

UNITARY MAGNETIC TRANSDUCER AND SUSPENSION STRUCTURE
FOR LONGITUDINAL OPERATION

DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to a unitary magnetic transducer and
 5 suspension structure and the production and use thereof for longitudinal
 operation.

Moving magnetic storage devices, especially disk drives, are fast
 becoming the memory device of choice. This is due to their expanded
 nonvolatile memory storage capability together with a relatively low
 10 cost. Accurate retrieval of the stored information from these devices is
 essential and requires a transducer to be positioned as close to a
 storage media as possible. In some instances it is desirable that the
 transducer should touch the media.

Disk files are information storage devices which use at least one
 15 rotatable disk with concentric data tracks containing data information.
 A unitary transducer-slider-suspension assembly includes a transducer for
 reading the data from or writing the data to the various tracks, a slider
 for holding the transducer adjacent to the track generally in a flying
 mode above the media, and a suspension for resiliently holding the slider
 20 and the transducer over the tracks. A positioning actuator connects to
 the unitary structure to move the transducer to the desired track and
 maintains the transducer over the track centre line during a read or a
 write operation. The transducer is attached to the air bearing slider
 which supports the transducer close to the track by a cushion of air that
 25 is generated by the rotating disk. However, the transducer may be placed
 in contact with the disk. The suspension provides a high spring
 stiffness and dimensional stability between the slider and the actuator
 arm. The suspension is required to maintain the transducer and the
 slider next to the data surface of the disk with as low a loading force
 30 as possible. The actuator is controlled for positioning the transducer
 over the correct track according to the data desired on a read operation
 or to the correct track for placement of the data during a write
 operation.

In conventional disk drives, the transducer and its slider are
 35 formed separately from the suspension and then attached through an



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operator controlled precision operation. The parts are small and the positioning of each element relative to the other must be exact. The transducer must be exactly positioned over the track which in turn means that the suspension must be exactly positioned onto the slider. The
5 suspension must provide flexibility and pitch and roll motion for the slider in the direction of rotation of the disk and yet provide resistance to yaw motion. Any error in the placement of the suspension on the slider is detrimental to performance and durability of a storage device using such a structure. Even if the suspension and the slider are
10 correctly positioned, the conductor leads to the transducer must then be connected to the transducer. The conductor leads are generally directed along the suspension and connected to an amplifier placed on the suspension or the actuator. The conductor leads must not add to the spring stiffness of the slider while providing good electrical
15 interconnection.

Generally, the conductor leads are bonded by soldering, for instance, to both the transducer output and the amplifier by an operator. Again, errors can cause destruction of the entire unitary structure.

Contact or touching the media by the transducer/slider structure or
20 head presents unique problems in wear and the possibility of creating a "crash" of the media. To reduce the wear problem and "crash" potential, it has been recognized that the mass of the suspension system must be reduced. The lower mass reduces the physical contact the head has upon the media and thereby reduces the possibility of damage and of wear.

25 To this end there have been disclosed a variety of mechanisms which use a "reed" approach to producing a transducer in conjunction with a suspension. Structured to work in a perpendicular recording environment, the reed device allows the head and suspension to be easily manufactured having: (i) precise throat height control, (ii) precise contact
30 recording transducer placement or the formation of air bearings to achieve specified flying heights, (iii) bonding of sliders to suspensions, and, (iv) easy routing of conductor leads. Some structures, as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,041,932 to Hamilton, for example, have included a horizontal transducer with a horizontal first pole piece and a
35 horizontal second pole piece which includes a vertical component that forms a magnetic gap in spaced relationship with the first pole piece.

As noted above, contact recording permits higher signals and greater resolution unregulated by variations in flying height. Unfortunately, the wear associated with contact recording, generally estimated to be 400 microinches over the file life, is usually not acceptable. A further disadvantage of contact recording is that the "reed" type of head is suitable only for perpendicular recording and is not suitable for longitudinal media. All of this has made the perpendicular recording head of the above design unsuitable for high density recording.

10 An object of the present invention is to provide a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a magnetic moving storage device having a head structure that includes a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure.

15 Yet another object of the present invention to create a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure which is suitable for longitudinal recording.

