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Specification

HARD DISK BURNISHING HEAD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION



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Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to burnishing devices for hard disks, and more particularly to a burnish head having a plurality of burnishing pads.

Description of the Prior Art

A hard disk is cleaned and burnished following the deposition of thin film layers to remove debris and asperities from the surface. Such debris and asperities must be removed, or at least reduced in height, to enable a slider to fly smoothly over the disk surface. As slider flying heights become lower for improved higher density disks, the disks must be burnished to a greater

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extent than was heretofore necessary to lower the projection height of such asperities and to more efficiently remove disk surface debris.

Several different burnishing pad designs are currently utilized. Some heads have a burnishing ridge providing a burnishing edge that extends across the entire front surface of the head. Other current head designs have burnishing members on the left side and right side of the burnishing head, but have a lengthwise channel between the left and right burnishing members. In such heads, a significant portion of the burnishing head does not burnish the disk, resulting in significant inefficiency in the burnishing process.

A further prior art burnishing head is described in U.S. Patent 4,845,816. It has a waffle type pattern of burnishing pads; that is, a plurality of diamond shaped burnishing pads that are disposed on the burnishing head surface. The diamond shaped pads are oriented such that the point of each diamond shaped pad is directed towards the media to be burnished. In distinction to this pad configuration, burnishing pads of the present invention each have a straight burnishing edge that is directed towards the media to be burnished. In a prior art variation of this waffle patterned head the leading burnishing pads may be triangularly shaped, as are the leading pads of the present invention.

The present invention includes a different burnishing pad configuration from that described in copending U.S. patent application serial no. 09/190,946, to which cross-reference has been made above. Specifically, the present invention includes two burnishing pads at the rearward surface and one at the leading surface, whereas the invention described in the

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cross-referenced application has two leading surface burnishing pads and one rearward surface burnishing pad.

A need therefore exists for improvements in burnishing heads that remove debris and asperities to a greater degree than has been previously necessary. The present invention provides a burnishing head with a plurality of burnishing pads in a unique configuration that accomplishes these results.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The burnishing head for hard disk processing includes a solid body having generally rectangular surfaces, including an upper surface, a burnishing pad surface, a front surface, a rear surface and two side surfaces. A plurality of burnishing pads are disposed upon the burnishing pad surface. The pads are shaped such that each pad has a burnishing edge that is generally parallel to said front surface and therefore orthogonal to the direction of media travel. The burnishing pads are preferably configured such that one frontward leading pad is centrally disposed proximate the front surface of the head, followed by two middle pads that are disposed in a spaced apart relationship. A single centrally disposed rear middle pad is formed behind the two middle pads, and two rear pads are disposed in a spaced apart relationship at the rear surface of the head. In the preferred embodiment the pads are generally triangular in shape and the outer surface of the leading and rearward pads is tapered. The method for manufacturing the burnishing

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head, includes the steps of making a series of parallel cuts in a surface of a solid body of material. The burnishing pads result from material that remains following the cuts.

It is an advantage of the present invention that a more efficient burnishing head is provided.

It is another advantage of the present invention that a burnishing head is provided having a plurality of burnishing pads, each of which includes a straight burnishing edge that is generally orthogonal to the direction of hard disk media travel.

It is a further advantage of the present invention that a burnishing head is provided that is easy to manufacture in quantity and maintain high accuracy.

It is yet another advantage of the present invention that a burnishing head is provided which includes two effective burnishing edges which extend across the width of the burnishing head.

It is yet a further advantage of the present invention that a burnishing head is provided which includes two burnishing pads formed proximate the rear surface, such that they are in close proximity to the surface being burnished, whereby efficient, effective burnishing is achieved.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon reading the following detailed description which makes reference to the several figures of the drawings.

IN THE DRAWINGS

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Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the burnish head of the present invention disposed in association with a hard disk;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the hard disk burnishing head of the present invention as depicted in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a side elevational view of the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a front elevational view of the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2;

Fig. 6 is a rear elevational view of the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2;

Fig. 7 is a side elevational view depicting the burnishing of a disk surface 30 utilizing the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a top plan view depicting a first burnishing pad cutting step for manufacturing the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2;

Fig. 9 is a top plan view depicting a second burnishing pad cutting step for manufacturing the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2; and

Fig. 10 is a top plan view depicting a third burnishing pad cutting step for manufacturing the burnishing head depicted in Fig. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As depicted in Fig. 1, the hard disk burnishing head 10 of the present invention is formed from a generally solid, rectangular body of ceramic material 12 having an upper surface 14 that is

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engagable with a generally depicted head support apparatus 16, a burnishing pad surface 18 having a plurality of burnishing pads 20 formed thereon, a front surface 22, a rear surface 26 and side surfaces 28. The head 10 is designed to burnish the surface of a hard disk 30 which rotates towards the front surface 22 in the direction of arrow 34. Further details of the burnishing head 10 are next described with the aid of Figs. 2-6.

