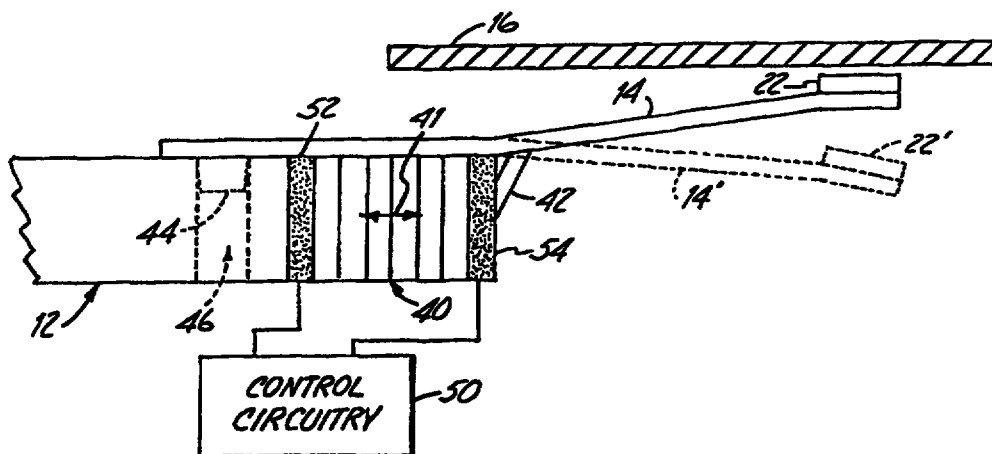




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G11B 5/54, 21/22	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/37552 (43) International Publication Date: 27 August 1998 (27.08.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/02737 (22) International Filing Date: 24 February 1997 (24.02.97) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY, INC. [US/US]; 920 Disc Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95067-0360 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SAMPIETRO, Joseph, M. [US/US]; 5808 Beckford Avenue, Tarzana, CA 91356 (US). MOHAJERANI, Khosrow [US/US]; 3911 Calle Loma Vista, Newbury Park, CA 91320 (US). FARD, Anoush, M. [US/US]; 5537 Old Salt Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (US). KRUM, Richard, G. [US/US]; 638 Oak Shadow View, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 (US). BARINA, Jeffrey, G. [US/US]; 6433 La Cumbre Road, Somis, CA 93066 (US). HAWWA, Muhammad, A. [SY/US]; P.O. Box 1824, Simi Valley, CA 93062 (US). (74) Agent: ANGUS, Robert, M.; Kinney & Lange, P.A., Suite 1500, 625 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415-1659 (US).		(81) Designated States: DE, GB, JP, KR, SG, US. Published With international search report. With amended claims.

(54) Title: PIEZOELECTRIC HEAD LOADING AND UNLOADING DEVICE FOR RIGID DISC DRIVES



(57) Abstract

A system for loading a transducing head (22) to a flying elevation proximate a rotating surface of a disc (16) is disclosed. The system includes a piezoelectric device (40) that is selectively expanded and contracted to control a height of the head (22) on a flexure spring (14) from the surface of the disc (16). The system preferably includes control circuitry (50) for generating electrical control signals to manage the expansion and contraction of the piezoelectric device (40) according to operating characteristics of the disc (16).