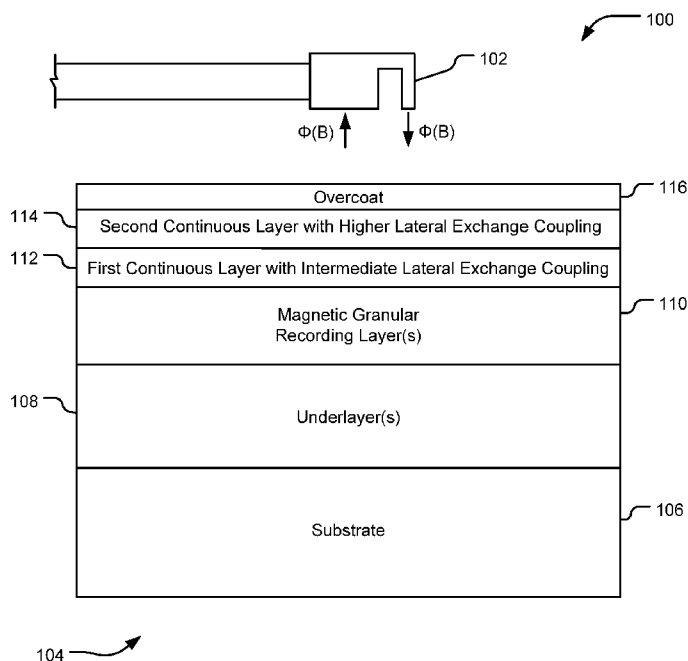




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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** RECORDING STACK WITH A DUAL CONTINUOUS LAYER

(57) **Abstract:** A perpendicular magnetic recording stack (104) with a dual continuous layer and a method of manufacturing the same. The perpendicular magnetic recording stack includes a substrate (106), one or more magnetic granular recording layers (110), and a dual continuous layer having first and second continuous layers (112, 114). The first continuous layer (112), disposed between the second continuous layer (114) and the magnetic granular recording layers, has an intermediate lateral exchange coupling, which is higher than the lateral exchange coupling of the magnetic granular layers. The second continuous layer has a higher lateral exchange coupling than the first continuous layer.



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