200000601-5

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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G11B 5/54	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/09545
		(43) International Publication Date: 25 February 1999 (25.02.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/09870

(22) International Filing Date: 14 May 1998 (14.05.98)

(30) Priority Data:

60/055,813	15 August 1997 (15.08.97)	US
09/001,302	31 December 1997 (31.12.97)	US

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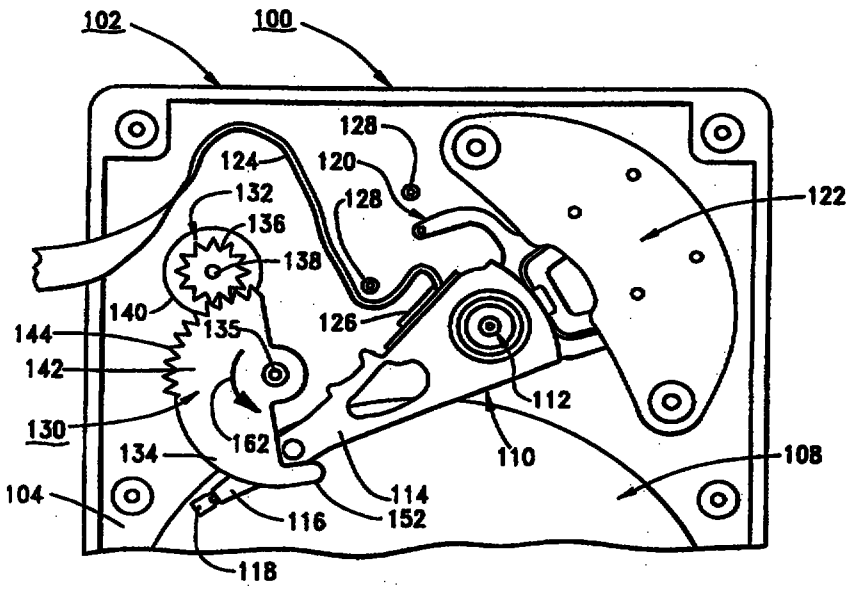
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(81) Designated States: CN, DE, GB, JP, KR, SG.

Published
With international search report.
With amended claims.

(54) Title: RAMP LOAD ASSEMBLY FOR A DISC DRIVE



(57) Abstract

An apparatus for minimizing damage to a disc drive (100) during a non-operational mode while maximizing recording capacity of the disc drive (100) has an actuator assembly (110) with a controllably positionable head (118) supported over the disc during operation. A ramp load assembly (130) is disposed adjacent the disc and has a moveable ramp portion (134) which is extended over the disc during the non-operational mode to support the head and is retracted to a position beyond an outer diameter of the disc during the operational mode. The ramp load assembly (130) is further provided with a latch arm (152) which latches the actuator assembly (110) and a snubber portion which limits deflection of the disc in response to application of a mechanical shock to the disc drive during the non-operational mode.