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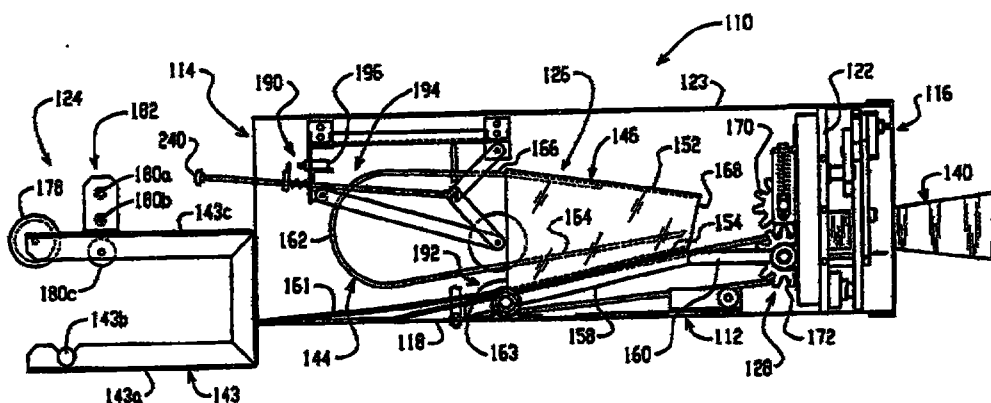
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(54) Title: LOADING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR CUSHIONING CONVERSION MACHINE



(57) Abstract

A cushioning conversion machine (110) and method employing a loading assembly (190) that eliminates the need to manually thread sheet-like stock material through a forming assembly (126) of the machine during a loading operation. The loading assembly and associated method are characterized by cooperating feed members that are located adjacent an upstream or inlet end of a converging chute (146). Upon actuation of an accessible operator member (194), the feed members are selectively engaged to push stock material through the chute and out the exit end of the chute for engagement by a feeding/connecting assembly (12B) which is at least energized during such selective engagement.