As depicted in Figs. 2-6, a plurality of burnishing pads 20 are formed on the burnishing pad surface 18 of the head 10. The burnishing pads 20 project outwardly from the surface 18, and each pad is preferably oriented such that a straight burnishing edge 40 of each pad 20 faces towards the front surface 22 of the head 10, whereby the burnishing edge 40 of each pad 20 is generally parallel to the front surface 22 and orthogonal to the media travel direction 34. Thus, the burnishing edge 40 of each pad 20 forms the leading pad edge for collecting debris and interacting with asperities projecting from the disk surface 30. Each burnishing pad 20 is preferably formed in a triangular shape and has a flat outer surface 42. The preferred pad configuration includes a leading pad 44 that is formed centrally on the front surface 22, a left middle pad 46 that is formed at the left edge 48 of the pad surface 18 and a right middle pad 54 that is formed at the right edge 56 of the pad surface 18. A rearward, middle pad 58 is formed rearwardly and centrally of the pads 46 and 54. Two rear pads 60 and 62 are disposed rearwardly of pad 58 and are spaced apart in a similar manner to pads 46 and 54.

As is best seen in the front view depicted in Fig. 5, the three leading triangular pads 44, 46 and 54 are sized and positioned such that the leading edges 40 of each pad 44, 46 and 54 are

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aligned such that when combined they effectively extend across the full width (A) of the front surface 22 with no gaps in the combined leading edge. That is, each front edge 40 of each triangular pad 20 has a length Z that is equal to $A/3$. Similarly, the three triangular pads 58, 60 and 62 are sized and positioned such that the leading edges 40 of these pads effectively extend across the width A of the head 10 with no gaps in the combined leading edge thereof. The configuration of the triangular pads 20 on the head 10 can be thought of as two 3-pad sets, wherein each 3-pad set (specifically pad set 44, 46 and 54, and pad set 58, 60 and 62) combines to form an effective burnishing edge that extends across the width A of the head 10. Thus, each head 10 effectively has two combined burnishing edges that extend across its width A, one combined edge being formed from each set of 3 triangular pads. Therefore, each time the head 10 passes a particular location on the surface of a hard disk 30, two burnishing edges pass over the location.

In the preferred embodiment, enhanced head performance is obtained by modifications to the leading burnishing pad 44 and two rear burnishing pads 60 and 62. Specifically, to prevent gouging of the disk surface and to facilitate the flying characteristics of the head 10 (as discussed herebelow), the outer surface 42 of the leading pad 44 is tapered. That is, as is best seen in the side view of Fig. 4, the outer surface 64 of pad 44 is tapered from a point 66 approximately $1/2$ of the pad length back from the edge 40 at a slope angle x of approximately 1-3 degrees towards the front surface 22 to form the burnishing edge 40. The two rear pads 60 and 62 are tapered in a similar manner, as is depicted in Fig. 3. Specifically, to prevent scratching of the hard disk surface by the rearward pads 60 and 62 and allow a soft contact with the surface of the disk 30,

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the outer surfaces 68 of the pads 60 and 62 are tapered rearwardly from a point 70 towards the rear apex 72 of the pad 62 at a slope angle u of approximately 1-3 degrees.

As is best seen in the top view of Fig. 3 the triangular pads 20 in the preferred embodiment have the following approximate sizes, locations and relationships. Where the length of the burnishing edge 40 of a pad 20 is z , the width A of the head 10 is $3z$ and the length B of the head 10 is approximately $4z$. The distance d between the pads 20 is approximately equal to the length l of a pad 20, and the corner angle y of the pads 20 is approximately 41° . The pad configuration depicted in the preferred embodiment 10 is particularly useful for a burnishing head 10 having a width A of approximately 1.5mm having burnishing pads 20 formed with a height h of approximately 0.1-0.2mm. Of course, burnish heads may be formed within the scope of the invention having a corner angle y that is different from approximately 41° , which generally results in changing the shapes and relative locations of the triangular pads, and changing the length B of the head 10.

