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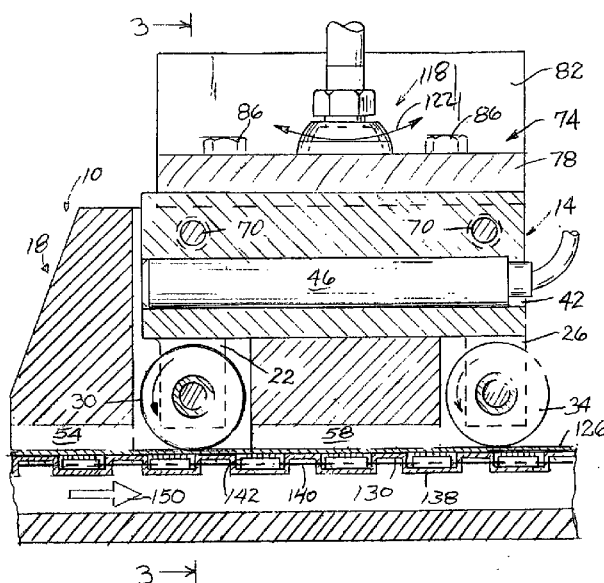
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SEALING COVER TAPE TO CARRIER TAPE



(57) **Abstract:** Method and apparatus for sealing cover tape(126). A sealing mechanism is connected to an actuator(110) that moves the mechanism toward an adhesively backed cover tape(126) and a carrier tape(130). The sealing mechanism applies heat and/or pressure to the cover tape to activate and bond the cover tape to the carrier tape. A biasing member (98) biases the mechanism away from the cover and carrier tapes. The actuator(110) is actuable to overcome the biasing force of the biasing member and to initiate contact between the sealing mechanism and the cover tape. When the actuator is disengaged, the biasing member moves the sealing mechanism away from the cover tape.



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