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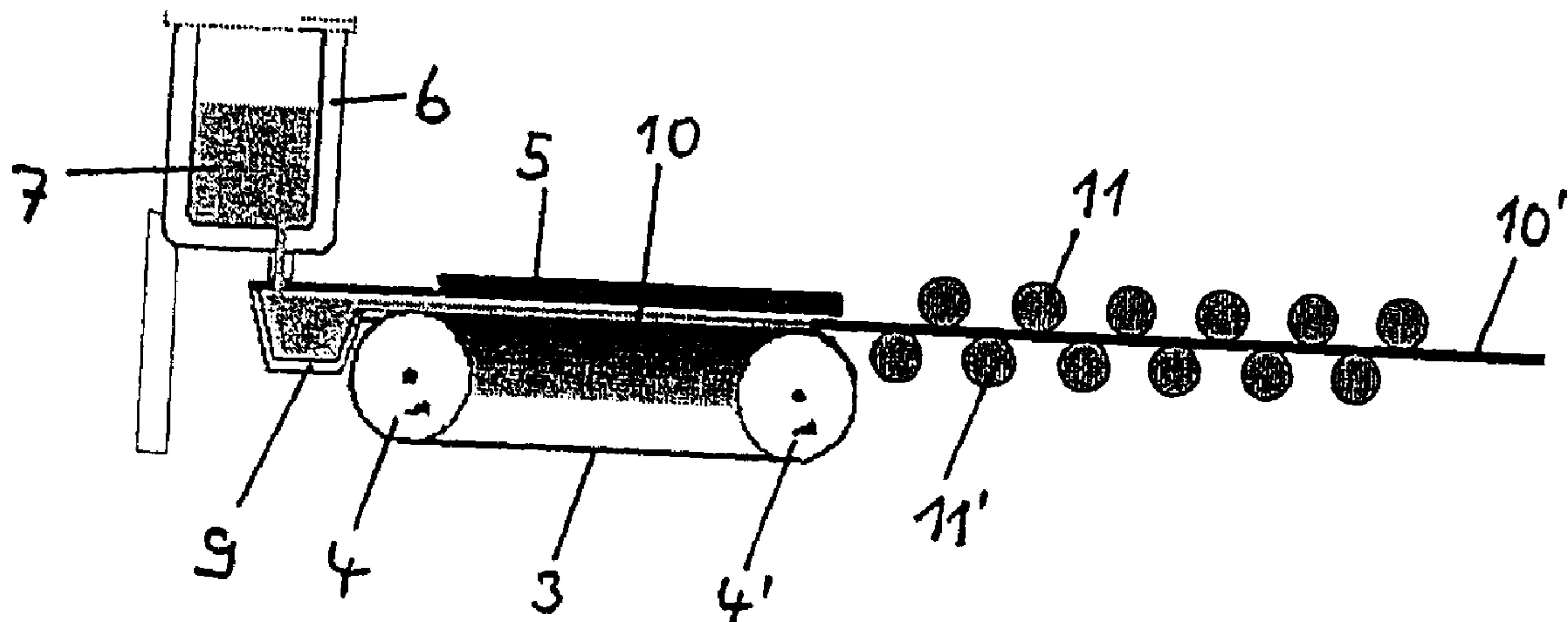
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(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF POUR LA COULEE HORIZONTALE D'ACIER EN FEUILLARDS

(54) Title: DEVICE FOR THE HORIZONTAL CONTINUOUS CASTING OF STEEL



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to a device for the horizontal continuous casting of steel, especially steel with a high manganese content, in order to produce a pre-strip with a thickness ≤ 15 mm. Said device consists of a supply tank containing the melted mass, a primary cooling region comprising two deflection pulleys and a rotary cooled conveyor belt, and a secondary cooling region which is adjacent to the primary cooling region and comprises a housed roller bed. A guiding element (2) comprising at least one roller (11) is arranged at the end of the primary cooling region and before the beginning of the secondary cooling region.