It is another object of the present invention to make such a longitudinal head resistant to wear and to variations in contact pad contours.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure comprising a first pole piece having a poletip; a second pole piece having first and second components, said first component being disposed substantially parallel and adjacent to said first pole piece, said second component having a poletip disposed substantially perpendicular and adjacent to the poletip of the first pole piece and forming a magnetic gap therebetween; the first and second pole pieces being magnetically connected at a back gap region and magnetically isolated at the poletips by said magnetic gap; a coil electrically isolated from but magnetically coupled to the first and second pole pieces and encircling the first component of the second pole piece; and a suspension section of resilient material adjacent to the first component of the second pole piece and electrically and magnetically isolated from said second pole piece and coil, the resilient material extending beyond the back gap region.



According to another aspect, the present invention provides a disk drive assembly, including a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure, said drive assembly further comprising a housing; a rigid platter mounted in said housing having means for storing data in tracks
5 provided thereon; means for rotating said rigid platter in said housing; an actuator arm positioned in said housing and operable to place a free end in proximity to one track of said rigid platter; means for positioning said actuator arm adjacent to a particular track on said rigid platter; the unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure
10 being mounted to the free end of said positioning means.

According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a method for making a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure comprising the steps of forming a contact region on a substrate;
15 forming a release layer on said substrate; forming a first pole piece of a magnetic material on said formed release layer and said contact region; forming a backgap member on said formed first pole piece; forming a wear resistant layer on said formed first pole piece and along a distance for a suspension section; forming a magnetic and electrical isolation layer
20 on said formed wear resistant layer covering at least said first pole piece layer and extending the distance for the suspension section as a first suspension layer; forming a first one-half of a coil of an electrically conductive material on said formed isolation layer; forming a first electrical insulating layer covering at least said formed one-
25 half of the coil; forming a first of a second pole piece layer of a magnetic material on said formed insulating layer; forming a second electrical insulating layer covering at least said second pole piece layer; forming a second one-half of the coil of an electrically conductive material on said formed second electrical insulating layer,
30 the second one-half of the coil being electrically connected to said first one-half to form a complete coil; forming a magnetic and electrical isolation layer on said formed second one-half of the thin film coil and extending the distance for the suspension section as a second suspension layer; forming a second section of the second pole piece layer of a
35 magnetic material contacting a free end of said first second of said second pole piece layer thereby forming a magnetic gap between said second section of the second pole piece layer and the first pole piece;



forming a protective layer over said formed pole piece; and, releasing the substrate from said formed contact pad layer and said formed first pole piece layer by dissolving the release layer.

An embodiment of the present invention provides a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure for longitudinal recording which can be used for contact recording or for flying above the media. The transducer includes a horizontal first pole piece and a horizontal and vertical sectioned second pole piece. A magnetic gap is formed between the first pole piece and the vertical section of the second pole piece. The pole pieces are shaped to avoid magnetic saturation and to provide narrow poletips. The suspension is formed mainly from two layers. The first layer is an insulation layer that separates the first horizontal pole piece and the horizontal section of the second pole piece. The second layer is an insulation layer that covers and protects the transducer layers.

Hinkel et al, USP 4,624,048 discloses a process for making magnetic head substrates suitable for use with the present invention.

In the method of producing the unitary magnetic transducer and suspension struction, a plurality of contact pads of patterned photoresist is formed on the substrate in a row and column configuration. A release layer is then deposited on the substrate. A first pole piece is pattern formed in partial contact on each contact pad. A thick backgap layer of magnetic material is deposited on each first pole piece. A wear-resistant layer followed by a thick layer of electrical and magnetic insulative material is deposited. This layer forms part of the suspension portion of the unitary structure. This suspension film is lapped flat and an initial coil layer is formed on the suspension film for each pole piece. A second pole piece of magnetic layer is deposited for each first pole piece on an insulation layer at least partially covering the initial coil layer. An insulation layer covers the second pole piece layers, but permits contact to the initial coil layer. The coil circuit is then completed on this insulation layer along with conductor leads connected to the coil circuit. The conductor leads and subsequently deposited conducting studs provide the connection to the drive circuitry (not shown) for each transducer. A second thick layer of electrical and magnetic insulative material is then deposited to form the second and last part of the suspension portion of the unitary structure.



