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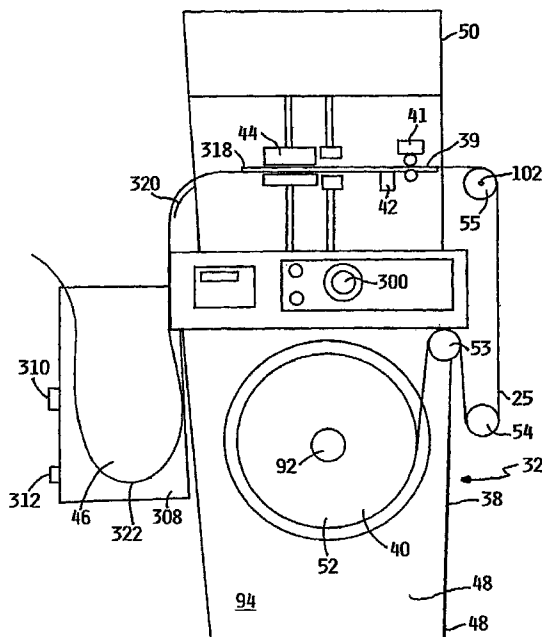
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(54) Title: PLASTIC EMBOSSED CARRIER TAPE APPARATUS AND PROCESS

(57) Abstract: An embossed carrier tape manufacturing apparatus (24) includes features for integrating with other processing equipment so that other processes such as forming, filling, and sealing the tape can be performed sequentially in one integrated process. The apparatus (24) includes retractable contact spot heaters (194) for heating the tape prior to embossing, along with a unique heat shield arrangement (208) that is interposable between the heaters (194) and the tape (25) so that the process may be paused. Also, a synchronizing apparatus is integrated so that the carrier tape embossing process may be automatically paused for adjusting to the input rate of other carrier tape processing apparatus.



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