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(54) Title: METHOD OF DESCALING HEAVY GAGE SHEET METAL COILS AND HEAVY GAGE INDIVIDUAL SHEETS OF SHEET METAL

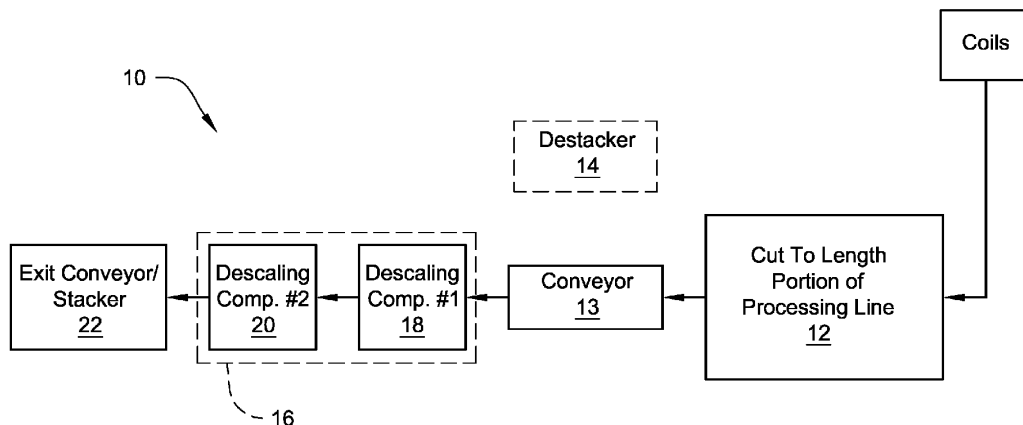


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Coils of sheet metal and individual sheets of sheet metal having a thickness of greater than 0.074 inches (1.8 mm) are descaled in a processing line. The processing line has a cut to length portion, a conveyor, a destacker, and an apparatus for descaling the sheet metal by propelling one of grit and slurry against the sheet metal using an impeller wheel. The descaling apparatus has pinch rollers in an interior of the descaling apparatus. The processing line is configurable for processing a coil format by directing the sheet metal from the cut to length portion of the processing line through the descaling apparatus via the conveyor without processing through the destacker. The processing line is alternatively configurable for processing individual sheets of the sheet metal by directing the sheet metal from the destacker through the descaling apparatus via the conveyor without processing in the cut to length portion.

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