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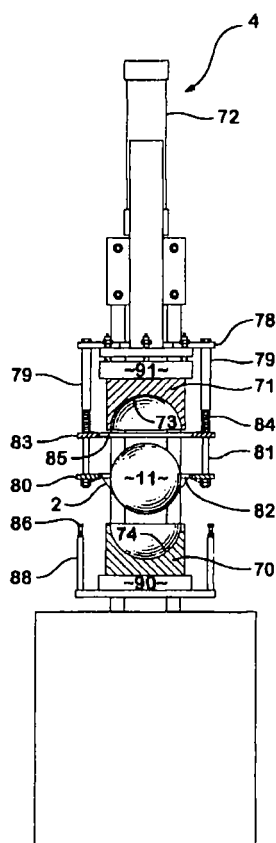
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING AND/OR DECORATING BOWLING BALLS AND THE LIKE



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for making and/or decorating bowling balls includes flexible transfer sheets (2,3) with heat-activated ink applied to portions thereof. A mold with opposite halves (70,71), which shift between open and closed positions, includes a cavity (73,74) sized to closely receive an article (11) therein. Transfer sheets (2,3) are positioned in the mold (70,71) with the article (11), such that when the mold (70,71) is closed, the same are captured in the mold cavity in an overlying relationship. Heat is applied to the mold (70,71) causing the article (11) to expand through thermal expansion, which expansion is resisted by the mold (70,71) to uniformly press the transfer sheets (2,3) against the underlying outer surface of the article (11), and also causing the heat-activated ink to transfer from the transfer sheets (2,3) to the outer surface of the article (11) to form the design thereon.



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