

**Method and apparatus for high throughput media defect testing using
true reference value**

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are provided for efficiently testing magnetic media in which a read level test is performed using an approximation for an average signal level in determining a test threshold and while reading data and testing against the approximate average read signal level, the data signal level is averaged to determine the real average read signal and this value is then used to adjust the results of the comparisons performed against the approximate average read level.

(Fig. 1)