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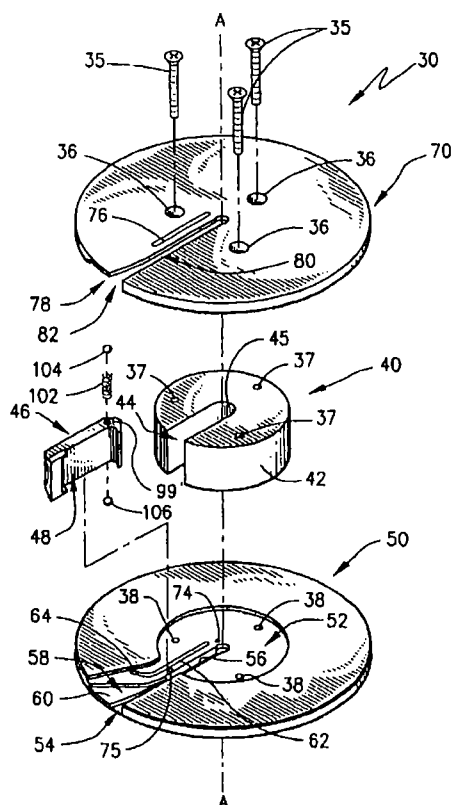
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(54) Title: TAPE THREADING APPARATUS HAVING TAKE-UP HUB WITH GAP FILLING BLOCK FOR DATA STORAGE SYSTEMS AND METHOD THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: A take-up mechanism for a read/write recording apparatus includes a hub (40) with an outer surface (42) about which a tape medium is to be wound. A recess (44) is formed in the outer surface, and a receiver block (46) is reciprocally movable between an extended position and a retracted position. When retracted, an end surface (94) of the receiver block registers with the outer surface of the hub to form a smooth winding surface for the tape. The receiver block has a bay (48) sized to engage the leader block on the tape such that the leader block is enclosed within the hub when the receiver block is retracted. A rotatable drive rotates the hub to wind the tape thereon. This mechanism may be incorporated into a read/write apparatus including a read/write recording head, bearing members to support the tape during transport and a threading assembly to thread the tape through the device.

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