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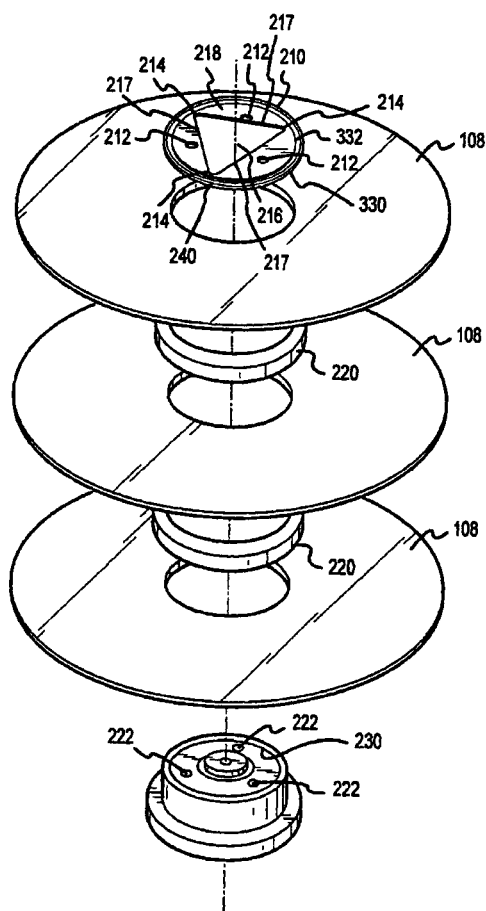
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(54) Title: UNIFORM LOADING DAMPED DISC CLAMP



(57) **Abstract:** The performance of a leaf spring disc clamp can be enhanced by utilizing a roughly triangular shape for the center aperture. Such a disc clamp exhibits a substantially more uniform distribution of clamping force on the data disc and thereby reduces the deformation of the disc. It has further been determined that a stiffening rib located adjacent to the rim portion which contacts the data disc also leads to more uniform distribution of clamping force. Lastly, vibrations in a leaf spring disc clamp from external shocks or drive operation can be reduced utilizing a dampening ring of visco-elastic material. The dampening ring can be fastened to the surface of the disc clamp or placed within a rib on the disc clamp.

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