

ORIGINAL

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ABSTRACT

A PROCESS OF TREATING SLIDER BODIES

A process for treating slider bodies, includes the steps of enclosing a slider body (64) within a chamber (36), the slider body comprising essentially of a ceramic material. An inert gas plasma at a pressure substantially less than atmospheric pressure is generated and maintained within the chamber (36) for an amount of time substantially to clean exposed surface areas of the slider body. Following the cleaning, a plasma mixture at a selected pressure substantially less than atmospheric pressure and at a selected temperature is generated and maintained within the chamber (36) for a selected time to enable carbon and fluorine ion implantation to a selected depth on the exposed surface areas of the slider body. The plasma mixture consists essentially of a reactive gas and inert gas, the reactive gas comprising at least 60% by volume of the mixture and being carbon tetrafluoride.

[Fig. 3]

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

