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(71) Applicant: **BROWN MACHINE, LLC.** [US/US]; P.O.
Box 434, Beaverton, MI 48612 (US).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **KEELEY, Stephen**
[US/US]; 8600 S. Cornwell Ave., Claire, MI 48617 (US).

(74) Agent: **BENEFIEL, John, R.**; 280 Daines Street, Suite
100 B, Birmingham, MI 48009 (US).

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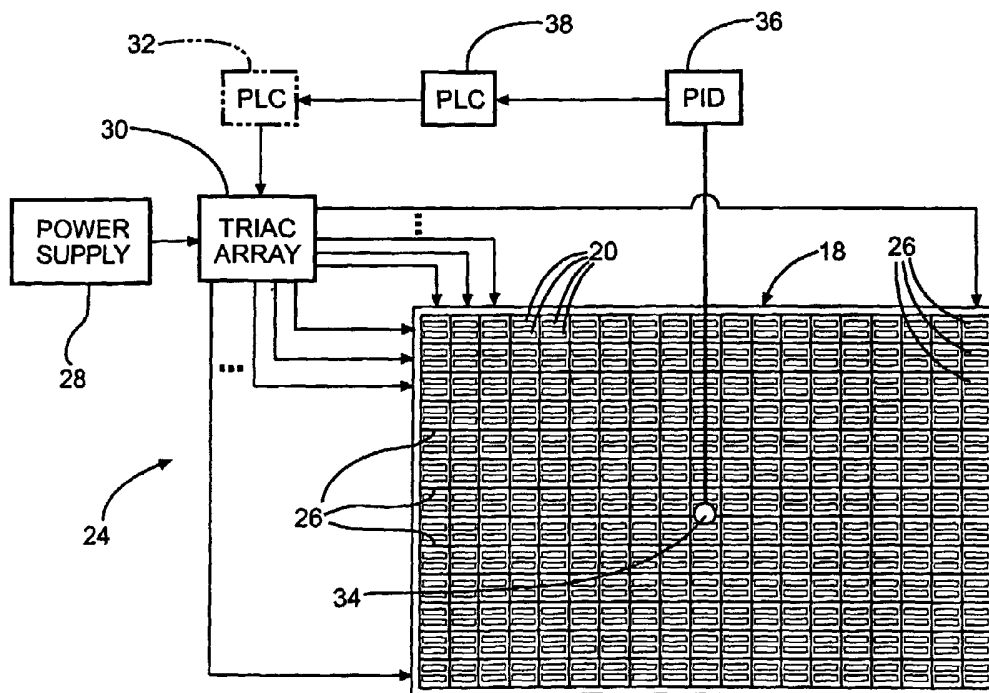
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(54) Title: CLOSED LOOP OVEN CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A closed loop control of heater banks (16, 18) is used to preheat sheet plastic in preparing to thermoform the sheet. The heater banks (16, 18) have zones (26) in which the heaters (20) are variably energized to produce greater heating in some areas of the sheet. A global percent increase in energization of all of the heaters is produced in correspondence to the sensed temperature of a location on the sheet to better control and speed the preheating process.



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 392/417, 432; 219/480, 478, 483; 425/143, 526; 264/40.6 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) Japio, Derwent		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,462,786 A (PERRYMAN) 31 July 1984 (31.07.1984), See figs. 15-18, col. 6, line 50 through col. 7, line 52.	1, 5-8
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Y		2-4, 9
Y	US 6,259,072 B1A (KINNARD et al) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), See entire document.	2-4, 9
A	US 4,758,145 A (HAUTEMONT) 19 July 1988 (19.07.1988), See entire document.	1-9
A	US 4,933,126 A (SHUMAN) 12 June 1990 (12.06.1990), See entire document.	1-9
A	US 5,158,132 A (GUILLEMOT) 27 October 1992 (27.10.1992), See entire document.	1-9
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <i>Sharon H. Greene for</i> John A. Jeffery Telephone No. (703) 308-0861	