

ACTUATOR LOCKING MECHANISM

Detailed Description of the Invention

Field of the invention

The present invention relates to an actuator locking mechanism for an information recording unit, and more particularly to a locking mechanism and a locking method which make use of a magnet and enhance a locking force with respect to impact force.

Background art

In information recording units that are represented by a magnetic disk storage, a transducer for reading and/or writing data is attached to an actuator, and the actuator is driven so that the transducer scans a storage medium. When recording or writing regeneration is not performed, the transducer is retracted to actuator's stop position other than the recording region of the storage medium. In order for the transducer not to be moved to the recording region, even if an external impact force is applied to a magnetic disk storage when the actuator is in the stop position, there is adopted an actuator locking mechanism which locks the actuator to a base.

As an actuator locking mechanism such as this, there is adopted a fixed magnet type locking mechanism, such as that described in Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 5-151737. The fixed magnet type locking mechanism attracts a portion of an actuator in its stop position with a permanent magnet fixed to the base of a magnetic disk storage to lock the actuator, and has the feature that it is simple in structure and easy to miniaturize. However, when such impact force as to move an actuator is applied to the magnetic disk storage, an actuator being locked to the base by magnetic attraction is not allowed to move in the attracted state at all and therefore the impact force to the actuator is applied directly and entirely to the attracting surfaces. Since there is a limitation on an enhancement in the magnetic attraction, the attracting surfaces of the permanent magnet and the

actuator cannot be attracted enough to lock the actuator to the base with respect to a large impact force applied to the actuator. Particularly, the recent miniaturization and portability demand for a computer having a magnetic disk storage mounted therein requires a further miniaturization in the magnetic storage, also sets limits on the size of the magnet being increased in order to enhance the locking force of the locking mechanism, further increases the magnitude of impact force that is applied to the magnetic disk storage, and gives further impetus to the problem that the actuator cannot be locked sufficiently in the stop position.

As another locking mechanism disclosed at the same time in Published Unexamined Patent Application No. 5-151737, there is a solenoid type locking mechanism provided with a solenoid and a mechanical latching mechanism. Although the solenoid type can sufficiently obtain a force for locking an actuator, the solenoid type becomes complicated in structure and is increased in size, as compared with the magnet type. Consequently, the solenoid type is not sufficiently satisfactory as an actuator locking mechanism for a magnetic disk storage demanding miniaturization and portability.

Problems to be solved by the invention

As previously described, the conventional actuator locking mechanism has the disadvantage that it cannot exhibit a strong locking force with a small size. Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an actuator locking mechanism equipped with an even stronger locking force, while improving the aforementioned disadvantage and maintaining the feature of a conventional magnet type locking mechanism such that device size can be reduced with a simple structure. Another object of the present invention is to provide a strong actuator locking method employing a magnet. Still another object of the present invention is to provide an





information recording unit employing the actuator locking mechanism provided by the present invention.

Summary of the invention

The concept forming the foundation of the present invention for achieving the aforementioned objects is that in an actuator locking mechanism making use of a magnet, an elastic member is interposed between a portion of an actuator and a base. When impact force causes the actuator to move from the locked position, the elastic member allows movement of the actuator in a direction where the actuator is caused to move by the impact force, in the state where the magnetic attraction between the actuator and the base is maintained. While the actuator is moving slightly, the elastic member is elastically deformed and exhibits elastic force. The elastic force acts so as to resist the movement of the actuator caused by the impact force. The elastic deformation of the elastic member absorbs the impact force applied to the actuator, and consequently, the impact force which is applied to a magnetically attracted portion is buffered and the locking force of the locking mechanism is enhanced with respect to the impact force. To achieve the aforementioned concept, the present invention has the following structural features.

The actuator locking mechanism of the present invention is constituted by an actuator locking mechanism for use with an information recording unit which locks an actuator to a base so that the actuator is not moved with an external impact force. The actuator locking mechanism comprises an actuator on which an element for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is mounted and which is driven to scan the storage medium, an attracting member which is magnetically attractable with at least a portion of the actuator at a stop position of the actuator, and an elastic member joined to the attracting member and the base. By an external impact force given to the information recording unit during the

time the portion of the actuator is attracted to the attracting member, the elastic member is elastically deformed to give elastic force to the actuator, whereby the elastic member absorbs the impact force. Here, the stop position of the actuator is referred to as a place which exists within an driving range of the actuator, and where the drive of the actuator is stopped and movement of the actuator by an external impact force is to be restricted.

