APPARATUS FOR LASER TEXTURING DISKS

ABSTRACT

A disk texturing tool (37) is used, for example, to provide textured spots in an annular portion of both sides of a hardfile disk. Disks are moved into and out of the texturing process in cassettes, through two disk-handling stations (38, 39). In each disk-handling station, a lifter raises each individual disk (49) from the cassette (48). The individual disk (49) is then transferred to a pick-and-place mechanism (71), which moves it to a spindle (86). The spindle spins and translates the disk, so that both sides of the disk are exposed to beams derived from a pulsed laser. The pick-and-place mechanism (71) then returns the disk to the lifter (59), which lowers it into the cassette pocket (51) from which it was taken. The pick-and-place mechanism (71) simultaneously moves one disk (49) from the lifter to the spindle an another from the spindle to the lifter. While disks are moved by the pick-and-place mechanism of one disk-handling station, a disk in the spindle of the other disk-handling station is exposed to the laser beams.

Fig. 4.