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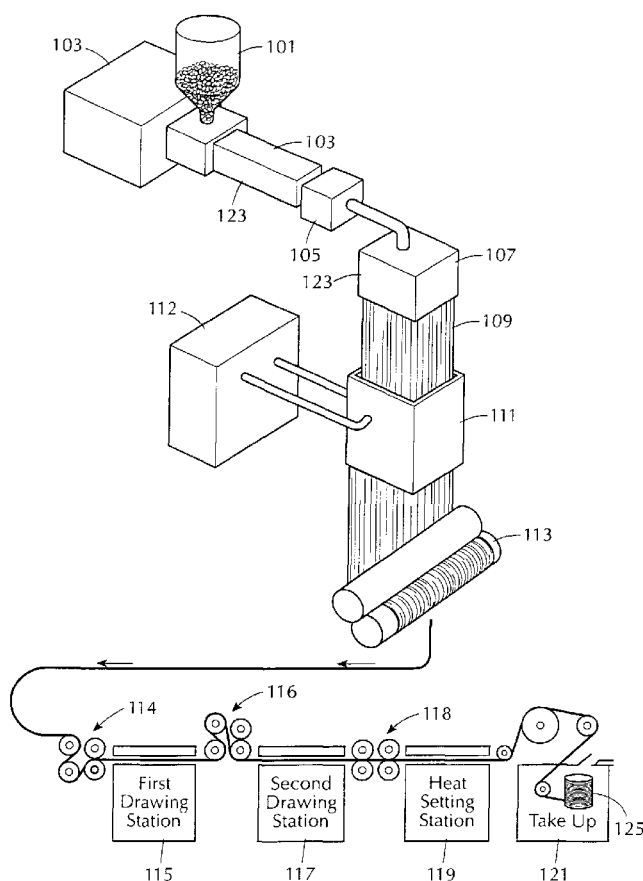
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING OPTICAL FIBER MADE OF SEMI-CRYSTALLINE POLYMER



(57) Abstract: An extruder heats polymer resin to produce molten polymer and supplies the molten polymer at a constant pressure. A gear pump is in fluid communication with the extruder, receives the molten polymer and controls the polymer flow rate. A spinneret is in fluid communication with the gear pump and spins the molten polymer into the optical fibers. A heater controls the temperature of the optical fiber after the fibers exit the spinneret. The optical fibers are slowly cooled from molten to ambient temperature to eliminate radial morphological variations. A take-up roller tensions the optical fibers after the fibers exit the spinneret to maximize crystallization of the molten polymer.



CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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