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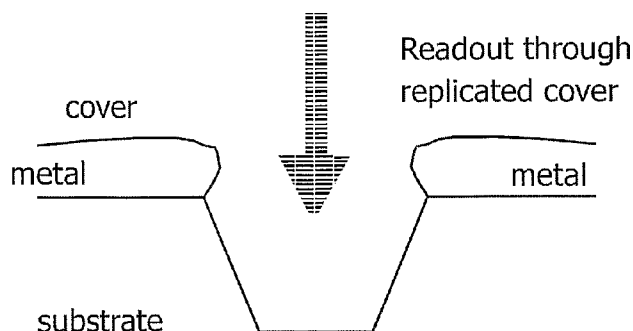
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(54) Title: OPTICAL DATA STORAGE MEDIUM AND MANUFACTURING METHODS THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: An optical data storage medium is described. It comprises at least a substrate, having a surface with data stored in pits that are embossed into the substrate and in spaces separating the pits, a reflective layer covering the surface and having an intrinsic optical reflectivity R at a wavelength λ , a transparent cover stack formed on the reflective layer, the pattern of pits being readable through the cover stack by means of the focused radiation beam having the wavelength λ . The value of R on the spaces separating the pits is substantially different from the value of R on the bottom of the pits. An improved signal quality is achieved, e.g. for BD-ROM discs. Further methods for manufacturing such a medium are described, e.g. inclined sputtering or selective etching.