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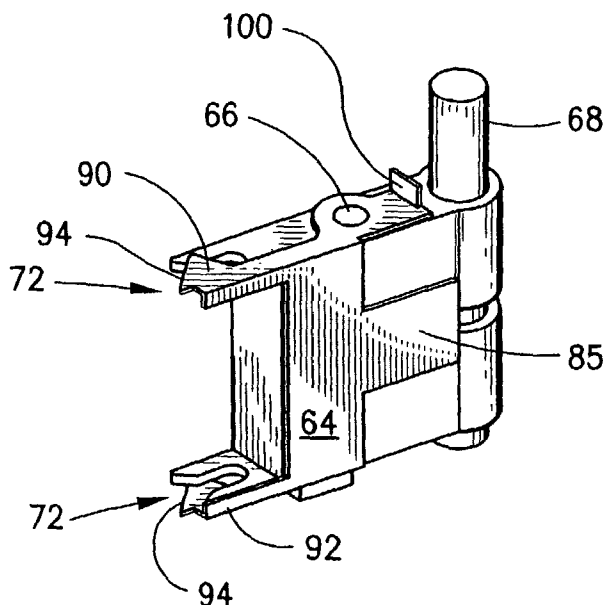
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: RELEASABLY LATCHABLE LEADER BLOCK IN TAPE THREADING APPARATUS FOR DATA STORAGE SYS-
TEMS AND METHOD THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: A leader block (60) in a read/write recording apparatus includes a body member (62) and a latch member (64) that move relative to each other to receive, engage and retain the leader pin (30) on a tape medium. The leader block may include finger-like engagement structures (74). The catch piece can be biased toward a closed position and can include a ramp (94) to facilitate initial engagement of the leader pin. The catch piece can include an actuator tab (100). A threading assembly is disclosed to incorporate the leader block and includes an actuator that selectively operates the catch piece via the actuator tab to permit disengagement of the leader pin therefrom. A cam assembly (120) may control the actuator. This assembly is disclosed in conjunction with a threading assembly that includes a flexible conveyor member received in a guide track. A method utilizing this structure is described.