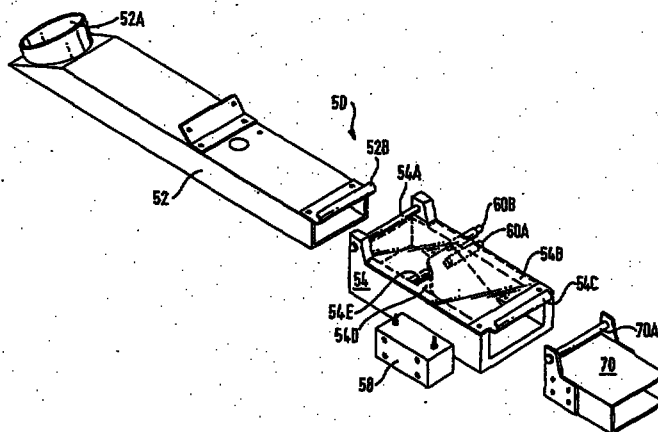


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(54) Title: IMPROVED EXIT CHUTE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL TABLET PRESS MACHINE



(57) Abstract

A exit chute (50) for a pharmaceutical tablet press machine comprising a first exit chute portion having a first end and a second end wherein the first end is adapted to be secured to the tablet press for receiving tablets formed thereby. A second exit chute portion is provided that has a first end and a second end and the first end is adapted to be removably secured to the second end of the first exit chute portion to form an extended tablet pathway, and the second chute portion includes an aperture therein whereby rejected tablets can be diverted to pass therethrough and accepted tablets will be allowed to pass through the second exit chute portion and out of the second end thereof. An air-actuated gate (56) is mounted to the second exit chute portion that is adapted to be selectively moved from an open reject position wherein tablets are diverted through the aperture to a closed accept position wherein the tablets are allowed to pass through the second exit chute portion, and wherein the selective movement is in response to signals from the tablet press. Circuit means electrically connect the air-actuated gate and the tablet press and includes sensor means (60A, 60B) for detecting whether the air-actuated gate (56) is in a correct tablet accept or tablet reject position. The circuit means acts to stop the tablet press during the tablet pressing operation when a fault in the position of the air-actuated gate (56) is detected.