The elastic member can be composed from a support member having an attracting member mounted thereon and a spring engaging with the support member. The support member is attached to the base movably along with the actuator when the actuator is moved by an external impact force in the state where a portion of the actuator and the attracting member have been attracted with each other. When the support member moves along with the actuator, the spring is elastically deformed and gives elastic force in a direction which resists movement of the support member, thereby absorbing impact force.

The elastic member is also can be composed from a support member on which an attracting member is mounted and which is rotatably attached to a base and a spring which engages with the support member. If an external impact force is given while a portion of the actuator and the attracting member have been attracted with each other, the support member will be rotated in compliance with movement of the actuator. At this time, the spring engaged with the support member is elastically deformed and gives elastic force to the support member in a direction which resists the rotation, thereby absorbing impact force.

Next, when the attracting member is rotatably attached to the support member and the actuator is moved by impact force while the actuator is attracted to the attracting member, a reduction in the area of the attracted surface, which is caused by a difference between

the locus of movement of an attracted portion on the actuator and the locus of movement of an attracting member on the support member, is prevented and therefore the attracting force is further enhanced.

Furthermore, the elastic member could have similar advantages, even if arranged on the side of the actuator.

The actuator locking method of the present invention is constituted by a method of locking an actuator to a base to avoid being moved with an external impact force in an information recording unit. The actuator locking method comprises the steps of:

- providing an actuator on which a slider having an element for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is attached and which is driven to scan the storage medium;

- driving the actuator to move to a region other than a recording region of the storage medium;

- locking the actuator to the base by attracting a portion of the driven actuator; and

- allowing the actuator to move in a direction where the locked actuator is moved from the region other than the recording region of the storage medium into the recording region when an external impact force is applied, and applying elastic force to the actuator which resists movement of the actuator caused by the impact force.

An information recording unit of the present invention comprises an information storage medium, an actuator on which a slider having an element mounted thereon is mounted for transferring information between the element and a storage medium and which is capable of moving the slider to a recording region and a non-recording region of the information storage medium, and an actuator locking mechanism of the present invention.

Preferred embodiment

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described based on the drawings.

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Figure 1 is a schematic plan view showing an embodiment where an actuator locking mechanism of the present invention is applied to a magnetic disk storage 10. A magnetic disk 11 for an information storage medium includes a recording region 12 which is utilized to store information and a non-recording region 13 where a transducer 16 is positioned during the time writing or reading is stopped. The magnetic disk 11 is fastened to a spindle 14, which is rotated by a spindle motor (not shown). The magnetic disk 11 rotates along with the spindle 14, when information is written to or read from the magnetic disk 11. A slider (not shown) is attached to the front end portion of the actuator 15 through a flexible member. The transducer 16, which performs writing and/or reading of information with respect to the magnetic disk 11, is mounted on the slider. When information is written to or read from the magnetic disk 11, the actuator 15 is rotated on a shaft 17 to position the transducer 16 over the surface of the magnetic disk 11 being rotated and then the transducer 16 scans an arbitrary position on the surface of the magnetic disk 11. At this time, a thin cushion of air is created between the surface of the magnetic disk 11 being rotated and the surface of the opposed slider and floats the slider. The slider and the transducer 16, attached to the actuator 15 through a flexible member, float while holding a predetermined distance from the surface of the magnetic disk 11, and that distance is maintained.

When writing or reading is stopped, the actuator 15 is retracted to the stop position. The actuator 15 is driven so that the slider is retracted to the non-recording region 13, and after the slider is surely locked in the non-recording region 13, the rotation of the magnetic disk 11 is stopped. The surface of the non-recording region 13 has texture which reduces frictional resistance between it and the slider. The texture reduces the frictional resistance between it and the slider so

that the magnetic disk 11 can be rotated again in the state where the slider is positioned in contact with the texture surface, and has a wear resisting property enough to stand long-term friction between it and the slider. Therefore, there is a need for the actuator 15 to be driven so that the slider having the transducer 16 mounted thereon is retracted to the non-recording region 13 just before stoppage of the rotation of the magnetic disk 11, and the actuator needs to maintain the position until the magnetic disk 11 rotates again. If some external force acts on the actuator 15 positioned at the stop position, and once the slider is moved to the recording region 12 while rotation of the magnetic disk 11 is stopped, it will be difficult to drive the actuator 15 to retract the slider to the non-recording region 13 against the frictional resistance between the slider and the recording region 12. Also, even if an attempt were made to rotate the spindle motor, the frictional resistance between the slider and the recording region 12 is large and therefore the motor could not be rotated, or the slider would cause damage to the surface of the recording region 12 of the magnetic disk 11. Therefore, during stoppage of the rotation of the magnetic disk, the actuator needs to be locked to the base so that the slider is locked in the non-recording region 13. Hence, an actuator locking mechanism is adopted for locking the actuator in a predetermined position.

