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**Method and Apparatus for Detecting and Eliminating
Cigarettes with Loose Filter Tips
During Cigarette Manufacturing**

A B S T R A C T

This invention relates to a loose filter tip detecting machine for filter tip cigarettes.

A splittable drum assembly has first and second vacuum force means in respective first and second segments thereof. The vacuum force applied through each segment communicates with either the tobacco rod or filter tip of a filter tip cigarette held in a groove on the splittable drum assembly.

The first and second segments of the splittable drum assembly can be moved apart, whereby the vacuum force applied to either section of a filter tip cigarette pulls the filter tip away from the tobacco rod, or vice versa, thus testing whether the attachment between the two sections is loose or not.

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