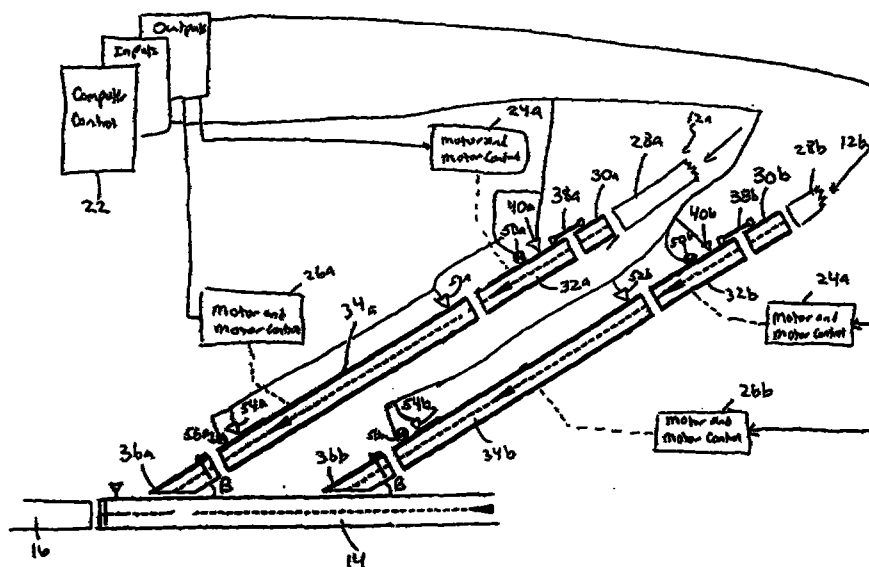


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(54) Title: IMPROVED CONVEYOR SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A conveyor system includes individual feed (12) conveyors, each comprises an accumulation conveyor (28), a brake belt (30), a meter belt (32), a staging belt (34) and a spur conveyor (36). All of the feed conveyors are disposed to discharge packages to a takeaway conveyor (14), which conveys the packages to a transport conveyor. Packages are transferred to the takeaway conveyor such that a consistent average inter-package gap is achieved. When packages are transferred from the meter belt (32) to the staging belt (34), the speed of the meter belt (32) varies within a range of zero and a first speed, and the speed of the staging belt (34) varies within a range of zero and a second speed, the meter belt and staging belt being operable anywhere within and at the ends of the ranges so as to match speeds at the time that the transfer sections of packages are being transferred therebetween.