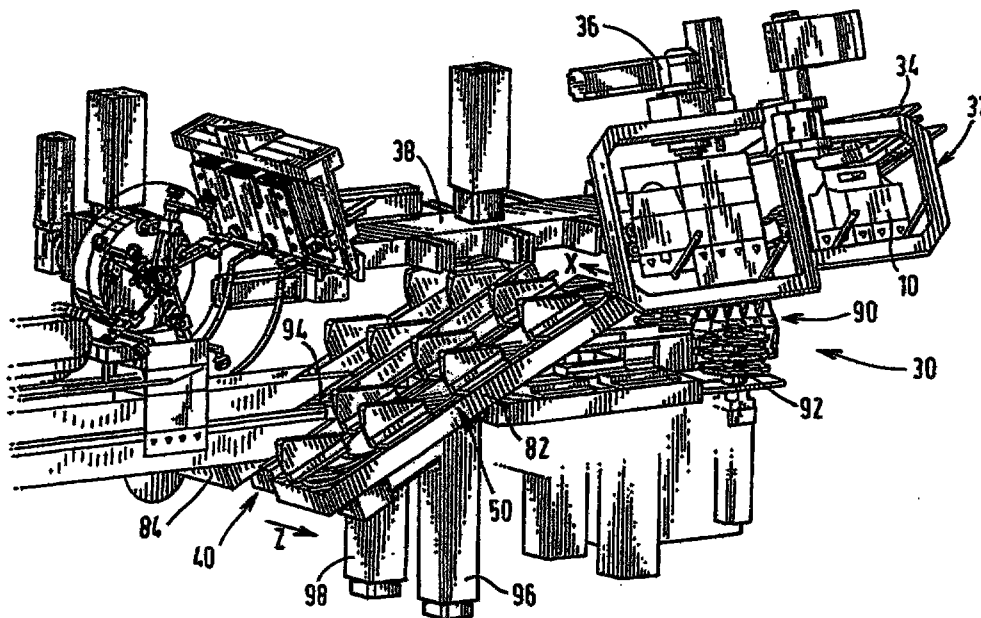


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(54) Title: **CARTON LOADING MECHANISM**

(57) Abstract

An apparatus and method for continuously loading different types of cartons with articles delivered to the apparatus from an infeed stream of a packaging machine. The apparatus (50) comprises conveying means sequentially to deliver successive cartons (10) from a supply and to load said carton by lowering said carton onto at least one article. The conveying means comprises a plurality of carton engaging means (64) mounted to respective ones of a pair of endless chains (52, 54), wherein the carton is held between synchronised carton engaging means to maintain the carton in a set up condition as it is moved downstream. Adjustment means is provided to adjust one of said pair of endless chains relative to the other said endless chain to receive a different carton type.