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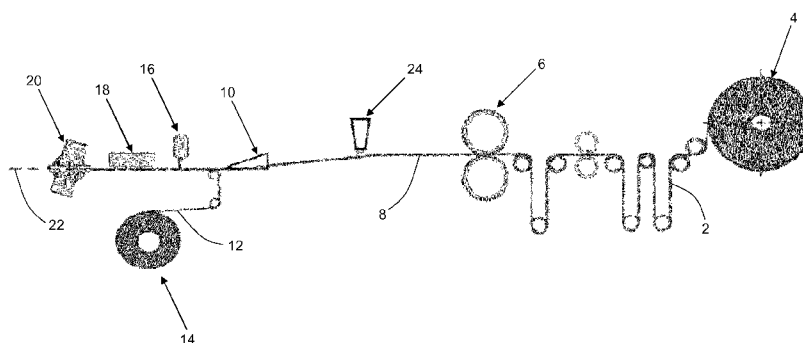


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A rod (22) for use in a smoking article comprises a gathered sheet of homogenised tobacco material circumscribed by a wrapper (12). The sheet of homogenised tobacco material may comprise one or more aerosol-formers and have an aerosol former content of greater than 5% on a dry weight basis or of between 5% and 30% by weight on a dry weight basis. The rod (22) may comprise a continuous element to which one or more additives have been applied, which is incorporated into the gathered continuous sheet of homogenised tobacco material. A method of forming the rod comprises the steps of: providing a continuous sheet of homogenised tobacco material (2); gathering the continuous sheet of homogenised tobacco material (8) transversely relative to the longitudinal axis thereof; circumscribing the gathered continuous sheet of homogenised tobacco material (8) with a wrapper (12) to form a continuous rod; and severing the continuous rod into a plurality of discrete rods (22). The sheet of homogenised tobacco material is preferably crimped or otherwise textured.

