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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING ZIPPER TO A PACKAGE MAKING MACHINE

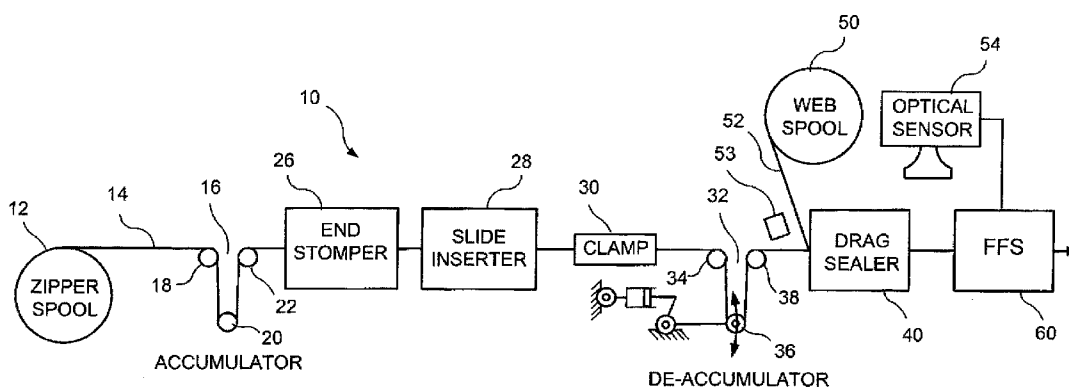


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method is disclosed for the manufacture of reclosable packages or bags. A drag sealer (40) is upstream of the form fill and seal apparatus and is used to seal a continuous length of zipper (14) to web or film. Upstream from the drag sealer, a zipper clamp (30) is used to hold the zipper in place during slider insertion and end stomping, as regulated by a film encoder. A zipper accumulator (16) configured as a dancer and a zipper de-accumulator (32) are used to compensate for the intermittent motion of the continuous length of zipper.

WO 2008/127353 A3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 702 849 A (ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS [US]) 20 September 2006 (2006-09-20) the whole document	1-20
A	US 2004/074058 A1 (THIEMAN RONALD G [US]) 22 April 2004 (2004-04-22) paragraph [0095]	1
A	US 2003/220180 A1 (THIEMAN RONALD G [US]) 27 November 2003 (2003-11-27) paragraph [0025]	1

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See patent family annex.

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Information on patent family members

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