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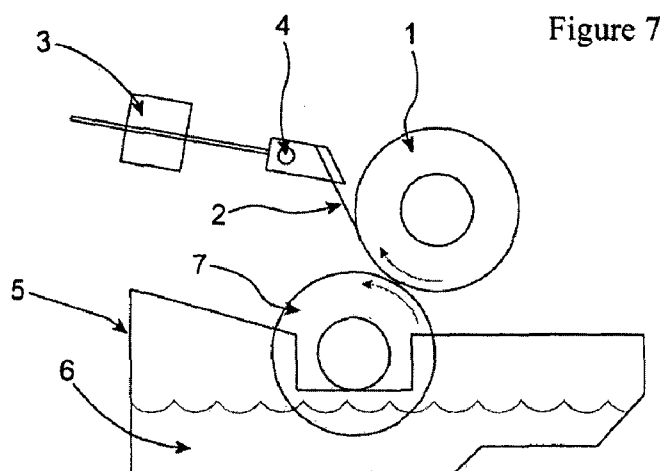


Figure 7

(57) Abstract: A process for producing a fluid transfer surface, which process comprises: providing a titanium or titanium alloy surface; subjecting the titanium or titanium alloy surface to surface hardening by interstitial element absorption to provide a hardened surface; and, if required engraving the hardened surface to provide a desired surface topography.