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(54) Title: MULTIPLE TAPE REEL HANDLING APPARATUS

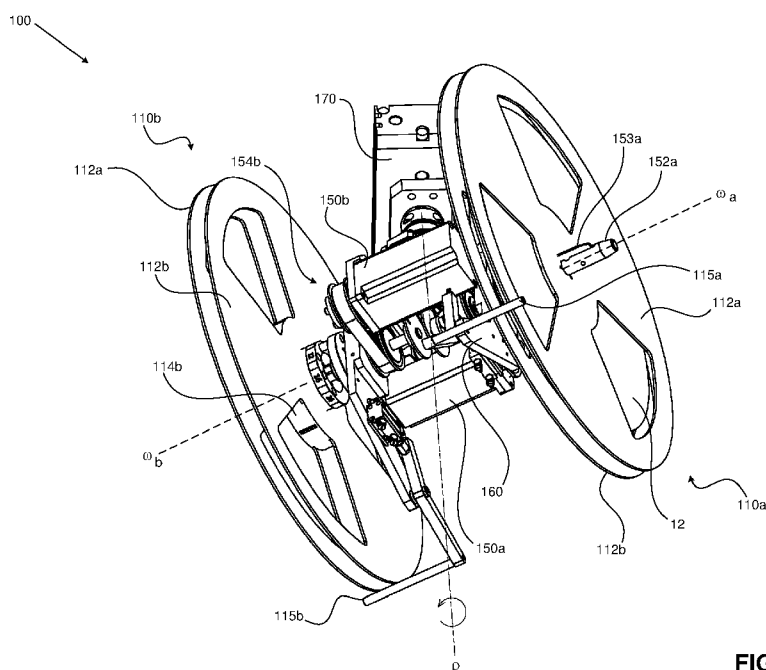


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: A multi-reel handling apparatus is configured for aligning a first tape reel having a first winding axis with a feeding position and/or a corresponding tape transport axis; disposing a second tape reel having a second winding axis in a standby position offset from the feeding position; performing first tape transfer operations directed to the first tape reel; and after the first tape transfer operations, simultaneously displacing the first and second tape reels by (a) linearly shuttling the first and second tape reels in a common direction perpendicular to the tape transport axis, or (b) changing the physical locations of the first and second tape reels by rotating the first and second tape reels about a common pivot axis oriented perpendicular to the first and second winding axes to thereby (i) dispose the second tape reel at the feeding position, and (ii) dispose the first tape reel at a standby position.