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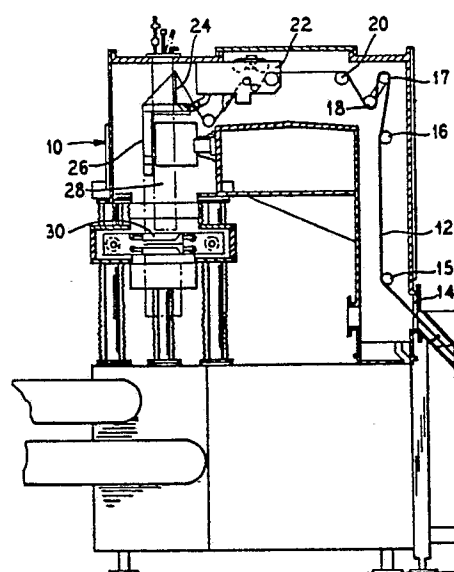
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(54) **Apparatus and method for tracking a web.**

(57) An apparatus and method for automatically tracking a web of film fed through a packaging machine is provided. The apparatus includes a pair of photoelectric sensors (39, 41) located on a lateral side of the apparatus in juxtaposition to a first side (40) of the web of film. A pair of abutment members (43, 45) for abutting a side of the web of film are also provided. The abutment members are located on opposing sides of the web of film. The apparatus includes a member (59) for moving the abutment members in a first lateral direction or a second lateral direction to cause one of the abutment members to contact a side of the web of film. A control circuit for actuating the member is provided. The photoelectric sensors are coupled to the control circuit and cause the control circuit to actuate the member for moving the abutment means if an edge of the first side of the web of film does not pass between the pair of photoelectric sensors.

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FIG. 1





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
Y	US-A-3 232 547 (P.W. THIEDE et al.) * Columns 1-5; figures 1,2 * ---	1-5,8-11	B 65 H 23/032
Y	US-A-3 711 001 (J.C. SCHOPP) * Abrégé; figure 1 * ---	1-5,8-11	
A	US-A-4 090 432 (J. HOBART) * Abrégé * ---	2	
A	GB-A- 996 626 (THE GOODYEAR TIRE AND RUBBER CO.) * Page 2; figure 1 * -----	5	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			B 65 H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30-01-1990	Examiner DELZOR F.N.M.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			