

ABSTRACT

An automatic cigarette-making machine including a housing with an aperture and a compacting chamber in communication with the aperture for receiving loose tobacco for compacting, fitted with a safety mechanism in the form of a protective door that initiates automatic operation of the cigarette-making machine when the door is moved into position to block access to the compacting chamber during the operation of the machine.

Individually and specifically indicated to be incorporated by reference and were set forth in its entirety herein.

[0072] The use of the terms “a” and “an” and “the” and similar referents in the context of describing embodiments (especially in the context of the following claims) are to be construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. Recitation of ranges of values herein are merely intended to serve as a shorthand method of referring individually to each separate value falling within the range, unless otherwise indicated herein, and each separate value is incorporated into the specification as if it were individually recited herein. All methods described herein can be performed in any suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (e.g., “such as”) provided herein, is intended merely to better illustrate embodiments of the invention and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the invention unless otherwise claimed. No language in the specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element as essential to the practice of the invention.

placing a hollow paper cigarette tube on the hollow nipple;

rotating the protective door into position opposite the access opening to block access to the compacting chamber while depressing the switch and activating the electric motor to compact the tobacco into a rod-like compacted tobacco shape, and to transport the rod-like compacted tobacco shape into the hollow paper cigarette tube; and

removing the finished filled cigarette tube.

18. The method of claim 17 in which the protective door includes a downwardly directed barrier door that further blocks access to the compacting chamber when the door is rotated into position opposite the access opening.

