

METHOD OF ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE PROTECTION OF MAGNETIC HEADS IN A MAGNETIC STORAGE SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

MR heads (22) having MR sensors (24) are protected against damage caused by electrostatic discharge or the presence of electrostatically charged fields. A shunt is provided across the adjacent conductive leads or traces to the MR sensor (24) at a point that is immediately adjacent their termination on the MR head (22). A solder bridge may be used for the shunt. The solder shunt (40) is removed prior to putting the integrated suspension on which the MR head is mounted into operation in a magnetic disk drive system. The solder shunt (40) is removed by reflowing the solder and drawing the reflowed solder away from the leads to break electrical connection of the shunt across the adjacent leads to the MR sensor (24). The shunt may also be in the form of an integral bridge of conductive material interconnecting the adjacent leads, which is removed by using a laser to melt the material.

Fig. 1

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

