9803760-9

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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G11B | A2

(11) International Publication Number: **WO 98/21714**

(43) International Publication Date: 22 May 1998 (22.05.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/20975

(22) International Filing Date: 14 November 1997 (14.11.97)

(30) Priority Data:
08/749,574 15 November 1996 (15.11.96) US

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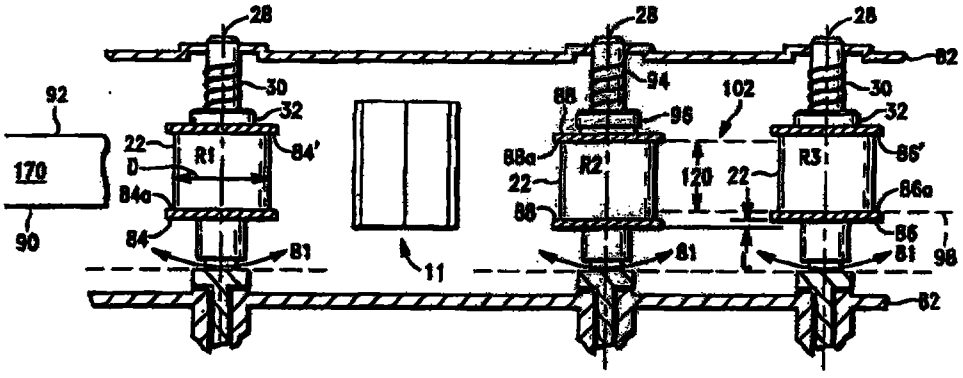
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(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published
Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: THREE ROLLER TAPE GUIDE



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for providing a low cost tape drive in a reduced form factor while constraining lateral motion of a tape streaming across the transducing face of a magnetic head. The apparatus includes two spaced apart reference roller guides and an adjustment roller guide. The first reference roller is mounted adjacent to one side of the tape head, between the take-up reel and the head. The adjustment roller and the second reference roller are mounted adjacent to the other side of the head such that the adjustement head is located between the head and the second reference roller, which is located between the adjustment roller and the supply reel of the tape cartridge. Each of the reference rollers has a surface for engagement with a first logitudinal tape edge where both surfaces are planarly aligned with a predetermined tape travel path and mounted for movement with the first tape edge to guide the first tape edge along the tape travel path. The adjust mechanism has a surface for engagement with the second longitudinal tape edge. The adjustement surface is parallel to but vertically offset from the relative position of the reference rollers and mounted for movement with the second tape edge. The adjustment surface is mounted in such a way and in a position effective to urge the first tape edge into contact with the reference surfaces to minimize movement of the tape in a direction perpendicular to the reference surfaces and the adjustment surface during tape advancement.