A top portion of this film is lapped away to allow electrical contact to the studs previously formed. Since the unitary structures are deposited on a wafer in rows and columns, each is then divided into a plurality of rows of unitary structures.

- 5 The end of the partial row structure is polished and a magnetic gap layer is deposited. A contact via is then formed in the magnetic gap layer to expose the second pole piece layer. A third pole piece of magnetic material is pattern deposited over each row to form the vertical section of the second pole piece. A protective overcoat may then be
- 10 deposited over the completed row of unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structures. Then the row is divided into a plurality of individual unitary structures. The substrate is next removed by dissolving or etching the release layer to leave a partially completed unitary structure. The unitary structure is completed by removing the
- 15 portions of the gap, third pole piece and final protective layer which extend below the original contact pad. Preferably, the suspension is created using layers of deposited alumina (Al_2O_3). The desired structure of the suspension is formed by cutting the alumina layers and then separating the shaped suspension from the substrate surface.
- 20 Removal of the substrate is preferably accomplished using a release layer.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

- Fig. 1 is a plan view of a magnetic recording mechanism having a
- 25 unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure attached for positioning to a rotary actuator in transducing relationship to a disk surface of a disk;

- Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure produced according to the present invention for use
- 30 with the disk drive as illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a substrate with a plurality of structures formed thereon in rows and columns for use in the process to build the unitary structure as shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 shows a cross sectional view taken along lines 4-4 of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a row of structures taken from the substrate of Fig. 3 and mounted for further processing;

5 Figs. 6A and 6B are cross sectioned views of embodiments of a transducer according to the present invention; and

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a transducer of the present invention without the insulation and conductor layers.

The preferred embodiments of the present invention are used in
10 large multiple disk drives but should also find use in the single disk drives used generally for personal computers, or any other type of media drives such as tape drives.

Referring to figure 1 there is shown a data recording disk file including a housing 8 in which is mounted a rotary actuator 10, an associated
15 magnetic storage disk 12 and a drive means 13 for rotating the disk 12. The rotary actuator 10 moves a unitary structure according to the present invention in an arcuate path over the disk 12. The rotary actuator 10 includes a voice coil motor, which comprises a coil 14 movable within the magnetic field of a fixed permanent magnet assembly having a core 16. An
20 actuator arm 20 is attached to the movable coil 14. The other end of the actuator arm 20 is attached to a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure 22 according to the present invention and produced according to the method setforth herein. The unitary structure 22 includes a transducer-slider segment 24 and a suspension section 26. The
25 suspension section 26 can support the transducer-slider segment 24 above the surface of the disk 12 on a bearing or cushion of air generated by the rotation of the disk 12. Preferably, the suspension section 26 supports the transducer-slider segment 24 in contact with the surface of disk 12. The air bearing or air bearing surface refers to the surface of
30 the transducer parallel and adjacent to the disk surface. It includes both configurations where the transducer is designed to fly above the disk, and where the transducer is designed to contact the recording media, the disk 12, during operation. The actuator arm 20 can include a plurality of arms with each arm supporting its own unitary structure 22,
35 each unitary structure 22 being associated with a surface of the disks

located in the data recording disk drive assembly. Therefore, for instance, the disk 12 can also have a unitary structure 22 mounted to the actuator arm 20 for association with the media surface on the underside of the disk 12. Further, other unitary structures are associated with
5 the top and bottom sides of other disks which may be included in the disk drive assembly, the transducer access of which is also controlled by the actuator 10.

The suspension section 26 of the unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure 22 provides a load to the transducer-slider segment
10 24 which is generally perpendicular to the surface of the disk 12. This perpendicular load maintains the transducer-slider segment 24 on or above the data surface of the disk 12. During rotation of the disk 12 by the drive means 13, the unitary structure 22 remains in contact with the disk 12 for reading or recording data. Alternatively, the unitary structure
15 22 can be designed to fly above the disk 12 using the lift or upwards force generated between the transducer-slider segment 24 and the disk 12 to oppose the perpendicular load applied to the transducer-slider segment 24 by the suspension section 26. Contact recording is the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

20 During operation, the transducer-slider segment 24 is moved to the desired track of the concentric data tracks on the data surface of the disk 12 by means of the coil 14, which moves within the magnetic field of the magnet assembly. Rapid movement of the transducer-slider segment 24 from one track to another track is required. In order to increase data
25 access times, it is necessary that the transducer of the segment 24 be properly positioned over the desired track as quickly as possible. Cuzner, et al, USP 3,849,800, discloses a rotary actuator suitable for use in a drive using the present invention. It should be noted that while the actuator 10 illustrated in Fig. 1 is a rotary actuator, other
30 types of conventional disk files use linear actuators which can be used with the present invention.

