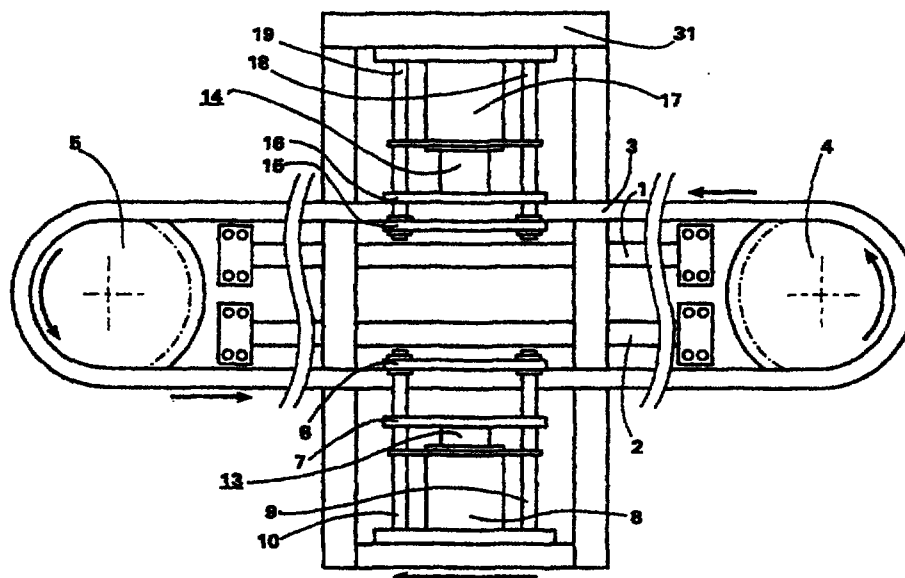




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(54) Title: METHOD FOR REPETITIVELY GENERATING A SEQUENCE OF PRESCRIBED LINEAR MOVEMENTS OF A MOVEABLE TABLE IN A MACHINE AND APPARATUS THEREFOR



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for repetitively generating a sequence of prescribed linear movements of a moveable table (31) in a production or factory machine. A moving endless flexible loop (3) is mounted on two end wheels (4, 5), preferably one wheel driven controllably to drive the loop (3). Two releasable gripping mechanisms (13, 14) are attached to the moveable table (31), arranged so that part of the loop passes through each mechanism. The moving loop (3) is gripped, held and then released by mechanisms (13, 14), so moving the table (31) a prescribed distance. By actuating the mechanisms (13, 14) in a predetermined sequence, the table (31) is moved in a prescribed manner to return at the end of the cycle to its original position, and repeating the actuation sequence then repeats the prescribed table movement sequence.