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(54) Title: POLYVINYL ALCOHOL FIBRES AND FIBROUS PRODUCTS

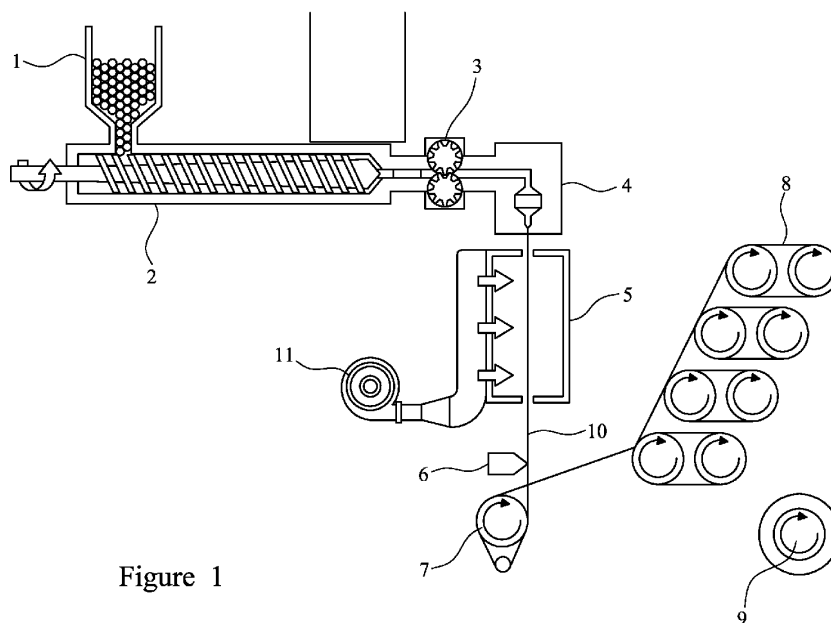


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A method of manufacture of polyvinyl alcohol fibres comprising the steps of: providing a polyvinyl alcohol composition comprising: homopolymeric polyvinyl alcohol having a degree of hydrolysis of 88% to 98% or greater and a weight average molecular weight in the range from 14,000 to 22,000; a plasticiser selected from the group consisting of: diglycerol, triglycerol, fructose, ribose, xylose, D-mannitol, triacetin, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, methyl pentanediol, 1,2-propanediol, 1,4-butanediol, 2-hydroxy-1,3-propanediol, 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, 3,3- dimethyl-1,2-butanediol, polyethylene glycol 300, polyethylene glycol 400, alkoxyated polyethylene glycol, caprolactam, tricyclic trimethylolpropane formal, rosin esters, erucamide, and mixtures thereof; and an optional stabilizer selected from the group consisting of: sodium stearate, potassium oleate, sodium benzoate, calcium stearate, stearic acid, dimethyl, propionic acid and mixtures thereof; melting the composition at a temperature from 200°C to 230°C to form a molten

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polymer; extruding the melted composition to form an extrudate; forming the extrudate into molten fibres; and allowing the molten fibres to solidify to form solid fibres.