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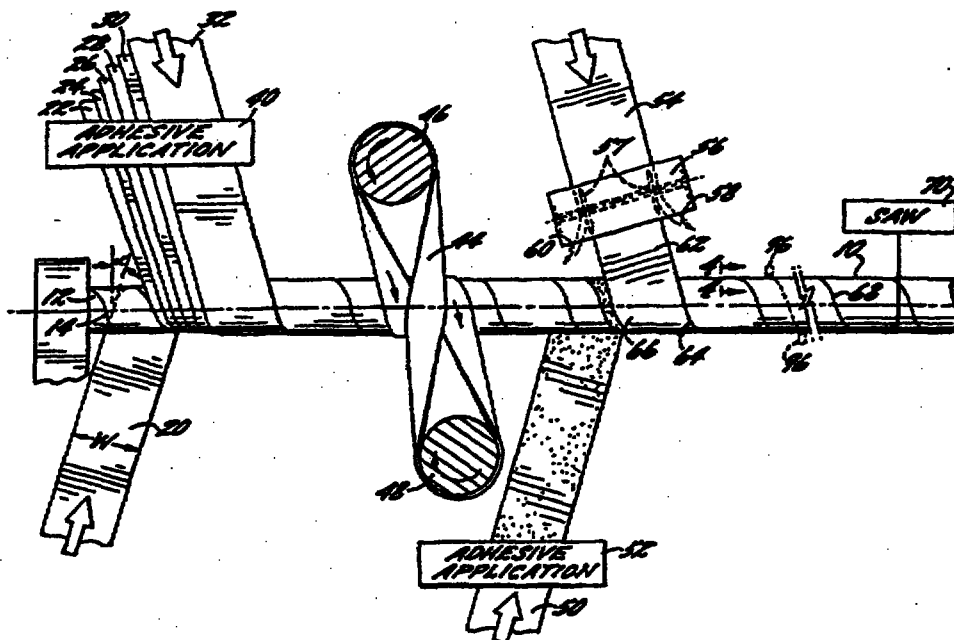


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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENHANCING SEAM UNIFORMITY IN SPIRALLY WOUND TUBES



(57) Abstract

The invention provides a method and apparatus for spirally winding a tube of enhanced spiral seam uniformity that is simple and reliable. The spirally wound tube (10) is formed using a spiral pitch control surface that engages with an exterior or interior cylindrical surface of a spirally wound tube and constrains movement of the tube to a predetermined spiral rotation as it is formed on a cylindrical stationary mandrel (12). Preferably, the pitch control surface comprises a tube engaging surface (14) positioned along at least one spirally aligned portion of the exterior portion of the tube forming mandrel.