

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 December 2002 (12.12.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/099726 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06K**
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/18027
(22) International Filing Date: 6 June 2002 (06.06.2002)
(25) Filing Language: English
(26) Publication Language: English
(30) Priority Data:
60/296,674 7 June 2001 (07.06.2001) US
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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

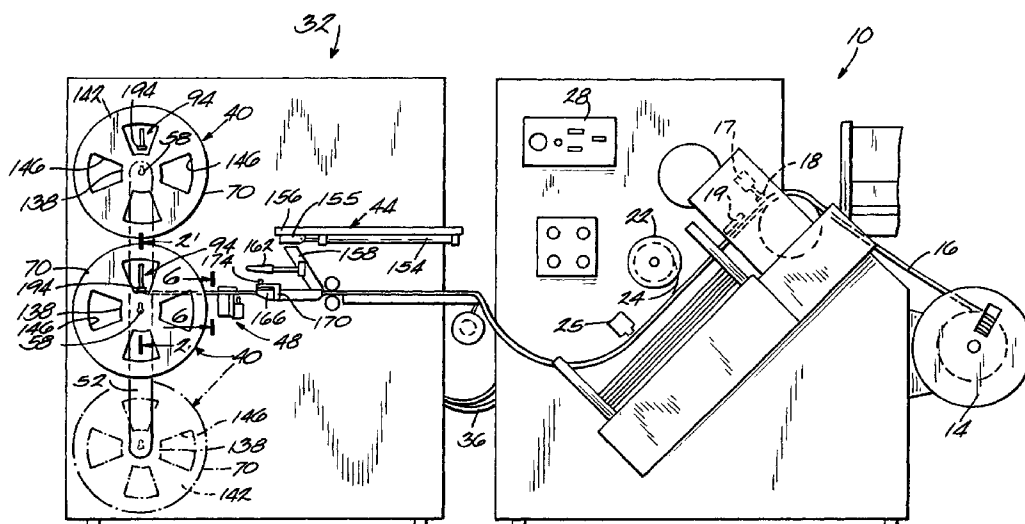
Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: **MULTIPLE OUTPUT REEL TAPER APPARATUS HAVING LINEAR AND PUSH-OUT REEL CHANGER**



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a multiple output reel module ("MROM") for use with a taper machine or any other machine outputting flexible media. The MROM includes an upper spindle shaft supporting a plurality of output reels, a lower spindle shaft supporting a plurality of output reels, a tape insertion assembly that positions the flexible media adjacent a hub of one of the output reels along a loading plane, a finger assembly that holds the flexible media against the hub, a cutting assembly for cutting the flexible media, and a reel moving mechanism operable to move the output reels into and out of alignment with the loading plane. The MROM also includes a reel support structure along which the upper and lower spindle shafts are moveable in a linear direction. The flexible media may be held against the hub of the output reels with a finger assembly or a length of adhesive tape. Adhesive tape may also be used to secure the tail end of the flexible media against the last layer or flexible media wound onto a full reel.