Abstract

The invention relates to a device for the horizontal continuous casting of steel, especially steel with high manganese content, for producing a pre-strip with a thickness ≤ 15 mm. The device includes a tundish containing the melt, a primary cooling zone having two deflection pulleys and a revolving cooled conveyor belt, and a secondary cooling zone which follows the primary cooling zone and has a housed roller table. A guide element having at least one roller is hereby arranged at the end of the primary cooling zone and before the start of the secondary cooling zone.

Device for the Horizontal Continuous Casting of Steel

Description

The invention relates to a device for the horizontal continuous casting of steel, in particular of steel with high manganese content, for producing a pre-strip with a thickness of ≤ 15 mm according to the preamble of claim 1.

Horizontal continuous casting plants for producing a pre-strip of steel, in particular of steel with high manganese content, are known (steel research 74 (2003), No. 11/12, pp. 724-731).

The known device includes a tundish containing the melt, a primary cooling zone having two deflection pulleys and a revolving cooled conveyor belt, and a secondary cooling zone which follows the primary cooling zone and has a housed roller table.

In this device, the conveyor belt, which is filled with water from below, has a length which is sized to effect a full solidification of the pre-strip at the end of the primary cooling zone so that the pre-strip can be easily further processed (dividing, rolling, coiling).

During solidification on the revolving conveyor belt, the cooling conditions (top side, bottom side) are asymmetric, with the upper half of the cast pre-strip being warmer than the lower one. After leaving the conveyor belt, the bottom side of the pre-strip is reheated from the top side. This heat flux from top to bottom causes the bottom side of the pre-strip to expand, resulting in an upwardly directed arching of the strip edges (called U configuration), after the pre-strip leaves the conveyor belt.

The described profiled shape of the pre-strip upon leaving the conveyor belt is unwanted because, on one hand, it can have backlash up to the conveyor belt, i.e. the pre-strip bears no longer flat on the conveyor belt, and, on the other

hand, the further transport and threading is impeded for all downstream aggregates.

It is an object of the invention to provide a device for the horizontal continuous casting of steel, in particular of steel with high manganese content, for producing a pre-strip with a thickness of ≤ 15 mm, by which the unwanted profiling of the pre-strip is reduced and in a best case scenario even entirely prevented.

Starting from the preamble, this object is attained in combination with the characterizing features of claim 1. Advantageous improvements are the subject matter of sub-claims.

According to the teaching of the invention, a guide element having at least one roller is arranged at the end of the primary cooling zone and before the start of the secondary cooling zone. The guide element normally includes several rollers located above and below the pre-strip and arranged either in 'top-to-top' formation or in offset relationship.

The individual rollers either rest upon the pre-strip being conducted, or they have a distance thereto and can be positionally adjusted in order to randomly change the distance to the pre-strip.

The guide properties can be advantageously enhanced by an arrangement in which the bottom rollers are leveled with the casting line and the top rollers are arranged in the form of a wedge. The wedge may have a continuous or segmental configuration.

The trapezoidal shape represents a particular configuration of the segmentation. This means that the first top rollers bear closely on the pre-strip after the pre-strip leaves the conveyor belt, whereas the subsequent ones have a distance, and the last rollers, before the start of the secondary cooling zone, bear again closely on the pre-strip

This trapezoidal shape is preferably selected to prevent the backlash of the profiling of the pre-strip into the casting region and to ensure the threading into the downstream aggregates. Moreover, the pre-strip is thus exposed to smallest possible forces in the area of decreased ductility.

An alternative arrangement for the guide element is characterized by a guided upward movement of the pre-strip which is subsequently conducted in a plane above the casting line. As a result of the upward movement, the expansion of the bottom side of the cast strip is neutralized.

