) to be placed between the first and second PM layers in the first and second wing regions in order to lower the resistance of the MR head.