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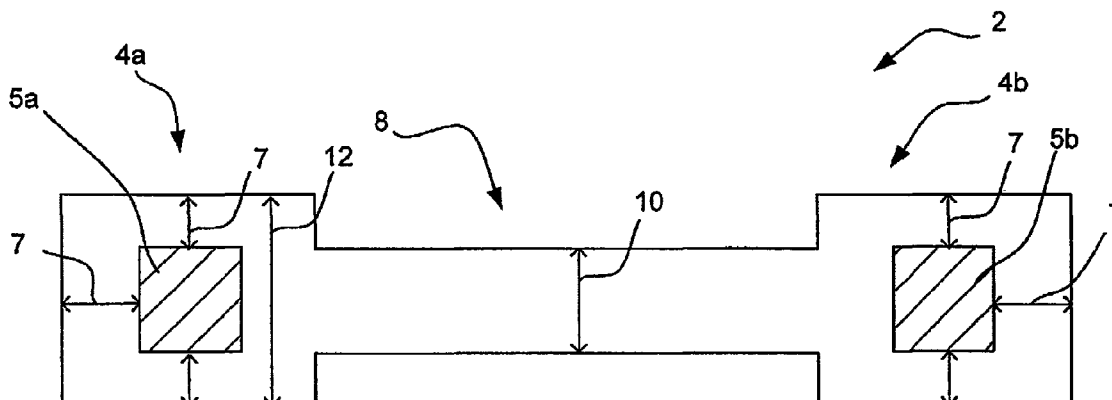
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- (54) Title:** MAGNETO-RESISTIVE BIT STRUCTURE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THEREFOR



- (57) Abstract:** Embodiments of the present invention provide a magnetic bit structure (2) that can be produced using conventional contact and/or via processing steps. This is preferably accomplished by providing a magnetic bit structure (2) that has bit ends (4a, 4b) that are sufficiently large to accommodate a minimum size contact or via hole (5a, 5b). As such, the contact or via holes (5a, 5b) may remain inside of the bit edges, thereby protecting the edges of the bit from later process steps that would otherwise cause oxidation or damage the bit structure.



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