Now, the actuator locking mechanism will be described. In Figure 1 a magnet support body 20 is attached to a base 25 rotatably on a shaft 22 near the rear end of the actuator 15 positioned at the stop position. The magnet support body 20 has a magnet 19 mounted thereon. At the stop position of the actuator 15, the magnet 19 can magnetically attract an iron piece 18 attached to a portion of the actuator 15. The magnet support body 20 further has a hole 23, and a fixing pin 24 is inserted through the hole 23 and protrudes from the

base 25. A torsion coil spring 21 is inserted on a shaft 22 so that one of the two arms engages with the fixing pin 24 and the other arm engages with an end portion of the magnet support body 20. Consequently the two arms of the spring 21 are elastically deformed so that elastic force is created when the arms move away from each other.

Next, the operation of the actuator locking mechanism will be described based on Figures 2 through 4 which enlarge the actuator locking mechanism of Figure 1. Figure 2 shows the state when the actuator 15 is being driven toward the stop position in a direction of arrow A, but the iron piece 18 has not been magnetically brought into contact with the magnet 19 yet. The magnet support body 20 is rotated by the elastic force of the two arms of the spring 21 in a range allowed by the a-point of the hole 23 and the fixing pin 24, and is stopped at a position where the fixing pin 24 and the a-point of the hole 23 abut each other. For the spring 21 in this embodiment, a SUS-316 wire of 0.3 mm in diameter is turned 6 times so that the diameter of the coil portion is about 4.5 mm, and the length of the arm portion is set to 9 mm.

The state of the actuator 15, further driven to attract the magnet 19 and the iron piece 18 together, is shown in Figure 3. In this state, the magnet support body 20 has been given force in a direction of arrow B by the elastic force of the spring 21, so the actuator 15 is fixed to the base 25 at the stop position.

Figure 4 shows the state where, when such an external impact force as to move the actuator 15 in a direction of arrow C is applied to the magnetic disk storage in the state where the actuator 15 has been fixed to the base 25 through the actuator locking mechanism at the stop position as shown in Figure 3, the magnet support body 20 is rotated on the shaft 22 in a direction of arrow D until the fixing pin 24 abuts the b-point of the hole 23. At this time, by rotation of the magnet support body 20, the spring 21 is elastically deformed to give the magnet

support body 20 elastic force which resists the rotation of the magnet support body 20 in the direction of arrow D. The magnetic attraction between the magnet 19 and the iron piece 18 is set so as to be greater than the force that is applied to the magnet support body 20 by the elastic force of the spring 21. Therefore, when the actuator 15 is forcibly moved in the direction of arrow C, there is no separation between the magnet 19 and the iron piece 18 until the b-point and the fixing pin abut each other, and the force resisting the rotation of the actuator 15 in the direction of arrow C is applied to the actuator through the magnetic support body 20, the magnet 19, and the iron piece 18 by the elastic force of the spring 21. If impact force causes the actuator 15 to further rotate in the direction of arrow C against the elastic force applied to the magnetic support body 20 by the spring 21, the b-point of the hole 23 and the fixing pin 24 will abut each other and therefore the magnet support body 20 will not be rotated any further along with the actuator 15 and will be stopped. When the b-point of the hole 23 and the fixing pin 24 abut each other, the resultant impact force is absorbed and damped by the spring 21 deformed elastically while the magnetic support body 20 rotates in a range which is allowed by the fixing pin 24 and between the a-point and b-point of the hole 23. The magnetic attraction between the magnet 19 and the iron piece 18 is ensured sufficiently against the damped impact force, and consequently, the locking force of the locking mechanism against impact force is enhanced.