Fig. 7 is a side elevational view depicting the burnishing of the surface 30 of a disk by the burnish head 10 of the present invention. As depicted therein, the burnish head 10 is supported by the head support apparatus 16 above the surface 30 of a disk that is moving in direction 34. Upwardly projecting asperities 74 and debris 75 are shown on the surface 30. A significant characteristic of the burnishing head 10 is that the frontward tapered surface 64 of the leading burnishing pad 44 generates a hydrodynamic force with the moving air close to the surface 30 of the moving disk to produce a positive pitch, such that the frontward surface 22 of the head 12 flies

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above the surface 30 of the disk. The tapered surfaces 68 of the two rear burnishing pads 60 and 62 generate a negative hydrodynamic pressure to provide a soft contact on the disk surface 30. Thus, the leading surface 22 of the head 10 is raised above the disk surface 30, whereas the trailing rear surface 26 is disposed closer to the disk surface 30, whereby the burnishing edge 40 of the pads 44, 46, 58 and 60 are located sequentially closer to the disk surface 30, as shown in Fig. 7. Therefore, when asperities 74 and debris 75 are encountered by the positively pitched head 10, the burnishing edges 40 of the pads 44, 46, 54, 58, 60 and 62 sequentially encounter and remove the asperities 74 and debris 75 to a progressively lower projection height as the asperities and debris pass beneath the increasingly lower burnishing edges 40 of the burnishing pads.

A significant advantage of the burnishing pad orientation of the present invention 10 is that two burnishing pads 60 and 62 are disposed at the rearward surface 26 of the head 12. The two pads 60 and 62 provide two burnishing edges 40 at the lowest height between the burnishing head 10 and the disk surface 30, whereby the two burnishing edges 40 of the rear pads 60 and 62 provide for efficient burnishing of the surface 30. Additionally, the spaced apart disposition of the two rear burnishing pads 60 and 62 at the rearward surface 26 of the burnishing head 10 provides excellent system stiffness. That is, the pads 60 and 62 create two spaced apart points of contact with the disk surface, which tends to prevent burnishing head roll motion during burnishing, thus providing improved stability to the burnishing head during use. As will be obvious to those skilled in the art, the leading edge taper angle x and trailing edge taper angle u , together with the velocity of the disk in direction 34, can each be adjusted to control the aerodynamic characteristics

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of the head, including the flying height and pitch angle to fit the differing requirements and needs of different disk surfaces.

While the triangular pad configuration depicted hereabove is a preferred embodiment for the burnishing head size described above, larger or smaller burnishing heads may advantageously be formed with a greater or fewer number of triangular pads which are disposed in configurations other than as depicted hereabove. These other configurations as may be advantageously developed, but which nonetheless include the multiple discrete burnishing pads of the embodiment 10 described hereabove, are considered by the inventor to be within the scope of the invention described herein. Additionally, burnishing heads having multiple discrete burnishing pads having shapes other than triangular, such as rectangular, square, and polygons which are each oriented to have a straight burnishing edge that is parallel to the front surface are also considered to be within the scope of the invention. A preferred manufacturing method for the burnishing head 10 is next described with the aid of Figs. 8-10.

Fig. 8 depicts a strip 80 of ceramic material which is bonded to a grinding fixture (not shown), and from which a plurality of burnishing heads 10 are to be formed. As depicted therein, a first series of parallel cuts 84 have been made by a diamond saw into the surface of the strip 80. The cuts 84 are spaced apart a distance z along the front surface 22 of the strip 80, are made at an angle y of approximately 41 degrees to the front surface 22, and have a width w of $w = z \sin y$. Thereafter, as depicted in Fig. 9, a second series of parallel cuts 88 are made in the surface of the strip 80 at an angle v that is equal to y of approximately 41 degrees. The cuts 84 are spaced a

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distance z apart on the front surface 22 of the strip 80 and also have a width w . Thereafter, as depicted in Fig. 10, a third series of parallel cuts 94 are made in the surface of the strip 80. The third series of cuts 94 are parallel to the front surface 22 of the strip 80 and are spaced the distance l (the length of the burnishing pads 40) apart. The third set of cuts 94 have a width d equal to l . It is therefore to be understood that when the three sets 84, 88 and 94 of diamond saw cuts have been made into the surface of the strip that a plurality of rough heads 100 have been formed in the strip 80, and each head 100 will have a plurality of triangular shaped rough pads 104. The height h of the pads 104 will be generally equal to the depth of the cuts into the surface of the strip 80. Thereafter, the individual heads 100 are separated, cleaned, polished and finished to form a plurality of final burnishing head devices 10, as is next described.