The suspension section 26 of the unitary structure 22 must provide radial stiffness, and have substantial flexibility in the pitch and roll directions as it holds the transducer of the segment 24 above the data
35 surface of the disk 12. If desired, an integrated circuit amplifier 28 may also be produced on the suspension section 26 of the unitary

structure 22. An enlarged schematic configuration of the unitary structure 22 of Fig. 1 is shown in Fig. 2.

Referring to Fig. 2, the unitary structure 22 is shown positioned over the disk 12. The direction of rotation of the disk 12 is indicated by arrow 36. A transducer 38 of the transducer-slider segment 24 (vertical pole section shown) is positioned adjacent the disk 12 for reading and writing magnetic transitions onto the disk 12. The horizontal transducer-suspension of the present invention refers to the location of the transducer-suspension parallel to the disk 12 and is for ease of presentation of the invention since most disk drives have their disk mounted horizontally. It will be appreciated by one skilled in the art that the present invention is equally applicable to vertically mounted disks and that the operation of the transducer is still parallel to the disk surface notwithstanding the orientation of the disk mounting.

The suspension section 26 suspends the transducer 38 over the disk 12. The suspension section 26 in this embodiment includes a first insulation layer 40 and a second insulation layer 42. A conductive circuitry layer (not shown) is encapsulated between these layers. The bulk of the support provided by the suspension section is maintained by the first and second insulation layers 40 and 42. The transducer 38 is electrically connected to the conductive circuitry layer. Electrical connection conductor pads 48 are provided to interconnect with an amplifier which can be located adjacent thereto. An integrated circuit amplifier (not shown) could be provided in place of the conductor pads. The deposited integrated circuit amplifier 28 of Fig. 1 is an example of a potential placement of an amplifier.

The insulation layers 40 and 42 provide electrical insulation between the conductor layer and the possibly conductive magnetic portions of the transducer 38. The two insulation layers 40 and 42 provide the suspension support which holds the transducer 38 in position over a track of the disk 12.

Figure 3 illustrates the steps in the method of forming the unitary structure 22 according to the configuration as shown in Fig. 2. The batch fabrication of the unitary structure 22 is accomplished by preparing a non-magnetic wafer substrate 50. The substrate 50 has a thickness, T , which must be sufficient to support the structures during

the processing. A plurality of the unitary structures 22 are deposited onto the substrate 50 in a row and column configuration. Each row 52, five shown, and each column 54, four shown, delineate the formation of the unitary structures 22 into a plurality of rows which can then be
5 further separated into the individual structures. More or less than the number of rows 52 and columns 54 shown in Fig. 3 can be produced on a single wafer substrate 50. The number is dependent on the size of the wafer and on the size of the individual unitary structures.

Still referring to Fig. 3, one row 52A is separated from the wafer
10 50 by saw cuts 56, for instance. The row 52A has its transducer segments 38 at an end surface 59. The row 52A undergoes further processing as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 and then is separated into the individual structures by saw cuts 58 or otherwise dicing, as shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 4 shows the cross sectioned view of the layers deposited on the wafer 50
15 to provide the first part of the unitary structures 22.