Also the known roller arrangement in straightening machines can be exploited for this purpose. The guide element includes hereby a line of rollers in offset relationship, whereby either the top or bottom rollers that are spaced to the pre-strip dip between the respectively opposite rollers to a predefined extent so that the pre-strip passes the set of rollers in a wavy manner.

Further features, advantages, and details of the invention are set forth in the following description with reference to several exemplary embodiments shown in a drawing.

It is shown in:

Figure 1 a first exemplary embodiment of a continuous casting plant with a guide element according to the invention,

Figure 2 a second exemplary embodiment,

Figure 3 a third exemplary embodiment,

Figure 4 a fourth exemplary embodiment,

Figure 5 a fifth exemplary embodiment with wedged guidance,

Figure 6 a sixth exemplary embodiment with trapezoidal guidance.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal view of a first exemplary embodiment of a continuous casting plant 1 with a guide element 2 according to the invention. The continuous casting plant 1 includes a revolving conveyor belt 3 and two deflection pulleys 4, 4'. Also visible is a lateral seal 5.

Melt 7 transported by means of a ladle 6 towards the continuous casting plant 1 flows via a bottom opening 8 into a tundish 9 which is constructed as an overflow tank. The melt is transferred from the tundish 9 onto the upper strand of the conveyor belt 3 and fairly quickly solidified as a result of the intense cooling by the bottom side of the upper strand. The equipments required for cooling as well as the housing of the continuous casting plant with respective inert gas atmosphere have been omitted for the sake of simplicity. The produced pre-strip 10 is substantially solidified at the end of the conveyor belt 3.

This area of the continuous casting plant is also designated as primary cooling zone. Before the secondary cooling zone, comprised of a housed roller table (not shown here), follows, there is arranged a guide element 2 therebetween in accordance with the invention. The guide element 2 normally includes rollers 11, 11' located above and below the pre-strip 10'. In the illustrated first exemplary embodiment, the rollers 11, 11' are arranged in so-called 'top-to-top' formation and rest upon the pre-strip.

The following examples depict variations of this basic arrangement, with same reference numerals being chosen for same parts.

Figure 2 differs from **Figure 1** by the feature that the first of the top rollers 11 is arranged in direct opposition to the rear deflection pulley 4'.

Figure 3 shows that the top rollers 11 are arranged in offset relationship to the bottom rollers 11'. The individual rollers 11, 11' may hereby, as shown, bear upon the pre-strip 10', or, acting like a straightening machine, the top or bottom rollers are spaced to the pre-strip 10' and dip between the respectively two

opposite rollers 11, 11' to a predefined extent so that the pre-strip 10' passes the set of rollers in a wavy manner.

For example, the rollers 11" located underneath the pre-strip 10', as shown in **Figure 3**, would bear upon the pre-strip 10', while the rollers 11 situated above at a distance to the pre-strip 10' would be positioned lower so as to dip more or less deep between the two rollers 11' respectively positioned opposite thereto.

Figure 4 shows the possibility to neutralize the expansion of the bottom side of the pre-strip 10' through provision of a guided upward movement. The first rollers are hereby disposed offset in transport direction and in relation to the casting line. The further movement is horizontal again, preferably with the common 'top-to-top' formation of the rollers 11, 11'.

Figure 5 shows a variant in which the bottom rollers 11' extend level with the casting line, and the top rollers 11 form, as viewed in transport direction, an opening wedge. The top rollers 11 must hereby be adjustable in the direction of the pre-strip 10'. The apparatuses required for that purpose have been omitted for the sake of simplicity.

In contrast to **Figure 5**, the top rollers 11 are arranged in **Figure 6** in such a way as to define a trapezoidal shape. This means that the first of the top rollers 11 bears upon the pre-strip 10', and the following rollers 11 have a changing distance to the pre-strip 10', whereas the last roller 11 again bears upon the pre-strip 10'.

All illustrated variants are intended to suppress or entirely eliminate a U-shape of the pre-strip 10', when leaving the conveyor belt 3.

