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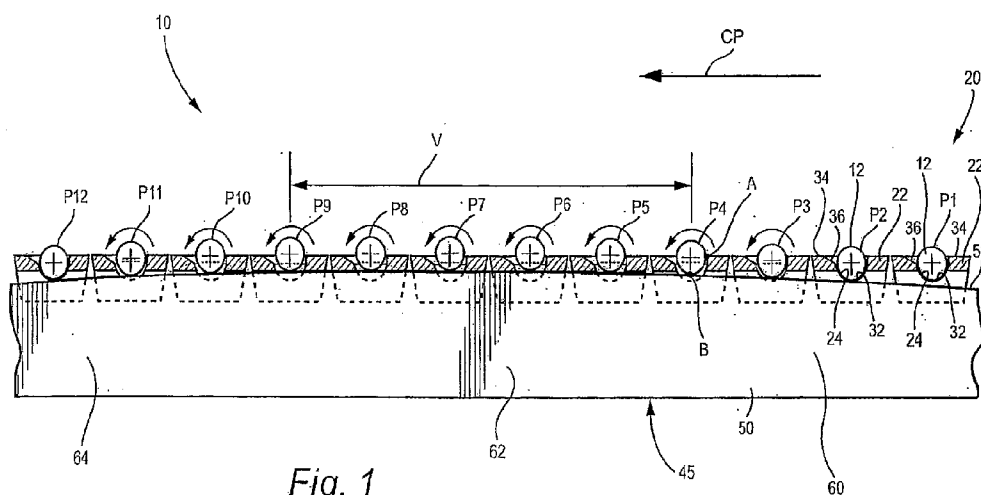


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A tablet conveying apparatus for transporting tablets includes a conveyor. Each of the tablets includes a first side, a second side opposite the first side, and a generally flat, circumferential belly band that interconnects the first and second sides. The conveyor includes a plurality of carrier bars to convey a plurality of tablets along a predetermined conveyor path. Each carrier bar has at least one pocket to receive and transport a tablet in a vertical orientation along the predetermined conveyor path. The pocket may be configured to allow rotation of the tablet about its central axis that extends transverse to the first and second sides. The pocket may be configured to establish line contact between two flat portions of the pocket and two corresponding circumferential portions along the belly band.

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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 practicable, search terms used)


C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | US 5,836,243 (Ackley) 17 November 1998 (17.11.1998) column 5 lines 25-35 | 1-31 |
| A | US 5,355,991 (Baranowski) 18 October 1994 (18.10.1994), column 4 lines 15-25 | 1-31 |
| A | US 4,832,174 (Friable) 23 May 1989 (23.05.1989), column 3 lines 10-15 | 1-31 |

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