9900904-5
IPDS

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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

| (51) International Patent Classification 6 : G11B 5/596 | A1 | (11) International Publication Number: WO 98/16922 |
|---|---|---|
| | | (43) International Publication Date: 23 April 1998 (23.04.98) |

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/18325

(22) International Filing Date: 10 October 1997 (10.10.97)

(30) Priority Data:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 60/028,371 | 15 October 1996 (15.10.96) | US |
| 08/793,327 | 14 March 1997 (14.03.97) | US |

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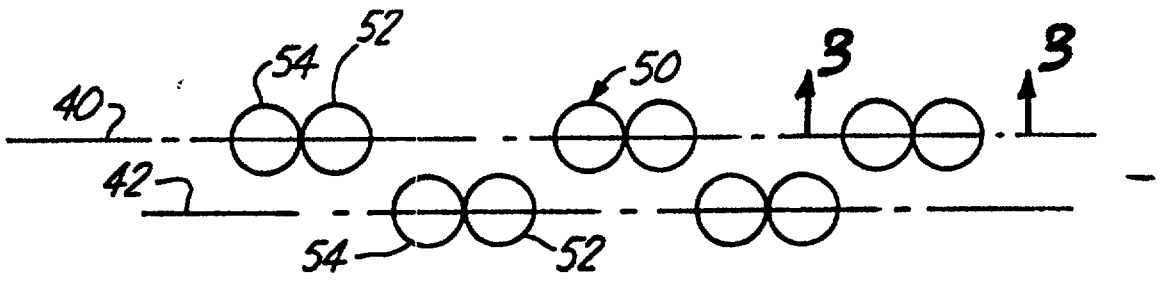
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(81) Designated States: DE, GB, JP, KR, SG.

**Published**
*With international search report.*
*Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.*

(54) Title: DISC DRIVE SERVO SYSTEM EMPLOYING THERMAL SIGNALS




(57) Abstract

A magnetic disc drive has a magnetoresistive element (26) for reading user data from concentric tracks of a rotatable magnetic recording disc (32). The magnetoresistive element has a resistance based on a magnetic field derived from user data and based on temperature of the magnetoresistive element. Heat generated by the bias current through the head is in part dissipated through the disc, the amount of heat dissipated being representative of disc/head spacing. The surface of the recording disc has contour elements (50, 52, 54) arranged in a pattern representing servo data, the contour elements having a height such that the spacing between the magnetoresistive element and the contour elements is different from the spacing between the magnetoresistive element and a nominal surface of the recording disc. As a result, a modulated signal (66) from the head contains a component representative of user data and a component representative of servo data.