List of Reference Signs

No.	Designation
1	Continuous casting plant
2	Guide element
3	Conveyor belt
4, 4'	Deflection pulleys
5	Lateral seal
6	Ladle
7	Melt
8	Opening
9	Tundish
10	Partly solidified pre-strip
10'	Fully solidified pre-strip
11, 11'	Rollers

Patent Claims

1. Device for the horizontal continuous casting of steel for producing a pre-strip with a thickness of ≤ 15 mm, comprising a tundish containing melt, a primary cooling zone having two deflection pulleys and a revolving cooled conveyor belt, and a secondary cooling zone which follows the primary cooling zone and has a housed roller table, characterized in that a guide element (2) having at least one roller (11) is arranged at the end of the primary cooling zone and before the start of the secondary cooling zone.
2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the guide element (2) includes several rollers (11, 11') located above and below the pre-strip (10') and arranged in 'top-to-top' formation or in offset relationship.
3. Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the rollers (11, 11') are positionally adjustable toward the pre-strip (10') and away from the pre-strip (10).
4. Device according to the claims 1-3, characterized in that the first rollers (11, 11') are arranged in offset relationship with respect to the transport direction and with respect to the casting line.
5. Device according to the claims 1-3, characterized in that

the guide element (2) includes a line of rollers in offset relationship, whereby either the top or bottom rollers (11, 11') that are spaced to the pre-strip (10') dip between the two respectively opposite rollers (11, 11') to a predefined extent.

6. Device according to claim 1,
characterized in that
the first roller (11) of the guide element (2) is located directly above the rear deflection pulley (4').

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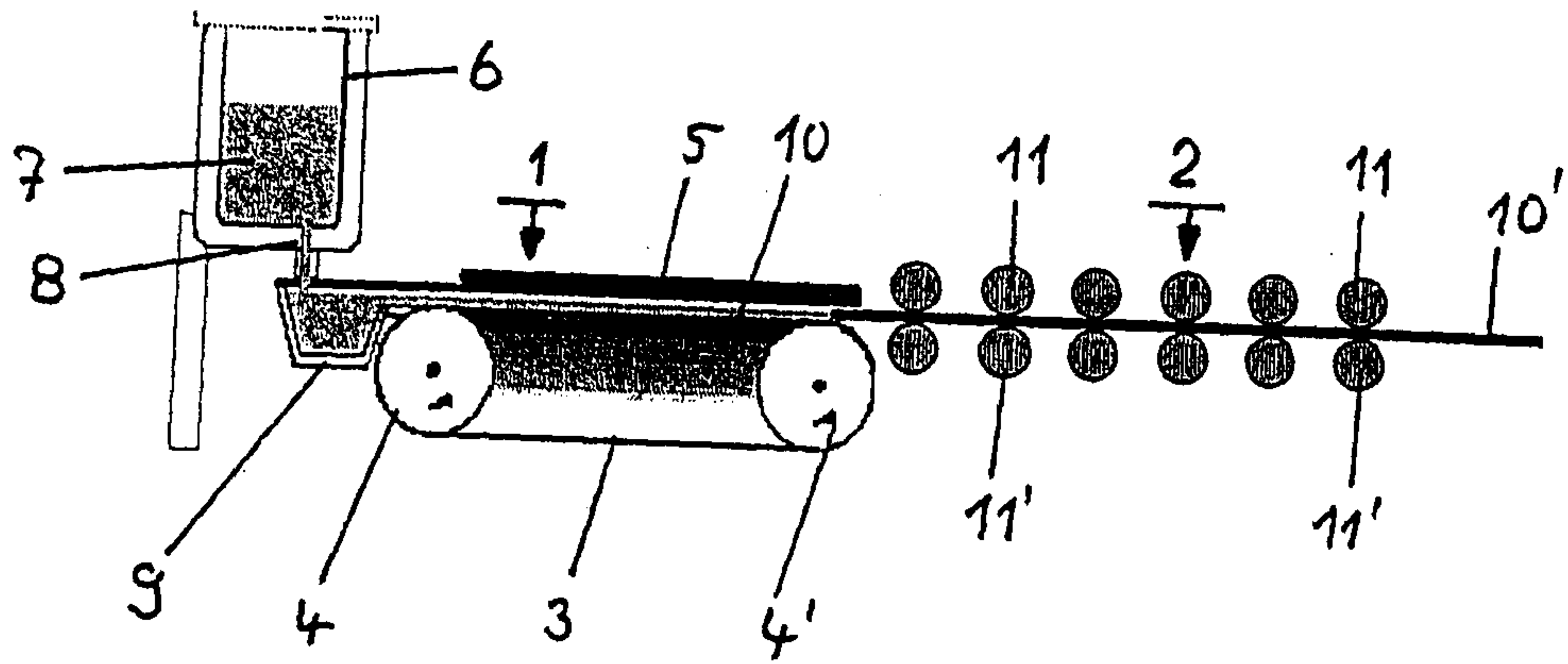


