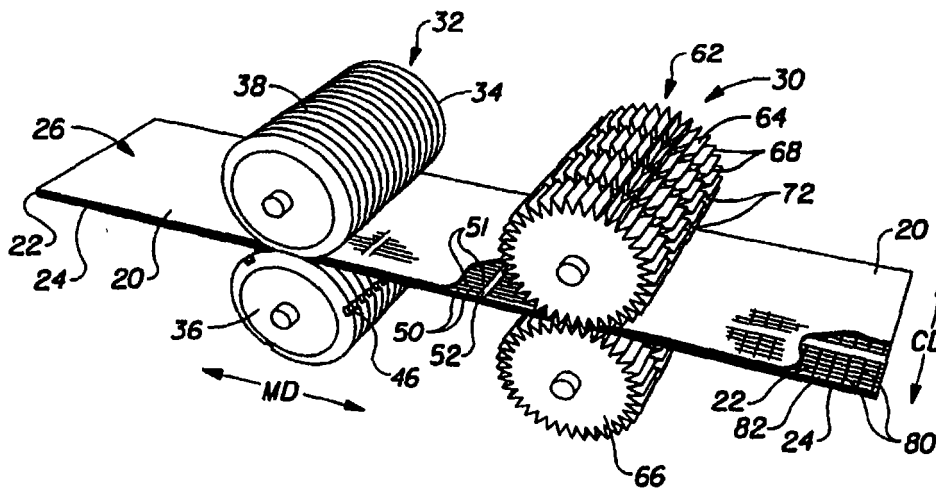


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(54) Title: METHOD OF MAKING A SLITTED OR PARTICULATE ABSORBENT MATERIAL



(57) Abstract

A method of making a slitted or particulate absorbent material for an absorbent article such as sanitary napkins, diapers, incontinence devices, and the like is disclosed. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method as described above which can be carried out *in situ* on another component of the absorbent article in a manufacturing process without cutting the other component. In one embodiment, the absorbent material is placed between two carrier webs, and a force is applied to the composite of the absorbent material and the carrier webs. The force breaks the absorbent material, but only deforms the carrier webs to provide a self-contained web of particulate material between two carrier webs. Absorbent structures formed by this method are also disclosed. In one embodiment, the absorbent structure comprises a composite web of discrete elements of absorbent material. The composite web comprises at least one carrier web and a plurality of discrete elements of absorbent material arranged in an orderly array on the carrier web. In one embodiment, the discrete elements of absorbent material are positioned adjacent to each other without any intervening material between the discrete elements of absorbent material.