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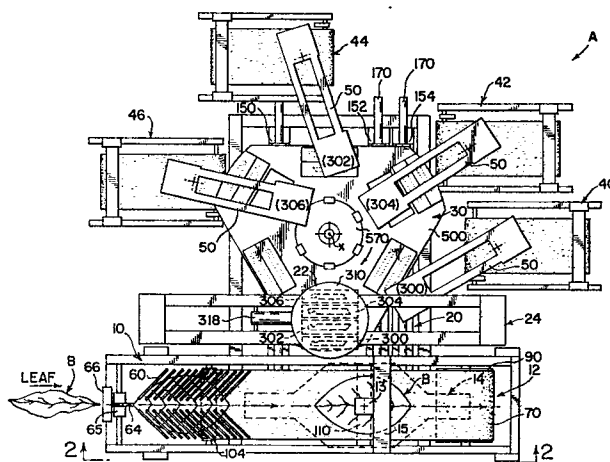
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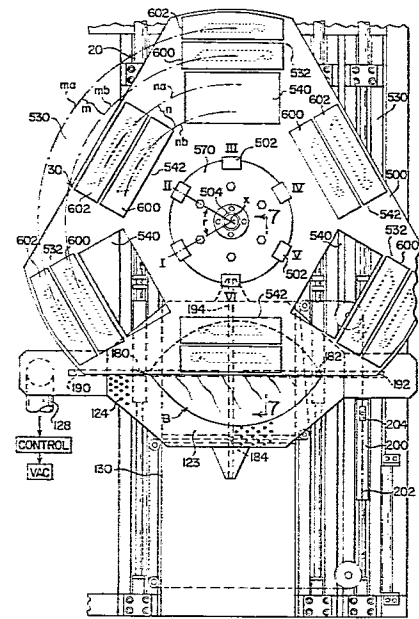
54 **Method and device for cutting and transferring a contoured tobacco sheet profile.**

57 A device for cutting and transferring a contoured tobacco sheet profile, such as a cigar wrapper, from a sheet of tobacco material, such as a natural tobacco leaf B or a portion thereof, as the tobacco sheet is supported on a cutting surface 123 at a cut-transfer position comprises a transfer element 30 with a cut-away first portion 530 and adjacent profile receiving second portion 532 is moved in a path M over the cutting surface 123 so that the first and second portions of the transfer element are moved in succession to the cut-transfer position at which the cutting operation is to be performed. A cutter 22 is located at the cut-transfer position for cutting the profile from the tobacco sheet while the cut-away portion of the transfer element is at the cut-transfer position. This cutter includes at least one cutting element 300, 302, 304, 306 which is selectively movable between a position extending through the cut-away portion 530 of the transfer element and into cutting engagement with the tobacco sheet material B and a retracted position providing clearance for the transfer element. After a profile has been cut from the tobacco sheet material, it is captured onto the cutter and moved away from the cutting surface 123 so that the profile receiving portion 532 of the transfer element can be moved under the cutter 22 and between the cutter and the cutting surface at the cut-transfer position.



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Thereafter, the cutter and captured profile are moved against the profile receiving portion 532 of the transfer element to transfer the cut profile to the transfer element 530. Then, the transfer element 530 is indexed or moved from the cut-transfer position for conveying the cut profile to a selected remote position for subsequent processing. Also, the transfer element is provided with a succession of cut-away or clearance portions 530, 540 and profile receiving portions 532, 542 so that the transfer element can be indexed successively from position-to-position for successive cutting and transferring at one location. The transfer element is a low inertia table 500 basically formed from two surface defining structures with an intermediate honey-comb core.





| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.) |
|--|--|--|---|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
| A | <u>US - A - 3 542 038</u> (HOOPER) * Figures 1-3,5; column 3, line 9 to column 5, line 2 * --- | 1 | A 24 C 1/04 |
| A | <u>DE - C - 126-170</u> (HAMMERSTEIN) * Figures 5 and 6; page 2, right-hand column, line 23 to page 3, right-hand column, line 4 * --- | 1, 14, 37 | |
| D/P | <u>EP - A - 0 004 170</u> (GULF & WESTERN CORP.) * Figures 27,29,32,33; page 56, line 25 to page 60, line 24 * ----- | 1-3, 11, 14, 37 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.) A 24 C |
| | | | CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document |
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