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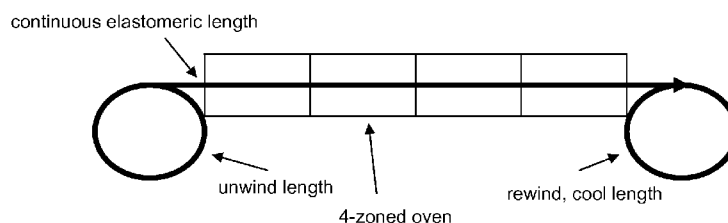
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
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(54) Title: METHOD OF MAKING A PNEUMATIC INNERLINER

Figure 1



(57) Abstract: This disclosure is directed to a method of preparing a continuous elastomeric length for a pneumatic innerliner comprising providing a continuous elastomeric length comprising a plasticizer and an elastomer; heating the continuous elastomeric length for a residence time at a temperature no higher than 15°C above the flash point of the plasticizer; and cooling the length to form a heat-treated continuous elastomeric length having a level of plasticizer less than the level of plasticizer in the continuous elastomeric length. In certain embodiments, the heat-treated continuous elastomeric length or laminate comprising the heat-treated continuous length can be first cut to form a pneumatic innerliner unit, and splicing the pneumatic innerliner unit to itself to form a pneumatic innerliner. The heat-treated continuous elastomeric length or laminate comprising the heat-treated continuous length can be cut into the form of a sleeve to form a pneumatic innerliner sleeve, and the sleeve incorporated into a tire.