Referring now to Fig. 4, the unitary structure 22 includes a plurality of layers that form the transducer-slider segment 24 and the suspension section 26. In the cross sectional view, the horizontal transducer contemplated in the present invention forms the whole or at
20 least a part of the transducer-slider segment 24 of Figs. 1 and 2. The transducer includes a first pole piece 62 placed horizontal, that is, parallel, to the contact surface of a magnetic disk (not shown). The first pole piece 62 is formed with a sloping contact region 63 that could be produced by molding the original substrate 50 surface as shown in Fig.
25 4. The surface of the wafer substrate 50 is coated with a release layer 60 before the deposition of the material that produces the pole piece 62. The wafer substrate 50 and the pole piece 62 are separated later in the process by dissolving the release layer 62. A magnetic member 64 is deposited in contact with the pole piece 62. After magnetic member 64 is
30 formed, the entire release layer 60 surface of the wafer substrate 50 is coated with a layer of a wear-resistant material 65 and an insulating layer 66. The wear-resistant layer 65 covers most of the contact area between the transducer section 24 and the disk 12 (see Fig. 2). The wear-resistant layer 65 and the insulation layer 66 are lapped flat after
35 deposition to provide a smooth surface for the subsequent layers and to expose the top surface of the member 64. A first set of conductor stripes 68 for the transducer coil is then formed on the insulation layer 66 and coated with a coil insulation layer 70 of an electrically

insulating material. A horizontal portion 72 of a second pole piece is then formed on the insulating layer 70. The second pole piece horizontal portion 72 contacts the member 64 to complete a back gap for the transducer. An additional layer of a coil insulation layer 74 is deposited over the entire surface of the wafer. A second set of coil conductor stripes 76 is deposited on the coil insulation layer 74. The second set of coil conductor stripes 76 interconnects with the first set of conductor stripes to provide the activating conductor coil around the horizontal portion 72 of the second pole piece of the transducer section 24. The coil formed by the conductor stripes 68 and 76 are electrically connected to a conductor layer 78 deposited on the conductor coil insulating layer 74. This coil, together with the magnetic members of the transducer, permits the transducer to read and write magnetic transitions on the disk 12. The signals sensed by the coils are directed by the conductor layers to circuitry (not shown) via a conductor stud 80 formed at the free end of the conductor layer 78. A second electrical insulation layer 82 is deposited over the conductor coil stripes 76 and the conductor layer 78. This second insulation layer 82 and the first insulation layer 66 are the support structure of the suspension section 26. The conductor pads 48 (see Fig. 2) are then formed on the second insulation layer 82 in contact with the conductor studs 80. The conductor pads 48 interconnect with the circuitry of its associated disk drive, possibly through integrated circuit 28 as shown in Fig. 1.

After completion of the deposition process as shown in Fig. 4, the wafer 50 is cut into rows, see Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, the row 52A is separated from the wafer substrate 50 by the saw cuts 56. The row 52A is then fastened by an adhesive, for instance, to a transfer tool 90, see Fig. 5, with the end surface 59 of the row 52A exposed. The end surface 59 of the row 52A is then lapped flat. The further processing of the transducer is shown in Fig. 6A for one embodiment of the present invention.

Referring now to Fig. 6A, the end surface 59 of the row 52A is lapped flat and a magnetic gap layer 92 is formed. The end of the horizontal part 72 of the second pole piece is exposed and a vertical part 94 is deposited. The second pole piece 96 includes its horizontal part 72 and its vertical part 94. The transducer section 24 then includes the second pole piece 96 together with the magnetic gap 92 and, see Fig. 4, the first pole piece layer 62 and the magnetic member 64.

After completion of the vertical part 94, a protective layer 98 is deposited. This now completes the formation of the row 52A and the row is ready to be divided into individual unitary structures 22, see Fig. 2, for use with the disk 12. As shown in Fig. 3, the saw cuts 58 separate the row 52A containing a plurality of completed transducers into the individual unitary structures. A second type of vertical part for the second pole piece 96 is shown in Fig. 6B.

Referring now to Fig. 6B, the magnetic gap layer 92 is again first deposited on the end surface 59 of the row 52A. The magnetic gap layer 92 is then lapped at an angle X from the vertical to expose the end of the horizontal part 72 of the second pole piece. A layer of magnetic material is deposited to form a vertical part 99. The second pole piece 96 includes the horizontal part 72 and the vertical part 99. The transducer section 24 thus includes the second pole piece 96 together with the magnetic gap 92, the first pole piece layer 62, and the magnetic member 64. After completion of the vertical part 99, the protective layer 98 is deposited as previously stated. Similarly as discussed with Fig. 6A and Fig. 3, the formation of the row 52A is now completed and the row is ready to be divided into individual unitary structures 22.