In order to drive the actuator 15 locked by the locking mechanism so that the transducer 16 is moved to the recording region 12 for reading or writing data, the magnetic disk 11 is first rotated in a state where the slider 11 is positioned on the non-recording region 13. The rotation of the magnetic disk 11 creates a thin cushion of air that floats the slider off the surface of the non-recording region 13. Then, in Figure 4 the magnet

support body 20 is rotated in the direction of arrow D until the b-point of the hole 23 abuts the fixing pin 24. Since the drive force for the actuator has been set so as to be greater than the magnetic attraction between the magnet 19 and the iron piece 18, they will be separated from each other if rotation of the magnet support body is stopped by the fixing pin 24, and consequently, the actuator 15 can be positioned over a desired track on the recording region 12.

The spacing between the a-point and the b-point of the hole 23 determines the range that the magnet support body 20 is rotated by the impact force applied to the actuator 15. This range determines the quantity of the elastic deformation of the spring 21 and accordingly determines the magnitude of the impact energy that the spring 21 can absorb. In order to increase the quantity of the impact energy that the spring 21 absorbs, it is preferable to lengthen the rotational stroke of the magnet support body 20. It is preferable that this stroke be set to a range such that the slider is not moved by impact force into the recording region 12 across the non-recording region 13. In order to make the stroke maximum with range and make absorbed energy maximum, the range of the stroke is set so that the slider can be positioned at the radial opposite ends of the magnetic disc 11 in the non-recording region 13, as shown in Figure 5. That is, the stroke range of the fixing pin 24 is set so that the a-point of the hole 23 and the fixing pin 24 abut each other at the a-position of Figure 5 and the b-point of the hole 23 and the fixing pin 24 abut each other at the b-position of Figure 5. In this embodiment the rotational stroke of the magnet support body 20 is set to approximately 1 mm.

Another embodiment of the present invention will hereinafter be described. The same reference numerals denote members which perform nearly the same operation in correspondence with the embodiment of Figures 1 through 4

and therefore the operation and description are omitted for avoiding redundancy. Figure 6 illustrates an example where the spring 21 in the embodiment shown in Figures 1 through 4 is formed in one body on the magnet support body 20. A portion of the magnet support body 20 is formed into a curved portion 40, and the end portion 41 abuts a base 25, as shown in Figure 6. With the curved portion 40 deformed inwardly and elastically, a rotational force in a direction of arrow E is applied to the magnet support body 20 set on a shaft 22 by the elastic force of the curved portion 40. This embodiment is advantageous in fabricating and assembling components, because the magnet support body 20 and the spring can be formed in one body together. It is desirable that the material of the magnet support body 20 be synthetic resin suitable for integral formation.

Figure 7 illustrates a third embodiment of the present invention where a magnet 19 linearly moves. A rod 51 penetrates a support member 50 fastened to a base and has the magnet 19 mounted on its one end. The other end of the rod 51 is provided with a bolt 53, and the bolt 53 is fixed to the rod 51 so that a compression coil spring 52 is compressed between the support member 50 and the bolt 53. Therefore, force is applied to the magnet 19 through the rod 51 in a direction of arrow F by the elastic force of the spring 52. In the same operation with the embodiment of Figure 1, an external impact force is absorbed as impact energy by the spring 52.

Figure 8 illustrates a fourth embodiment of the present invention where a spring is provided on the side of an actuator. An iron piece 18 is attached to an actuator 15 through a tension spring 60. A magnet 19 is supported by a support member 63, and the support member 63 is fixed to a base. If impact force is applied to the actuator 15 in a direction of arrow G for rotation in the state where the iron piece 18 and the magnet 19 have been attracted with each other, the spring 60 will

apply elastic force to the actuator 15, while the spring 60 is being elastically deformed so as to be pulled in the direction of the front end 62 of a stopper 61. The front end of the spring 60 abuts the front end 62 of the stopper 61, and rotation of the actuator 15 is stopped.

In the aforementioned embodiment, while the iron piece 18 has been provided on the side of the actuator 15, the magnet may also be provided on the side of the actuator and the iron piece may also be provided on the opposite side. Also, both may be constituted by magnets. In addition, the actuator is not limited to rotary types but it is applicable to linear types. Furthermore, while the embodiments have been described with reference to a magnetic disk storage, the actuator locking mechanism of the present invention is not limited to an application to magnetic disk storages but it is generally applicable to information storage units employing an actuator, such as an optical storage. Moreover, the aforementioned spring may also be replaced with elastic materials such as rubbers and plate springs.

