

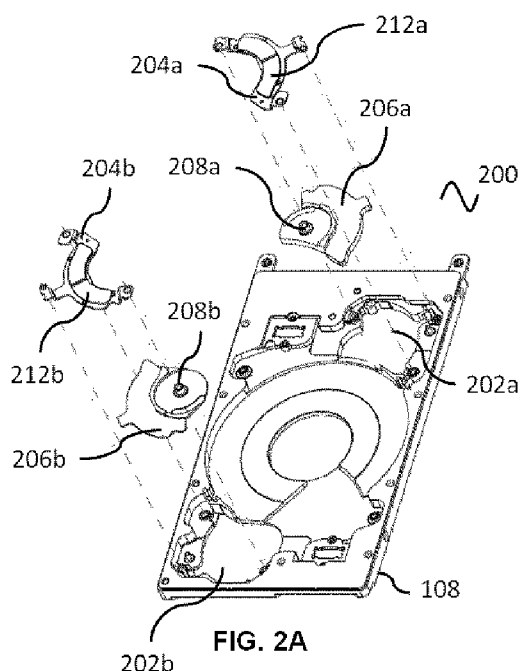


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(54) Title: HARDWARE BASED CROSSTALK REDUCTION FOR HARD DISK DRIVES

[Fig. 2A]



(57) Abstract: An actuator assembly for crosstalk reduction in hard disk drives (HDDs) is provided. The actuator assembly comprises a base plate; a pivot; a voice coil motor (VCM) with an upper yoke and a lower yoke; and a cut-out insert having a predetermined stiffness and predetermined magnetic properties, wherein the cut-out insert corresponds to a cut-out recess of the base plate, and wherein the lower yoke of the VCM and the pivot are coupled to the cut-out insert.

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