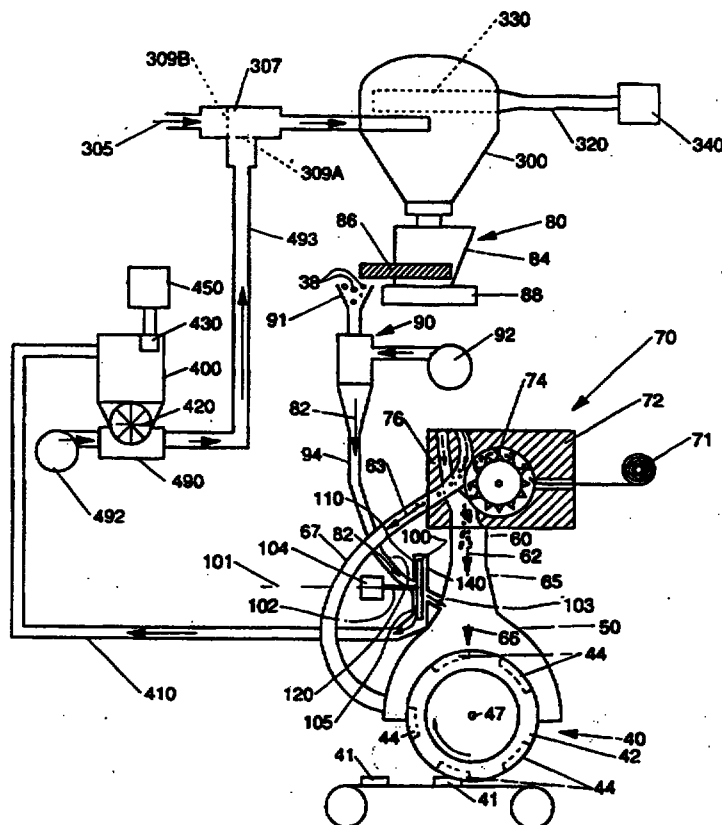


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The present invention provides a method and apparatus for applying discrete particles (38) of absorbent material to a predetermined location on a fibrous web. The apparatus comprises a continuously rotating mask (100), and a means for directing a supply stream of absorbent particles to form an acute included angle with a diverting surface on the rotating mask. The mask diverting surface (110) splits the supply stream of absorbent particles into a first intermittent stream (103) passing through the mask and a second intermittent stream (105) deflected by the diverting surface. The absorbent particles in one of the first and second intermittent streams is directed to the fibrous web.



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