

**SENSOR STRIPE ENCAPSULATION LAYER
IN A READ/WRITE HEAD**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- 5 A magnetoresistive read head has read head layers that are shaped to form an air bearing surface and a sensor stripe cavity with an open side at the air bearing surface. A sensor stripe is deposited in the sensor stripe cavity. The sensor stripe has a front surface that is set back from the air bearing surface to define an encapsulation cavity extending from the front surface to the air bearing surface.
- 10 An encapsulation layer is deposited in the encapsulation cavity. The encapsulation layer encapsulates the front surface.

FIGURE 4