

ABSTRACT**OFF-AXIS OPTICAL PICKUP MECHANISM
FOR OPTICAL STORAGE DRIVES**

An off-axis optical pickup mechanism comprises an optical pickup unit (OPU) connected to an optical pipe. A baffle surrounds the OPU and a cover is placed on top of the baffle. To be able to rotate the optical pipe, a first gear is attached to the pipe. The first gear is meshed with a second gear which is connected to a motor. The optical pipe comprises a hollow tube having a channel. The tube is bent at an angle in two places (here at 90 degrees). At each of the bent corners, a reflective mirror, is placed to direct the light to the lens element. The pipe should preferably be made of light and durable material to reduce its overall moment of inertia.

FIG. 2