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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A magnetoresistive effect head which can produce a high reproduced output independently from a strength of a magnetic domain control layer even when an electrode spacing is small, and a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus using the same are provided. A magnetoresistive effect film is formed by a stacked layer of a first ferromagnetic film, a non-magnetic conductive film and a second ferromagnetic film. The second ferromagnetic film is stacked on an antiferromagnetic film, and magnetic domain control layers are arranged on the widthwise opposite sides of the magnetoresistive effect film. A pair of electrodes are arranged on each magnetic domain control layers with the electrode spacing being smaller than the width of the magnetoresistive effect film so that a current flows only in a central area of the magnetoresistive effect film.

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