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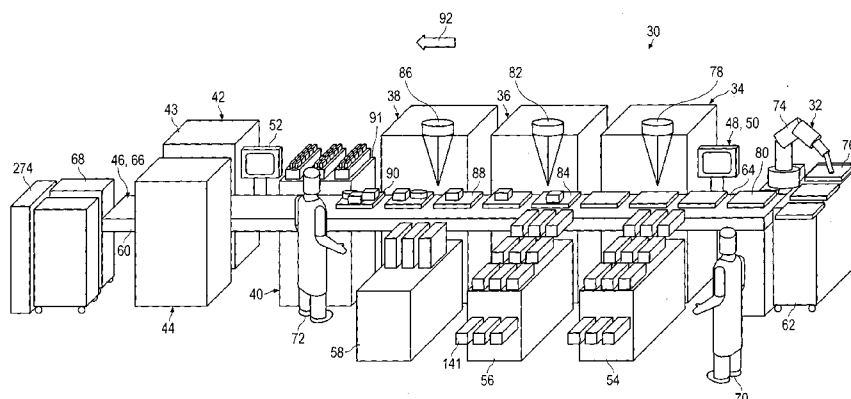
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(54) **Title:** FLEXIBLE ASSEMBLY LINE FOR TRAY PACKAGING



(57) **Abstract:** A flexible assembly line (30, 210, 212, 276) for tray packaging comprises a tray dispenser (32, 62) for providing a tray (76, 80, 84, 88, 90), and a loading station (34, 36, 38, 214, 216, 218, 234, 236, 238, 250) adjacent to the tray dispenser (32, 62) for placing food or non-food items onto the tray (76, 80, 84, 88, 90) automatically.