

ABSTRACT

TRANSFER APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TESTING FACILITY

An apparatus and method for picking up parts from a conveyor belt, moving them to a test rig for testing, and returning tested parts to the belt, in which a rotatable shaft is rotated back and forth between first and second positions. The shaft carries first and second pick-up heads at its free end, which are oriented perpendicular to one another and at angles of 45° to the shaft. In the first position, the first pick-up head is aligned with a conveyor while the second pick-up head is aligned with a test rig, while the pick-up head positions are reversed in the second position. First and second drive assemblies are arranged to drive each of the pick-up heads between extended and retracted positions in each of the two rotatable shaft positions. In each of the first and second positions, one of the pick-up heads deposits a tested part onto the conveyor and picks up a new part for testing while the other pick-up head holds a part for testing at the test rig.

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REPLACED