Figure 9 shows comparison of the actuator locking mechanism of the embodiment shown in Figure 1 and a conventional fixed magnet type locking mechanism. When an external impact force having a 2-msec triangular waveform such as that shown in Figure 9(a) (where its peak is 7000 rad/sec²) is applied to a magnetic disk storage, the impact energy is absorbed by the embodiment of Figure 1 and the conventional locking mechanism. In the computation result of the energy absorption quantity shown in Figure 9(b), it is shown that the conventional fixed magnet type of a graph (a) is 7000 rad/sec² and that the locking mechanism of the present invention is 23000 rad/sec² and absorbs more than three times that of the conventional fixed magnet type. Therefore, it follows that the present invention attenuates the impact force applied to the magnetic attracted portion between the

magnet and the iron piece and exhibits a strong locking force.

Next, a description will be made of a fifth embodiment of the present invention where a locking force is further enhanced. Figure 10 is the same plan view as the embodiment shown in Figure 1 for describing the fifth embodiment. In Figure 10, when an actuator is rotated in a direction of arrow H by impact force and accordingly a magnet support body 20 is rotated in a direction of arrow I, an iron piece 18 rotates on a shaft 17 along a certain locus-a on the circumference and a magnet 19 rotates on a shaft 22 along a certain locus-b on the circumference. Therefore, both loci do not match each other. The attracting surfaces of the iron piece 18 and the magnet 19 are formed into a plane, and when both attracting surfaces are magnetically attracted with each other without any gap, the maximum attraction is exhibited. Now, assume that the iron piece 18 is fastened to the actuator 15 so that in the state where the actuator is locked as shown in Figure 3, the attracting surfaces of the iron piece and the magnet 19 are magnetically attracted with each other without any gap. It is also assumed that the magnet 19 is likewise fastened to the magnet support body 20. As shown in Figure 10, if the actuator 15 and the magnet support body 20 are rotated, the iron piece 18 and the magnet 19 will be moved along the locus-a and the locus-b, respectively. Therefore, the attracting surfaces cannot maintain the original state having no gap, and as the rotation advances, the attracted area is gradually reduced and therefore the attraction is reduced.

Figure 11 illustrates a sixth embodiment of the present invention which solves the aforementioned problem. A holding member 62 is fixed to the magnet support body 20, and a cylindrical member 60 with a magnet 19 is inserted into the holding member 62 so that it can freely rotate. The cylindrical member 60 is provided with a cutout 61, and the cover 63 of the holding member 62 is

positioned within the cutout 61 when the cylindrical member 60 is inserted into the holding member 62. When the cylindrical member 60 with the magnet 19 is inserted into the holding member 62, the cylindrical member 60 can rotate within the holding member 62 in a range which is allowed by the cutout 61 and the cover 63. The magnet 19, inserted in the holding member so as to be freely rotatable along the cylindrical member 60, is rotated along the inner surface of the holding member 62 along with the cylindrical member 60 so that the attracted surfaces maintain the original maximum area, even when there is a difference between the locus of the iron piece 18 and the locus of the magnet 19 when the actuator is rotated by an external impact force. For this reason, the magnetic attraction is not reduced by the rotation of the actuator caused by an external impact force, and consequently, the magnetic attraction is increased. An increase in the magnetic attraction renders it possible to select a spring having a large elastic force and even further increases the absorption quantity of impact energy.

Advantages of the invention

As has been described hereinbefore, the present invention provides an actuator locking mechanism having a strong locking force which could not be achieved by the aforementioned conventional fixed magnet type actuator locking mechanism. Furthermore, there is provided an information recording unit equipped with both a strong actuator locking method employing a magnet and this locking mechanism.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a schematic plan view showing a magnetic disk storage to which an actuator locking mechanism of the present invention is applied;

Figure 2 is an enlarged plan view showing the state of the actuator not locked by the actuator locking mechanism;

Figure 3 is a part-enlarged plan view showing the state of the actuator locked by the actuator locking mechanism;

Figure 4 is an enlarged plan view showing the state of the actuator locked by the actuator locking mechanism, an external impact force being applied to the actuator;

Figure 5 is a plan view showing the range in which a slider is moved in a non-recording region that is determined by the stroke of a magnet support body;

Figure 6 is an enlarged plan view showing a second embodiment of the actuator locking mechanism of the present invention;

Figure 7 is an enlarged plan view showing a third embodiment of the actuator locking mechanism of the present invention;

Figure 8 is an enlarged plan view showing a fourth embodiment of the actuator locking mechanism of the present invention;

Figure 9(a) and (b) are graphs showing comparison of the present invention and a conventional locking mechanism for the quantity of absorbed energy;

Figure 10 is a schematic plan view for describing the principles of a fifth embodiment of the actuator locking mechanism of the present invention; and

Figure 11 is a perspective view showing a sixth embodiment of the actuator locking mechanism of the present invention, wherein the attracting force is further enforced.



