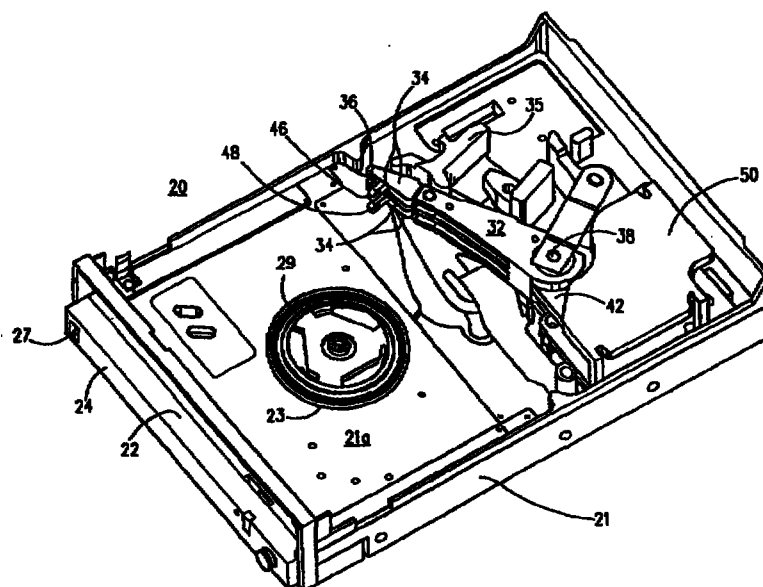


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(54) Title: **HEAD CLEANING BY LOADING HEADS AT LOW SPEED**

(57) Abstract

In a hard disk drive (20), heads (36) are cleaned by loading them onto a storage disk (10) and rotating the disk at a low speed which produces a high force of contact between the head and the disk to clean the head. Periodically, a more thorough cleaning cycle is manually initiated. The heads are loaded onto a cleaning cartridge which has a disk surface which is mildly abrasive to the head. A low frequency is applied to the actuator arm (32) to vibrate the heads radially on the medium which is rotating at low speed. Thereafter, the speed of the spindle (29) is increased up to the operating speed at which the heads are in pseudo contact with the disk surface. This cleaning cycle is repeated five times to clean the heads. The cleaning cycle is initiated by depressing the eject button (26) for longer than five seconds and placing the cleaning cartridge in the drive in response to a flashing LED (27).