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(54) Roll insensitive air bearing slider

(57) An air bearing slider 60 for use in carrying a transducer 74 adjacent a recording medium exhibits reduced sensitivity to variations in roll, crown, and skew. In one embodiment, the slider 60 comprises an air bearing slider having a pair of substantially coplanar side rails 62, 64 disposed along the sides of the air bearing surface so as to form a recessed section 68 between the side rails. The recessed section 68 is open at both the leading and trailing edges 70, 72 of the slider while each side rail has a tapered section 66 or etched step at the leading edge of the slider. One rail 64 carries the transducer 74 and extends for the entire length of the slider body. The rail 62 without a transducer extends from the leading edge toward the trailing edge, but does not extend all the way to the trailing edge. In another embodiment the side rail 64 incorporates a transverse channel 80 which allows the slider 60 to be used with a lower static load.

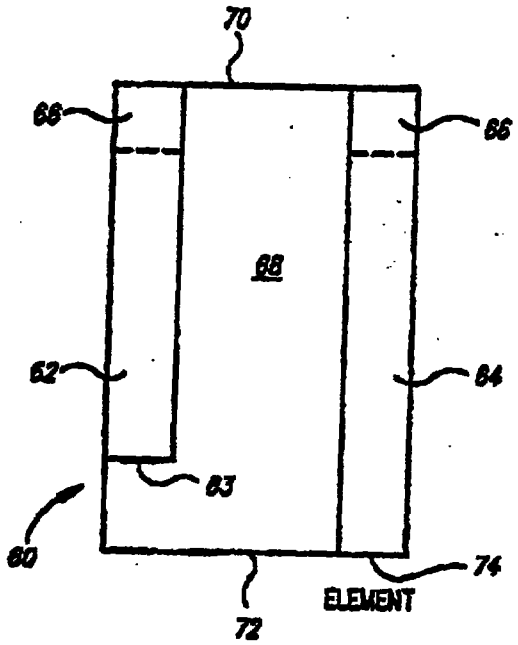


FIG. 3A

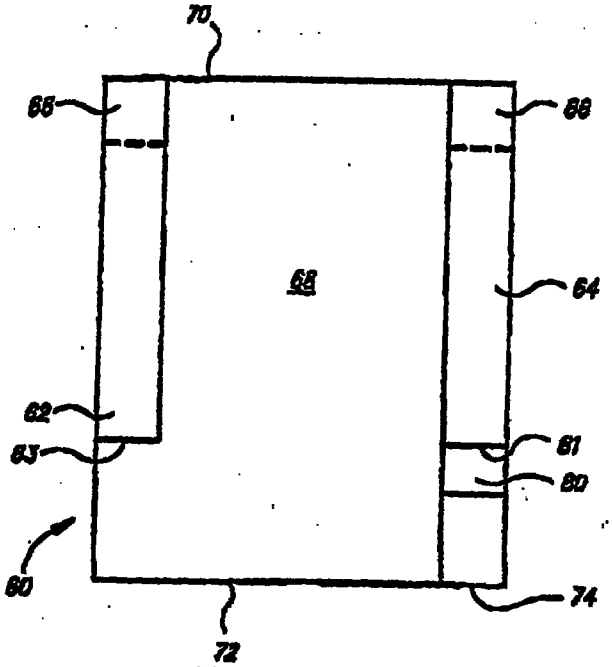


FIG. 6

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This Sheet Has Been Replaced