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(54) Title: FLANGE TAPE REEL HAVING AN ADAPTIVE SECTION FOR ENSURING UNIFORM STACKING OF TAPE**(57) Abstract**

A tape drive tape reel (10) for providing controlled, uniform stacking of tape during read/write operations to reduce lateral tape motion. The reel (10) comprises a hub (50) and two flanges (20, 30) that are located on opposite sides of the hub (50). Each flange (20, 30) includes a deflectable radial section (27, 37) which pivots about the hub (50) as tape is wound onto the reel (10). As each loop of tape is wound on the hub (50) and as the stack of tape increases, the radial sections (27, 37) of the flange (20, 30) are deflected towards each other and against the opposite edges of the tape stack ensuring that the tape stacks uniformly.

