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ABSTRACT

HEAD SLIDER AND DISK DRIVE APPARATUS

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A Head slider 20 has a substantially rectangular parallelepiped shape and a disk-facing surface adapted to oppose a disk 400, as well as a head 22 disposed on the disk-facing surface for performing record/reproduce operations. The disk-facing surface has a cross rail 10 261 disposed at a predetermined distance from an upstream edge portion 36 perpendicular to the rotating direction of disk 400, and an upstream-side intermediate-level portion 32 formed to be lower than cross rail 261 and extended from the forward edge of cross rail 261 to upstream edge portion 36. A step depth H at a stepped portion 38 15 between cross rail 261 and intermediate-level portion 32 is set to be within a range of 5 nm to 100 nm. Thus, a disk drive is provided that is capable of record/reproduce operations while maintaining stable flight of head slider 20 when the relative speed between the head slider and disk is low and that has good shock resistance.

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Figure 1A



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