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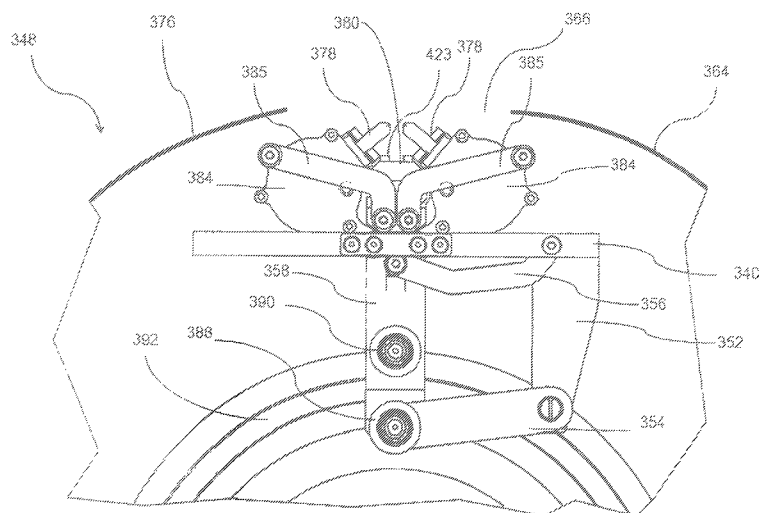


Fig. 6B

(57) Abstract: A method of joining web portions includes advancing web portions onto a rotating drum such that the web portions overlap at an overlap area as the web portions wrap around the drum. The web portions each have a melting temperature. A fluid is heated to a temperature sufficient to at least partially melt the web portions. A fluid nozzle retracts from an aperture in the drum and a jet of the heated fluid is directed from a fluid nozzle onto the web portions at the overlap area. The heated fluid penetrates at least partially melts the web portions. The web portions are at least partially melted using the heated fluid. A press member shifts through the aperture in the drum to compress the web portions between the pressure member and an anvil roll to join the web portions together at the overlap area.

