

ABSTRACT

"A method of determining the variation of the clearance between a magnetic transducer and a recording media during track seeking"

A method of determining a clearance between a magnetic transducer and a magnetic recording medium during a track seeking operation, the magnetic recording medium being moveable with respect to the transducer and including at least a test track and a reference track, which method comprises the steps of: at least partially erasing a predetermined area of the recording medium including at least one test track and one reference track; writing a first series of predetermined magnetic transitions along a spiral trace, formed by seeking operation of the read/write head, of the transitions across the predetermined test tracks in the predetermined area; reading the test track and obtaining, from the signals readback from the test track, the pulse width of the readback signal at a predetermined amplitude level; writing a further series of predetermined magnetic transitions identical to the first series on a reference track of the recording medium in the predetermined area; reading the reference track and obtaining, from the signals readback from the reference track, the pulse width of the readback signal at the predetermined amplitude level; and calculating the difference between the test track pulse width and the reference track pulse width, said difference being indicative of the clearance between the magnetic transducer and the magnetic recording medium during track seeking.

[FIGURE 4]