Fig. 1

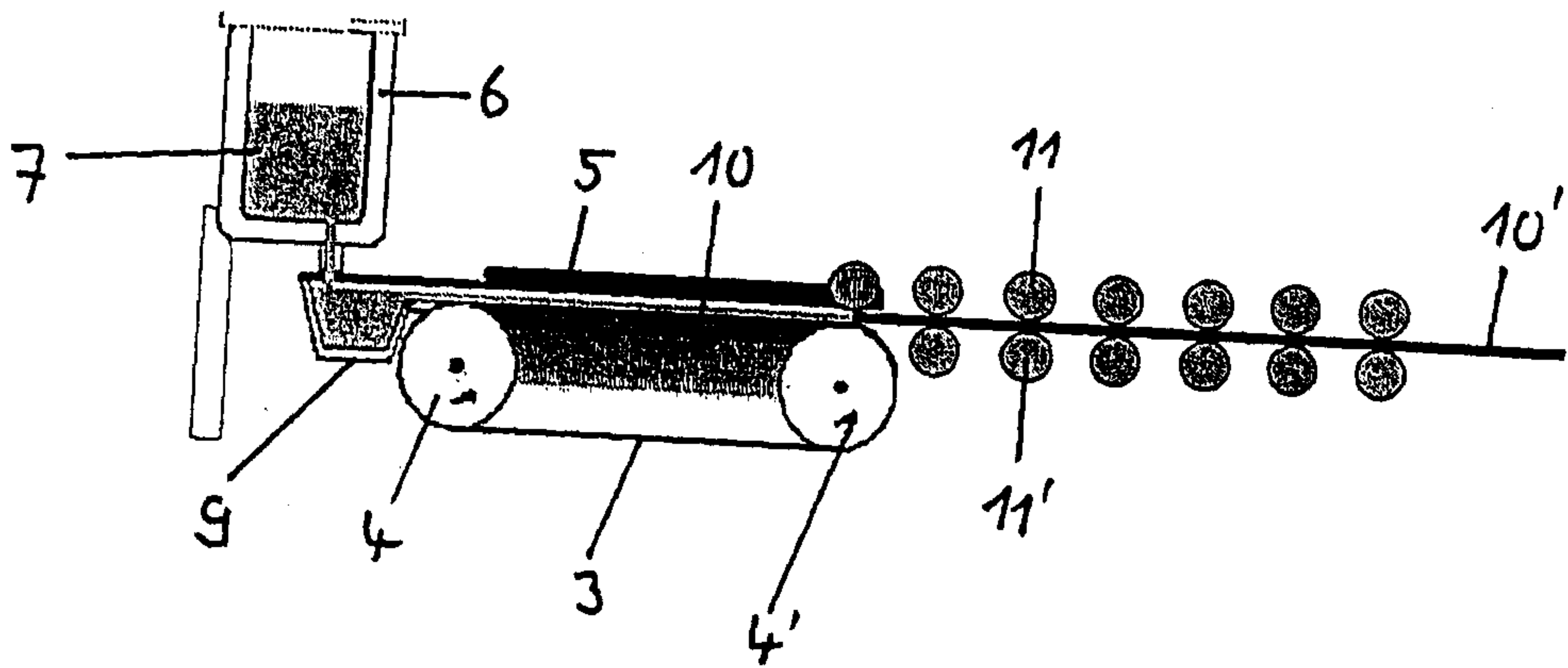


