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(71) Applicant: SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY, INC. [US/US]; 920 Disc Drive, B15-7, Scotts Valley, CA 95066 (US).

(72) Inventors: WEICHELT, Brent, M.; 15720 Scenic Lane, Burnsville, MN 55306 (US). TOFFLE, Mark, A.; 7001 24th Street West, Saint Louis Park, MN 55426 (US). ZIMMERMAN, Jason; 7400 Oak Park Village Drive, #4, Saint Louis Park, MN 55426 (US).

(74) Agents: VIKSNINS, Ann, S.; Schwegman, Lundberg, Woessner & Kluth, P.O. Box 2938, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (US) et al.

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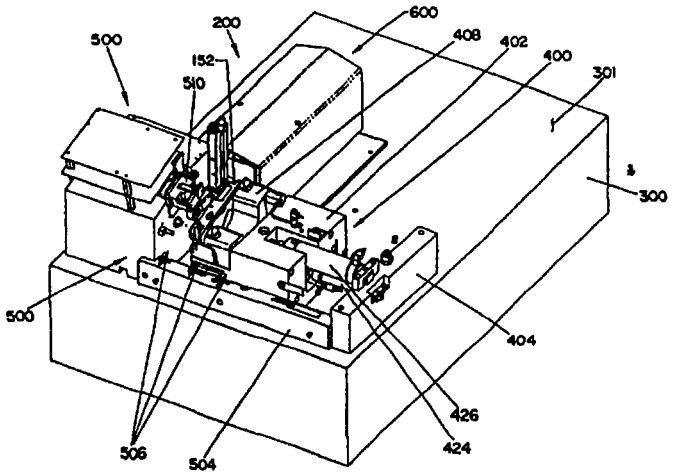


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(54) Title: HORIZONTAL LOADER FOR HIGH DENSITY SERVO TRACK WRITING



(57) Abstract

One aspect of the invention relates to an apparatus and method for retaining a disc drive head disc assembly (HDA) (152) during a servo track writing procedure. The HDA (152) includes a base, a disc stack coupled to a spindle (133) rotatably attached to the base by a spindle shaft (138), and an actuator assembly (120) pivotally attached to the base at a pivot shaft (118). Attached to one end of the actuator assembly (120) proximal the disc stack is one or more transducers for reading/writing information from/to the discs. The method includes restraining the ends of the spindle shaft (138) and pivot shaft (118) during servo track writing so that relative deflection therebetween is minimized. That is, all but rotational motion of the components is substantially eliminated. An apparatus for restraining the ends of the spindle shaft (138) and the pivot shaft (118) is also provided. By so restraining the shaft and spindle, the servo information written by the transducers is concentric to the rotation of the disc, thus reducing track misregistration and improving maximum track density.

2 0 JUN 2003

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