

9802850-9



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G11B 5/55, F16H 55/18		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/11541
			(43) International Publication Date: 19 March 1998 (19.03.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/16032		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).	
(22) International Filing Date: 10 September 1997 (10.09.97)		Published With international search report.	
(30) Priority Data: 08/711,618 10 September 1996 (10.09.96) US			
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(54) Title: A TAPE HEAD ACTUATOR ASSEMBLY HAVING A SHOCK SUPPRESSION SLEEVE

(57) Abstract

A magnetic tape head actuator assembly has a stepper motor having a threaded shaft (50) wherein a bracket supports the tape head assembly. A threaded split nut (85) is positioned between bores of the bracket and rigidly attached to the bracket whereby the bracket is moved back and forth along the shaft (50). The split nut (85) has an annular groove (95) encircling its outer perimeter so as to position a circular spring (100) therein for providing an inwardly directed compressive force on the split nut (85). A shock suppression sleeve (105) is spring biased by spring (102) to engage the split nut (85) over a distance of the split nut (85). In the event of a mechanical shock, a ramped interior portion of the sleeve (105) provides a reactionary force on the split nut (85) for resisting the expansion thereof, thereby substantially eliminating split nut backlash.