Fig. 2

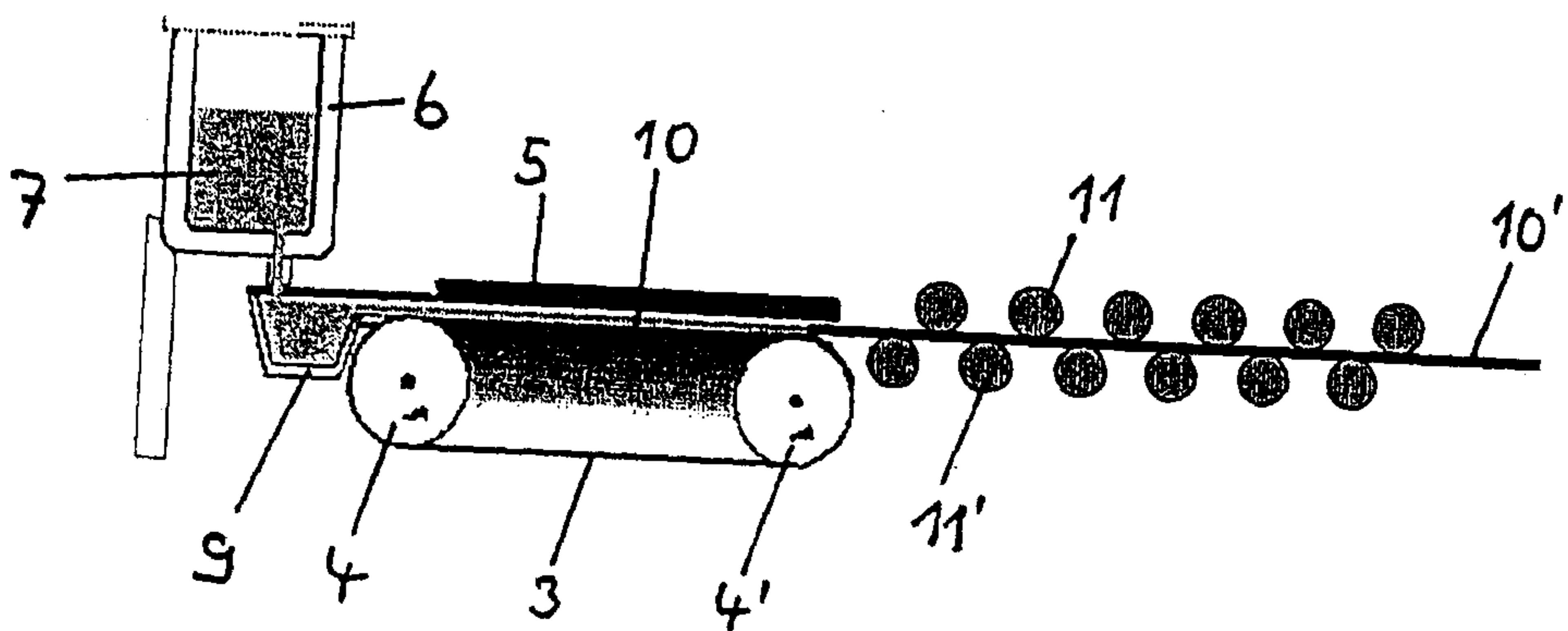


Fig. 3