Referring again to Fig. 4, the completed unitary structure 22 including the transducer section 24 and the suspension section 26 is separated from a substrate 50 by dissolving the release layer 60. The release layer 60 can be a plated copper. Another possible release layer material is tungsten. Removal of the copper release layer is readily accomplished using ammonia persulfate, for instance, which does not attack the alumina generally used in the process for providing the transducers. Once the unitary structure has been so manufactured, its incorporation into a rigid disk system is easily accomplished and is obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art.

The wafer substrate 50 can be any suitable material known to those in the art. Jacobs, USP 4,251,841, discloses a wafer-substrate material suitable for use with the present invention. There is no requirement that the wafer be alumina-titanium-carbide or silicon. The release layer 60 can, for instance, be an electrically conductive material and thereby serve as a seed or plating base layer for the subsequently deposited layers such as the first pole piece layer 62 of the transducer. The electrically conductive material is preferably plated copper but could be

gold or other suitable conductor. The conductor leads 78 are routed along the suspension portion 26 to the conductor stud 80. The conductor leads are configured into a stripline arrangement of two flat thin leads since the suspension portion 26 is thin and the stress symmetry required is compatible with a stripline design. The suspension section 26 is preferably produced by depositing alumina for the first and second insulating layers 66 and 82. Standard stud and pad technology is used to produce the conductor stud 80 and pad 48 to complete the thin film unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as known in the art.

10 A thick deposition of alumina can be used to encapsulate the transducer with the protective layer 98. A thin layer of alumina, for instance, can form the magnetic gap 92. Permalloy, for instance, can be the magnetic material that forms the pole piece portions of the transducer. The shape of the transducer pole pieces are shown in Fig. 7. The coils and

15 conductors are not shown to provide a view of the preferred shape of the magnetic portions of the transducer of this invention.

Referring now to Fig. 7, the preferred embodiment of the present invention includes a transducer that incorporates the advantages of the transducer shown in the Jones, Jr. et al, USP 4,190,872, issued on

20 February 26, 1980. The transducer includes the first pole piece layer 62 magnetically connected to the horizontal portion 72 of the second pole piece at a back gap 100 through the magnetic member 64. The vertical portion 94 of the second pole piece is magnetically connected to its horizontal portion 72 and is separated from the first pole piece 62 by

25 the magnetic gap 92. The first pole piece has a wider width at the back gap 100 than at its pole tip 102. Similarly the horizontal portion of the second pole piece has a wider width at the back gap 100 than its end 104 that connects the vertical portion 94. The vertical portion 94 also has a wider width at the end that connects to the pole piece 72 at the

30 end 104 than its pole tip 106. The preferred shape of the transducer as shown in Fig. 7 provides a narrow pole tip structure while avoiding saturation of the magnetic force along the pole pieces.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by

35 those skilled in the art that various changes in form and detail are possible. For instance, the transducer may be produced onto the wafer in the form as disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,190,872 for the preferred embodiment, but other configurations could be used without departing from

the present invention. The wafer may be made of material such as is the subject matter of the Jacobs U.S. Patent 4,251,841, entitled "Magnetic Head Slider Assembly". The suspension section according to the preferred embodiments could be a dual layer of a polyimide material and a metal layer deposited thereon to provide sufficient resiliency and stiffness as required by a suspension structure. It should be noted that the suspension structure could be produced in a single layer if the correct thickness and stiffness were obtainable in the single layer. It is also well understood that many electrically conductive materials are available to form the conductive circuitry and the transducer leads. Copper or gold is the preferred material but many others are available as is well known in the art. While air bearing suspensions are discussed herein, the present invention also includes contact recording in which the suspension places the transducer in contact with the media during operation.

The present invention may advantageously provide a narrow gap between two magnetic poles on the contact pad surface, longitudinal recording is possible. This greatly enhances the applicability of the invention to applications which were previously beyond the scope of the prior art. Additionally, the mostly planar deposition arrangement for the present invention permits major processing of the structure directly on a wafer surface. This greatly enhances the utility of the invention and allows batch production of the unitary structure.

Still another advantage of the present invention is the use of wear resistance material on the head structure. This protects the poletip regions of the head.

