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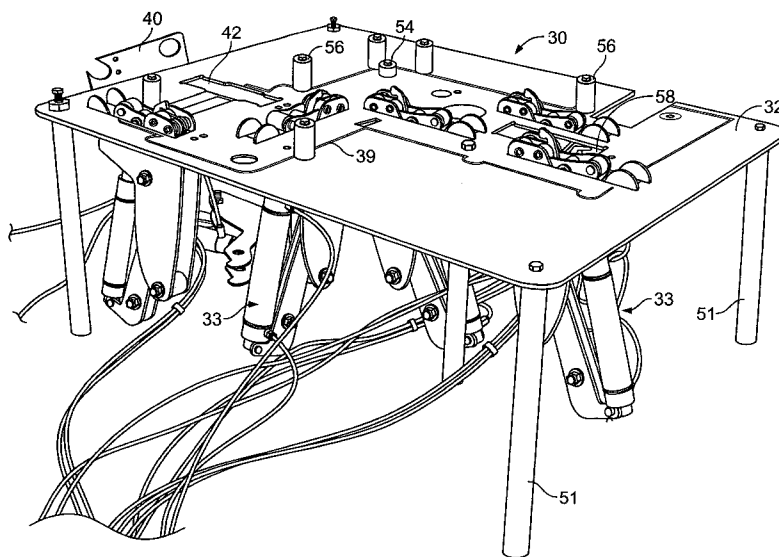
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(54) Title: TOOL SYSTEM FOR BENDING SHEET MATERIALS AND METHOD OF USING SAME



(57) Abstract: A bending tool system is provided for forming a three-dimensional structure from a two-dimensional sheet material which includes a predetermined fold line. The system includes a tool base for receiving and supporting the sheet material in a work plane, a clamp for engaging against the sheet material to secure a portion of the sheet material relative to the tool base, a locator for positioning the sheet material relative to the tool base such that the clamp extends through the clamping aperture, and a bending arm located adjacent the clamp, the bending arm movable from an initial position located below the work plane to an upper position in order to apply an upward force against an unsecured portion of the sheet metal to effect bending of the sheet material about the fold line. A method of using the tool system for bending sheet materials is also described.

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