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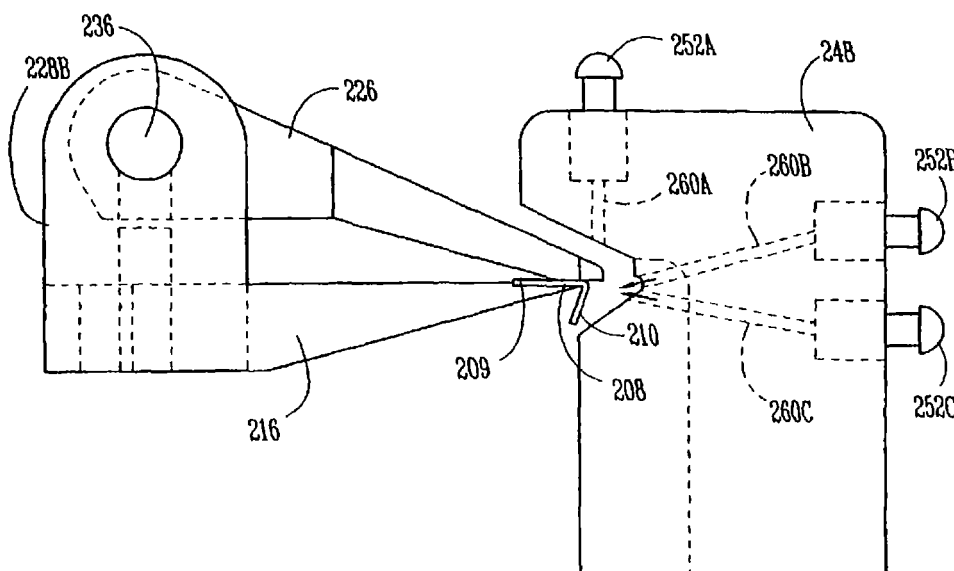
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(54) Title: METHOD/APPARATUS FOR FOLDING THIN FLEXIBLE



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for folding a thin part (208) such as the tail (208) of a Flexible Circuit On Suspension or Traces Suspension Assembly that are used in a disc drive (100). The method comprises securing a portion of the thin part (208) and then directing a fluid at the thin part (208) to bend an unsecured portion (210) of the thin part (208) relative to the secured portion (209) of the thin part (208). The apparatus comprises a fixture for securing the thin part (208) and a fluid emitter (248) positioned near the fixture to direct a fluid at the thin part such that the fluid bends the thin part relative to the fixture. The method and apparatus of the present invention are much more efficient than manually folding thin parts and eliminate any harmful contact between the thin parts and moving tools during the folding operation.

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