2. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 1, wherein the first roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the second roller carriage.

~~3. A linear pipe tensioner comprising:~~

~~a frame;~~

~~a first track assembly secured to the frame, the first track assembly having a first track operatively associated with two first track axles, the first track having a first gripping pad, the first gripping pad having a first compliant member having at least three slots, and at least three gripping members disposed within the respective slots, the gripping members comprising a rectangular shape having an upper end, the upper end having at least one chamber to provide a point, the three gripping members being disposed in their corresponding slots within the first compliant member at non-right angles relative to a lateral axis and a longitudinal axis of the first gripping pad; and~~

~~a second track assembly having a second track operatively associated with two second track axles, the second track assembly being secured to the frame above the first track to define a pathway between the first track and the second track for receiving a pipe.~~

~~4. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 3, wherein the gripping members protrude through their respective slots during compression of the first compliant member.~~

~~5. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 4, wherein the gripping members are fully disposed within their respective slots prior to compression of the first compliant member.~~

~~6. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 5, wherein the gripping members are disposed on a first gripping member plate.~~

7. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 3, wherein the second track includes a second gripping pad, the second gripping pad having a second compliant member having a second slot and a second gripping member disposed within the second slot.

8. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 3, wherein the first track includes a plurality of first track gripping pads operatively associated with the first track, each of the first track gripping pads having a compliant member having a slot and a gripping member disposed within the slot, and

wherein the second track includes a plurality of second track gripping pads operatively associated with the second track, each of the second track gripping pads having a compliant member having a slot and a gripping member disposed within the slot.

9. A linear pipe tensioner comprising:

a frame;

a first track assembly secured to the frame, the first track assembly having a first track operatively associated with two first track axles, and a first drive assembly operatively associated with at least one of the two first track axles, the first drive assembly being in fluid communication with a hydraulic motor through a transfer valve, the first track assembly having a first gripping pad, the first gripping pad having a first compliant member having at least three slots, and at least three gripping members disposed within the respective slots, the gripping members comprising a rectangular shape having an upper end, the upper end having at least one chamber to provide a point, the three gripping members being disposed in their corresponding slots within the first compliant member at non-right angles relative to a lateral axis and a longitudinal axis of the first gripping pad; and

a second track assembly having a second track operatively associated with two second track axles and a second drive assembly operatively associated with at least one of the two second track axles, the second drive assembly being in fluid communication with the hydraulic motor through the transfer valve,

wherein the transfer valve comprises a first setting in which a hydraulic fluid flows simultaneously to the first and second drive assemblies, and a second setting in which the

~~hydraulic fluid flows to the first or second drive assembly and then to the other of the first or second drive assembly, the transfer valve being actuatable between the first and second settings.~~

~~10~~. A linear pipe tensioner comprising:

a frame;

a first track assembly having a first track operatively associated with two first track axles, the first track assembly being secured to the frame;

a second track assembly having a second track operatively associated with two second track axles, the second track assembly being secured to the frame above the first track to define a pathway between the first track and the second track for receiving a pipe;

a first roller assembly operatively associated with the first track, the first roller assembly having a first roller operatively associated with a first roller carriage, the first roller carriage being pivotally connected to a first hydraulic piston operatively associated with a first hydraulic cylinder, the first hydraulic cylinder operatively associated with a first swivel member for rotational movement of the first hydraulic piston; and

a second roller assembly operatively associated with the first track, the second roller assembly having a second roller operatively associated with a second roller carriage, the second roller carriage being pivotally connected to a second hydraulic piston operatively associated with a second hydraulic cylinder, the second hydraulic cylinder operatively associated with a second swivel member for rotational movement of the second hydraulic piston,

wherein the first roller carriage is pivotally connected to the second roller carriage by a bar having first and second slots, and wherein the first slot is operatively associated with a first pin operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second slot is operatively associated with a second pin operatively associated with the second roller carriage.

~~11~~. The linear pipe tensioner of claim ~~10~~, further comprising a third roller assembly

operatively associated with the second track, the third roller assembly having a third roller operatively associated with a third roller carriage, the third roller carriage being pivotally connected to a third hydraulic piston operatively associated with a third hydraulic cylinder.