CLAIMS

1. An actuator locking mechanism for use with an information recording unit which locks an actuator to a base to avoid being moved with impact force, the mechanism comprising:

an actuator on which an element for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is mounted and which is driven to scan the storage medium;

an attracting member which is attractable with at least a portion of said actuator at a stop position of said actuator; and

an elastic member joined to said attracting member and the base; and

wherein said elastic member is elastically deformed to give elastic force to said actuator by impact force given to the information recording unit during the time the portion of said actuator is attracted to said attracting member, whereby said elastic member absorbs the impact force.

2. The actuator locking mechanism as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the attraction of said attracting member is magnetically performed.

3. An actuator locking mechanism for use with an information recording unit which locks an actuator to a base to avoid being moved with impact force, the mechanism comprising:

an actuator on which a slider having an element for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is attached and which is driven to scan the storage medium;

an attracting member which is magnetically attractable with at least a portion of said actuator when said actuator is driven to position the slider at a non-recording region of the storage medium;

a support member on which said attracting member is mounted and which is attached to said base movably in





compliance with movement of said actuator while said actuator is attracted to said attracting member; and

a spring which is engaged with said support member and gives elastic force to said support member so that said actuator being attracted magnetically to said attracting member is given force in a direction where said slider is directed from the recording region of said storage medium to the non-recording region; and

wherein said support member is moved in compliance with movement of said actuator caused by impact force given to the information recording unit during the time said attracting member and the portion of said actuator are attracted with each other, and said spring gives elastic force to said support member while being elastically deformed, whereby said spring absorbs the impact force.

4. An actuator locking mechanism for use with an information recording unit which locks an actuator to a base to avoid being moved impact force, the mechanism comprising:

an actuator on which a slider having an element mounted thereon for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is attached and which is driven to scan the storage medium;

an attracting member which is magnetically attractable with at least a portion of said actuator when said actuator is driven to position the slider at a non-recording region of the storage medium;

a support member on which said attracting member is mounted and which is rotatably attached to the base; and

a spring which is engaged with said support member and gives elastic force to said support member so that said actuator being attracted magnetically to said attracting member is given force in a direction where said slider is directed from the recording region of said storage medium to the non-recording region; and





wherein said support member is rotated in compliance with movement of said actuator caused by impact force given to the information recording unit during the time said attracting member and the portion of said actuator are attracted with each other, and said spring gives elastic force to said support member while being elastically deformed, whereby said spring absorbs the impact force.

5. The actuator locking mechanism as set forth in Claim 3 or 4, wherein said attracting member is rotatably attached to said support member.

6. An actuator locking mechanism for use with an information recording unit which locks an actuator to a base to avoid being moved with impact force, the mechanism comprising:

an actuator on which an element for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is mounted and which is driven to scan the storage medium;

an elastic member joined to said actuator;

an attracting member joined to said elastic member;
and

a fixing member magnetically attractable with said attracting member at a stop position of said actuator and fixed to the base; and

wherein said elastic member is elastically deformed to give elastic force to said actuator by impact force given to the information recording unit during the time said attracting member and said fixing member are attracted with each other, whereby said elastic member absorbs the impact force.

7. A method for locking an actuator to a base to avoid being moved with impact force in an information recording unit, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an actuator on which a slider having an element for transferring information between the element and a storage medium is attached and which is driven to scan the storage medium;



driving the actuator to position at a region other than a recording region of the storage medium;

locking the actuator to the base by attracting a portion of the driven actuator; and

where the locked actuator is moved from the region other than the recording region of said storage medium into said recording region when impact force is applied, allowing the actuator to move in a direction and applying elastic force to the actuator which resists movement of the actuator caused by the impact force.

8. The method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the locking step includes a step of magnetically attracting of the portion of the driven actuator.

9. An information recording unit comprising:

an information storage medium;

an actuator on which a slider having an element mounted thereon is mounted for transferring information between the element and a storage medium and which is capable of moving said slider to a recording region and a non-recording region of the information storage medium; and

an actuator locking mechanism for locking said actuator placed at a stop position to a base; and

wherein said actuator locking mechanism is the actuator locking mechanism as set forth in any one of Claims 1 through 6.



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