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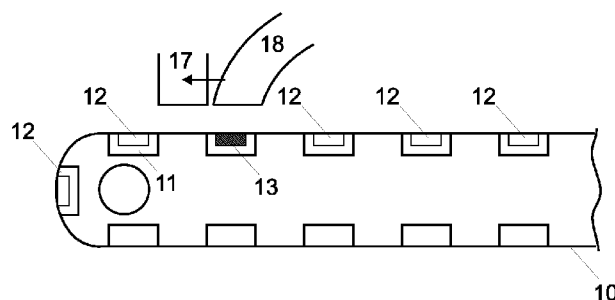


Fig. 4

(57) Abstract: A method for filling a carrier tape (10) with electronic components (12) and for removing and replacing defective electronic components (13) from the carrier tape, comprising the steps of: at a filling station (1), loading an electronic component in a pocket (11) of the carrier tape (10), moving said carrier tape (10) forward, automatically detecting that said electronic component which is defective, moving said carrier tape backward, and unloading the defective electronic component (13) from the carrier tape (10), at said filling station (1), filling said pocket with a new electronic component.