CLAIMS

1. A unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure comprising

a first pole piece having a poletip;

a second pole piece having first and second components, said first
5 component being disposed substantially parallel and adjacent to said
first pole piece, said second component having a poletip disposed
substantially perpendicular and adjacent to the poletip of the first pole
piece and forming a magnetic gap therebetween;

the first and second pole pieces being magnetically connected at a back
10 gap region and magnetically isolated at the poletips by said magnetic
gap;

a coil electrically isolated from but magnetically coupled to the first
and second pole pieces and encircling the first component of the second
pole piece; and

15 a suspension section of resilient material adjacent to the first
component of the second pole piece and electrically and magnetically
isolated from said second pole piece and coil, the resilient material
extending beyond the back gap region.
- 20 2. A unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as claimed in
claim 1 wherein the first and second pole pieces are configured with a
wider surface at the backgap region and a narrower surface at their
poletips.





3. A unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as claimed in any preceding claim further including an electrical conductor connected to said coil, said electrical conductor contained within said suspension layer.
- 5 4. A unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as claimed in any preceding claim further including a wear layer covering an exterior portion of said suspension layer and said first pole piece adjacent to its poletip.
- 10 5. A unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the portion of the second component of said second pole piece which is adjacent said magnetic gap and substantially perpendicular to the first pole piece and the remaining portion of the second component of the second pole piece is angled to contact the first component of said second pole piece.
- 15 6. A disk drive assembly, including a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as claimed in any preceding claim, said drive assembly further comprising:
- a housing;
 - a rigid platter mounted in said housing having means for storing

20 data in tracks provided thereon;

 - means for rotating said rigid platter in said housing;
 - an actuator arm positioned in said housing and operable to place a free end in proximity to one track of said rigid platter;
 - means for positioning said actuator arm adjacent to a particular

25 track on said rigid platter;

 - the unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure being mounted to the free end of said positioning means.
7. A method for making a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure comprising the steps of:
- 30 forming a contact region on a substrate;
- forming a release layer on said substrate;
- forming a first pole piece of a magnetic material on said formed release layer and said contact region;
- forming a backgap member on said formed first pole piece;





forming a wear resistant layer on said formed first pole piece and along a distance for a suspension section;

forming a magnetic and electrical isolation layer on said formed wear resistant layer covering at least said first pole piece layer
5 and extending the distance for the suspension section as a first suspension layer;

forming a first one-half of a coil of an electrically conductive material on said formed isolation layer;

forming a first electrical insulating layer covering at least
10 said formed one-half of the coil;

forming a first component of a second pole piece layer of a magnetic material on said formed insulating layer;

forming a second electrical insulating layer covering at least said second pole piece layer;

15 forming a second one-half of the coil of an electrically conductive material on said formed second electrical insulating layer, the second one-half of the coil being electrically connected to said first one-half to form a complete coil;

forming a magnetic and electrical isolation layer on said
20 formed second one-half of the thin film coil and extending the distance for the suspension section as a second suspension layer;

forming a second component of the second pole piece layer of a magnetic material contacting a free end of said first second of said second pole piece layer thereby forming a magnetic gap between said
25 second section of the second pole piece layer and the first pole piece;

forming a protective layer over said formed second component of said second pole piece; and

releasing the substrate from said formed contact pad layer and said formed first pole piece layer by dissolving the release layer.

30 8. A method for making a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension structure as claimed in Claim 7 further including the steps of:

forming a first conductor layer of an electrically conductive material on said formed isolation layer along the distance for the suspension section and connected to said formed first one-half of the
35 coil;

forming a second conductor layer of an electrically conductive material on said formed second electrical insulating layer along the distance for the suspension section and connected to said formed second half of the coil; and,





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forming conductor pads for said formed first and second conductor layers adjacent to an end of the suspension section opposite to the formed first and second pole pieces.

9. A method for making a unitary magnetic transducer and suspension
5 structure as claimed in either of Claims 7 or 8 wherein the steps of
forming a first pole piece of a magnetic material, forming a first
component of a second pole piece layer of a magnetic material, and
forming a second component of the second pole piece layer of a magnetic
material configure said first and second pole pieces with a wider surface
10 at their backgap region and narrower surfaces at their poletips.

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