~~12~~. The linear pipe tensioner of claim ~~10~~, wherein the first track further comprises a plurality of first track roller assemblies operatively associated with the first track, each of the first track roller assemblies having a roller operatively associated with a roller carriage, the roller carriage being pivotally connected to a hydraulic piston operatively associated with a hydraulic cylinder, and

wherein the second track comprises a plurality of second track roller assemblies operatively associated with the second track, each of the second track roller assemblies having a roller operatively associated with a roller carriage, wherein the roller carriage is pivotally connected to a hydraulic piston operatively associated with a hydraulic cylinder, and wherein the hydraulic cylinders are operatively associated with swivel members for rotational movement of the hydraulic pistons.

~~13~~. The linear pipe tensioner of claim ~~12~~, wherein adjacent roller assemblies are pivotally connected by means of a slotted bar in operative association with the adjacent roller carriages.

~~14~~. The linear pipe tensioner of claim ~~10~~, wherein the first roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the second roller carriage.

CLAIMS

1. A linear pipe tensioner comprising:

a frame;

a first track assembly having a first track operatively associated with two first track axles, the first track assembly being secured to the frame;

a second track assembly having a second track operatively associated with two second track axles, the second track assembly being secured to the frame above the first track to define a pathway between the first track and the second track for receiving a pipe;

a first roller assembly operatively associated with the first track, the first roller assembly having a first roller operatively associated with a first roller carriage, the first roller carriage being pivotally connected to a first hydraulic piston operatively associated with a first hydraulic cylinder, the first hydraulic cylinder having a first hydraulic accumulator disposed within the first hydraulic cylinder, the first hydraulic cylinder operatively associated with a first swivel member for rotational movement of the first hydraulic piston; and

a second roller assembly operatively associated with the first track, the second roller assembly having a second roller operatively associated with a second roller carriage, the second roller carriage being pivotally connected to a second hydraulic piston operatively associated with a second hydraulic cylinder, the second hydraulic cylinder having a second hydraulic accumulator disposed within the second hydraulic cylinder, the second hydraulic cylinder operatively associated with a second swivel member for rotational movement of the second hydraulic piston,

wherein the first roller carriage is pivotally connected to the second roller carriage by a bar having first and second slots, and wherein the first slot is operatively associated with a first pin operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second slot is operatively associated with a second pin operatively associated with the second roller carriage.

2. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 1, wherein the first roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the second roller carriage.

3. A linear pipe tensioner comprising:

a frame;

a first track assembly having a first track operatively associated with two first track axles, the first track assembly being secured to the frame;

a second track assembly having a second track operatively associated with two second track axles, the second track assembly being secured to the frame above the first track to define a pathway between the first track and the second track for receiving a pipe;

a first roller assembly operatively associated with the first track, the first roller assembly having a first roller operatively associated with a first roller carriage, the first roller carriage being pivotally connected to a first hydraulic piston operatively associated with a first hydraulic cylinder, the first hydraulic cylinder operatively associated with a first swivel member for rotational movement of the first hydraulic piston; and

a second roller assembly operatively associated with the first track, the second roller assembly having a second roller operatively associated with a second roller carriage, the second roller carriage being pivotally connected to a second hydraulic piston operatively associated with a second hydraulic cylinder, the second hydraulic cylinder operatively associated with a second swivel member for rotational movement of the second hydraulic piston,

wherein the first roller carriage is pivotally connected to the second roller carriage by a bar having first and second slots, and wherein the first slot is operatively associated with a first pin operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second slot is operatively associated with a second pin operatively associated with the second roller carriage.

4. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 3, further comprising a third roller assembly operatively associated with the second track, the third roller assembly having a third roller operatively associated with a third roller carriage, the third roller carriage being pivotally connected to a third hydraulic piston operatively associated with a third hydraulic cylinder.

5. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 3, wherein the first track further comprises a plurality of first track roller assemblies operatively associated with the first track, each of the first track roller assemblies having a roller operatively associated with a roller carriage, the roller carriage being pivotally connected to a hydraulic piston operatively associated with a hydraulic cylinder, and

wherein the second track comprises a plurality of second track roller assemblies operatively associated with the second track, each of the second track roller assemblies having a roller operatively associated with a roller carriage, wherein the roller carriage is pivotally connected to a hydraulic piston operatively associated with a hydraulic cylinder, and wherein the hydraulic cylinders are operatively associated with swivel members for rotational movement of the hydraulic pistons.

6. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 5, wherein adjacent roller assemblies are pivotally connected by means of a slotted bar in operative association with the adjacent roller carriages.

7. The linear pipe tensioner of claim 3, wherein the first roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the first roller carriage and the second roller assembly comprises a plurality of rollers operatively associated with the second roller carriage.