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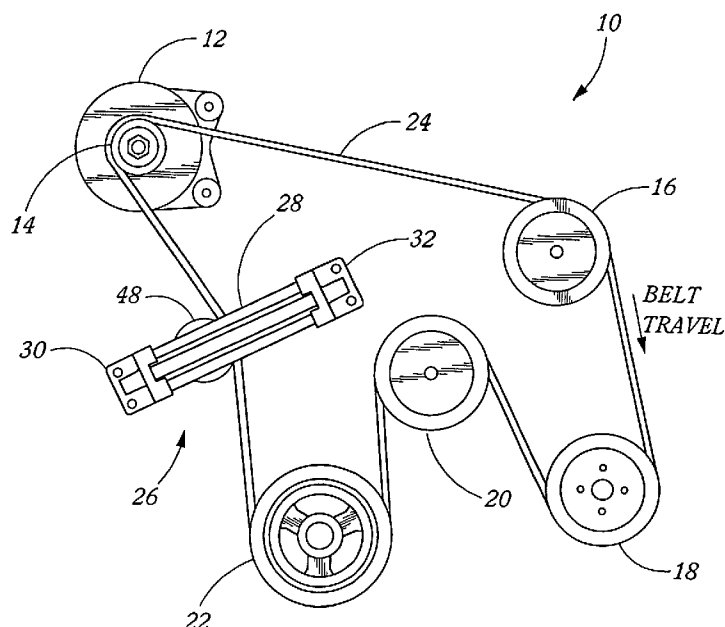
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(54) Title: BELT TENSIONER



(57) Abstract: The invention is an improved tensioner for tensioning a power transmission belt. The tensioner (26) is of the type having a track, a carrier (46) mounted in sliding relation with the track with two degrees freedom of movement, a pulley (48) rotatably mounted upon the carrier and for engaging the power transmission belt (24), a spring (72) biasing the carrier in longitudinal relation to the track, and a damping mechanism that modifies the biasing of the spring based upon movement of the carrier in relation to the track. It is improved by the damping mechanism having a shoe (66) placed in asymmetrical damping relation to the carrier and the track. Further, the shoe includes a first friction bearing surface in mating relationship with a second friction bearing surface of the track.



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