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(54) **Title**: METHOD OF OPERATING A CLAMPING SYSTEM OF A WIRE BONDING MACHINE

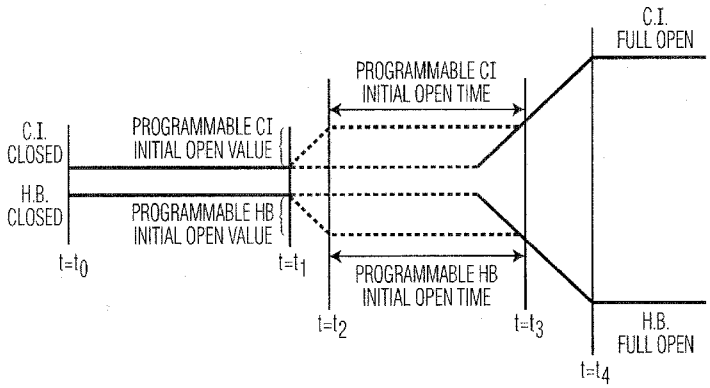


FIG. 4

(57) **Abstract**: A method of operating a wire bonding machine is provided. The method includes the steps of: (1) providing a workpiece secured in a bonding position by a device clamp of a wire bonding machine; (2) raising the device clamp to a first height above the workpiece, the device clamp remaining at the first height for a first predetermined period of time; and (3) raising the device clamp to a second height above the workpiece after step (2), the second height being further away from the workpiece than the first height.

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