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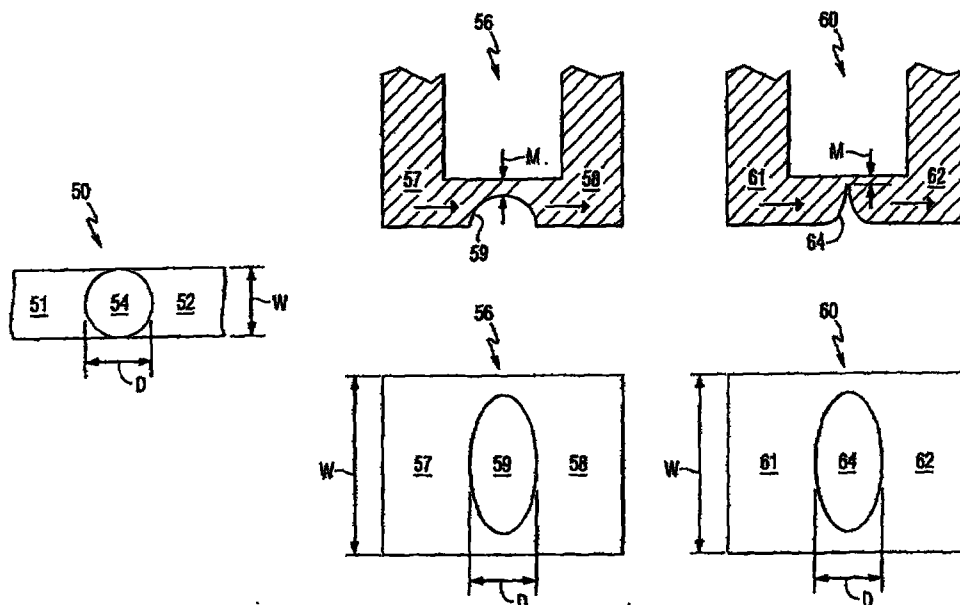
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(54) Title: **LONGITUDINAL MAGNETIC RECORDING HEADS WITH VARIABLE-LENGTH GAPS**



(57) Abstract: A longitudinal recording head (50, 56, 60) for use with magnetic recording media includes a non-uniform gap (54, 59, 64) between first (51, 57, 61) and second magnetic (52, 58, 62) poles which focuses magnetic flux onto a small area of the magnetic recording medium. The non-uniform gap is preferably in the form of a cavity that is contoured to produce the desired flux pattern. Longitudinal recording heads incorporating the non-uniform gap are capable of improved recording densities.

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