After the series of three cuts 84, 88 and 94 are made in the strip, the individual rough heads 100 are diced off the strip at lines 108 and de-bonded from the grinding fixture (not shown). The individual heads 100 are cleaned and assembled on a fixture for the lapping and coating processes that follow. In the preferred manufacturing process approximately twenty rough heads 100 are aligned together on the fixture for efficient processing. Thereafter, a first hydrodynamic lapping of the rough pads 104 on the head 100 attached to the fixture is conducted utilizing a coarse grit hydrodynamic lapping device, as is known to those skilled in the art. The assembled heads are then cleaned and a second hydrodynamic lapping is conducted using a fine grit hydrodynamic lapping device, as is known to those skilled in the art. Thereafter, the aligned heads are cleaned again. Next, the front and rear tapers of the leading burnishing pad 44 and the

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rear burnishing pads 60 and 62 are formed by further lapping of the aligned heads 100 at the appropriate taper angle. The aligned heads are then cleaned again. Thereafter, a carbon thin film overcoating is preferably formed on the burnishing pads by placing the fixture with aligned heads into a vacuum chamber and applying the overcoating utilizing sputtering techniques that are well known to those skilled in the art. Thereafter, the aligned heads are de-bonded from the fixture, cleaned and inspected as finished individual burnishing heads 10.

To utilize the individual burnishing heads 10, each head is bonded to a suspension device 16, see Fig. 1, using an assembly positioning tool as is known to those skilled in the art. The head 10 and a suspension device are thereafter cleaned, preferably using ultrasonic cleaning at a low power level and thereafter at a high power level. The assembled burnishing head 10 may thereafter be inspected utilizing an optical interferometry instrument to determine the surface flatness of the pad outer surfaces 42 and the angle of the tapered surfaces 64. The suspension assembly and burnishing head is thereafter checked for its gram load characteristics. The burnishing head 10 of the preferred embodiment, with appropriate size and pad configuration characteristics is capable of acting as a slider and flying over the surface of a hard disk where the additional parameters such as the gram load of the burnishing head suspension assembly and the constant linear velocity of the hard disk to be burnished are appropriate.

While the invention has been shown and described with regard to certain preferred embodiments it is to be understood that certain alterations and modifications in form and detail will occur to those skilled in the art following review of this specification. It is therefore intended

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by the inventors that the following claims cover all such alterations and modifications that include the true spirit and scope of the invention set forth herein.

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CLAIMS

1. A burnishing head for hard disk processing, comprising:
a solid body including an upper surface, a burnishing pad surface, a front surface and a rear surface;
a plurality of burnishing pads being disposed upon said burnishing pad surface, each said burnishing pad having a burnishing edge that is generally parallel to said front surface, and wherein a left rear burnishing pad is formed at a left side edge of said body and a right rear burnishing pad is formed at a right side edge of said body.
2. The burnishing head as described in claim 1 wherein each said burnishing pad has a triangularly shaped outer surface.
3. The burnishing head as described in claim 1 wherein said burnishing pads are disposed in a configuration on said burnishing surface such that the burnishing edges of a plurality of said pads effectively form a combined burnishing edge that extends across a width of said head without any gaps in said combined burnishing edge.
4. The burnishing head as described in claim 3 wherein said burnishing pad configuration includes two said combined burnishing edges, wherein each of said combined edges extends across the width of said head.
5. The burnishing head as described in claim 1 wherein each said left and right rear burnishing pads are formed with a tapered outer surface that slopes towards said rear surface.
6. The burnishing head as described in claim 1 wherein a leading burnishing pad is formed on said burnishing surface, said leading burnishing pad being formed with a tapered outer surface that slopes towards said front surface of said burnishing head.

7. A burnishing head for hard disk processing, comprising:
 - a solid body having generally rectangular surfaces, including an upper surface, a burnishing pad surface, a front surface, a rear surface and two side surfaces;
 - a plurality of burnishing pads being disposed upon said burnishing pad surface, each said burnishing pad having a triangularly shaped outer surface and a burnishing edge that is generally parallel to said front surface;
 - said burnishing pads being configured upon said burnishing pad surface such that one frontward leading pad is disposed proximate said front surface, two middle leading pads are disposed rearwardly of said frontward leading pad in a spaced apart relationship, one rear middle pad is disposed generally rearwardly of said middle leading pads and generally between said two middle leading pads, and two rear pads are disposed rearwardly of said rear middle pad in a spaced apart relationship, and wherein a left rear burnishing pad is formed at a left side edge of said body and a right rear burnishing pad is formed at a right side edge of said body.
8. The burnishing head as described in claim 7 wherein said rear middle pad and said two rear pads have a combined burnishing edge that extends across a width of said head.
9. The burnishing head as described in claim 8 wherein said front leading pad and said two middle leading pads have a combined burnishing edge that extends across said width of said head.
10. The burnishing head as described in claim 7 wherein said two rear pads are formed with a tapered outer surface that slopes towards said rear surface of said head.
11. The burnishing head as described in claim 10 wherein said front leading pad is formed with a tapered outer surface that slopes towards said front surface of said head.