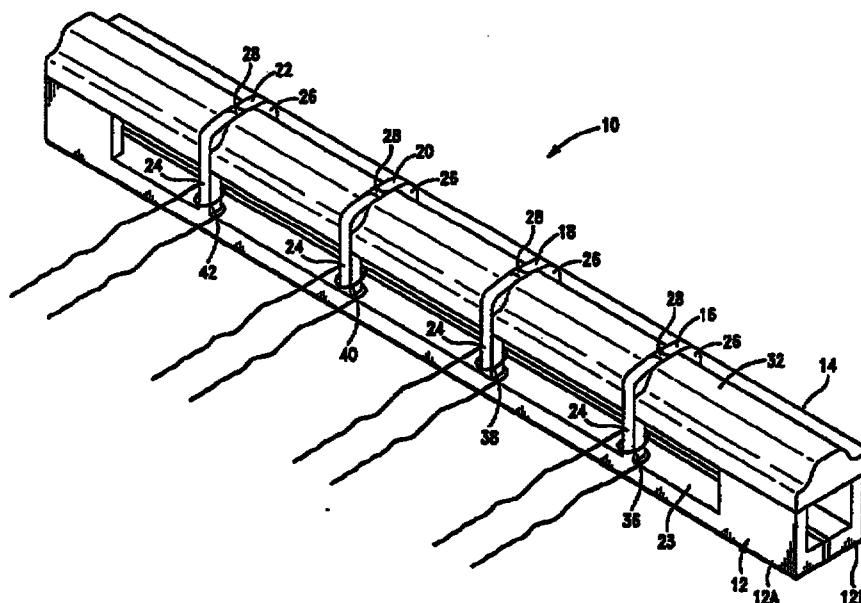


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(54) Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTIPLE CHANNEL HEAD ASSEMBLY**

(57) Abstract

A multiple channel magnetic tape head assembly (10) defines a plurality of spaced-apart transducer elements (24, 26) along an integral bar (12) of ferromagnetic material. Each element (24, 26) formed by grinding operations performed upon the integral bar (12), has a magnetic gap (28) and flux circuit which is isolated from cross-talk with the other elements. Each element is precisely located by the integral bar (12), portions of which remain after grinding. The head assembly provides an aligned longitudinal tape wear region and may further provide widened transverse wear regions adjacent to each of the transducer elements. A fabrication method for forming a multiple channel magnetic tape head assembly is also described.