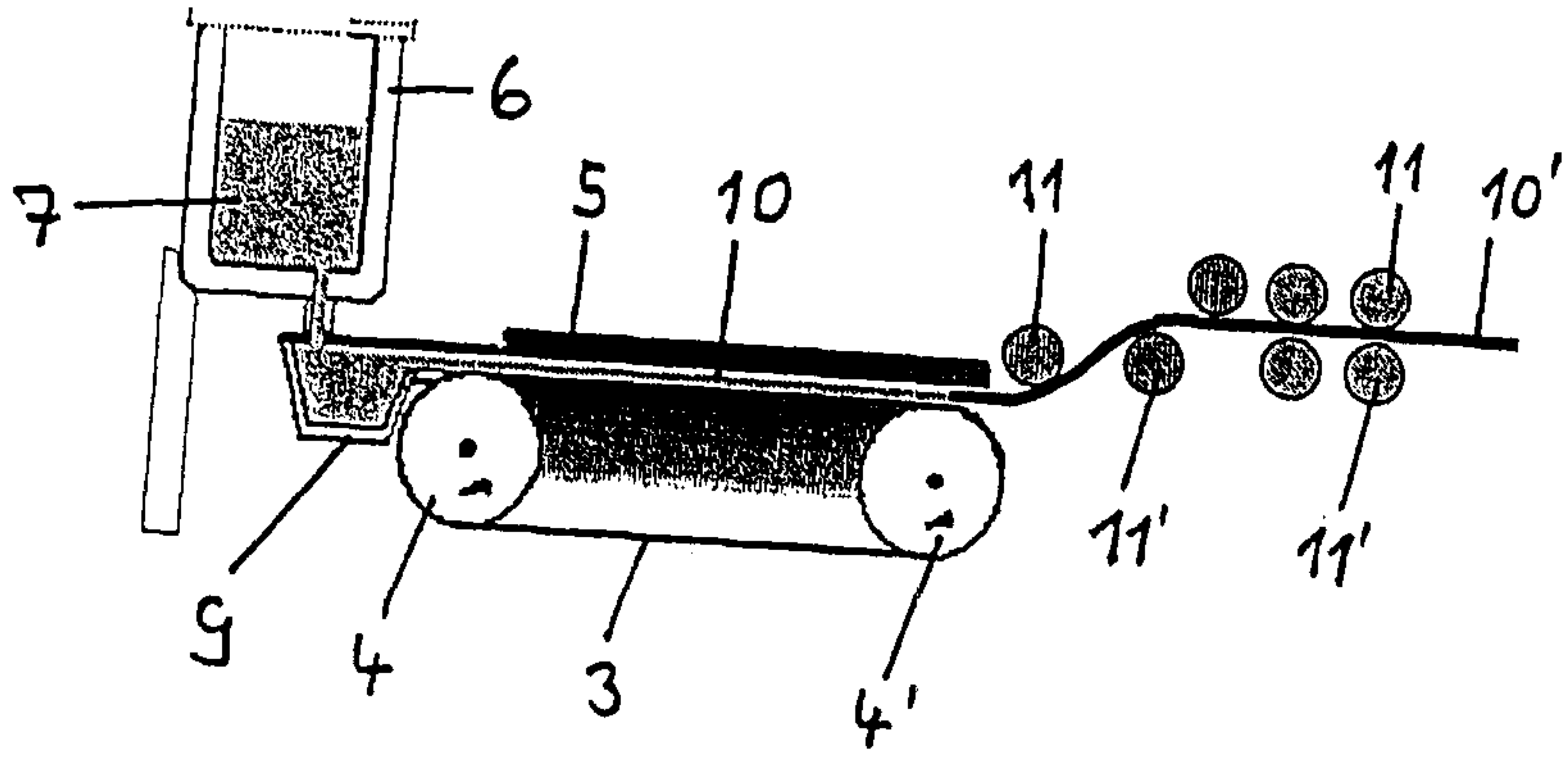


Fig. 4

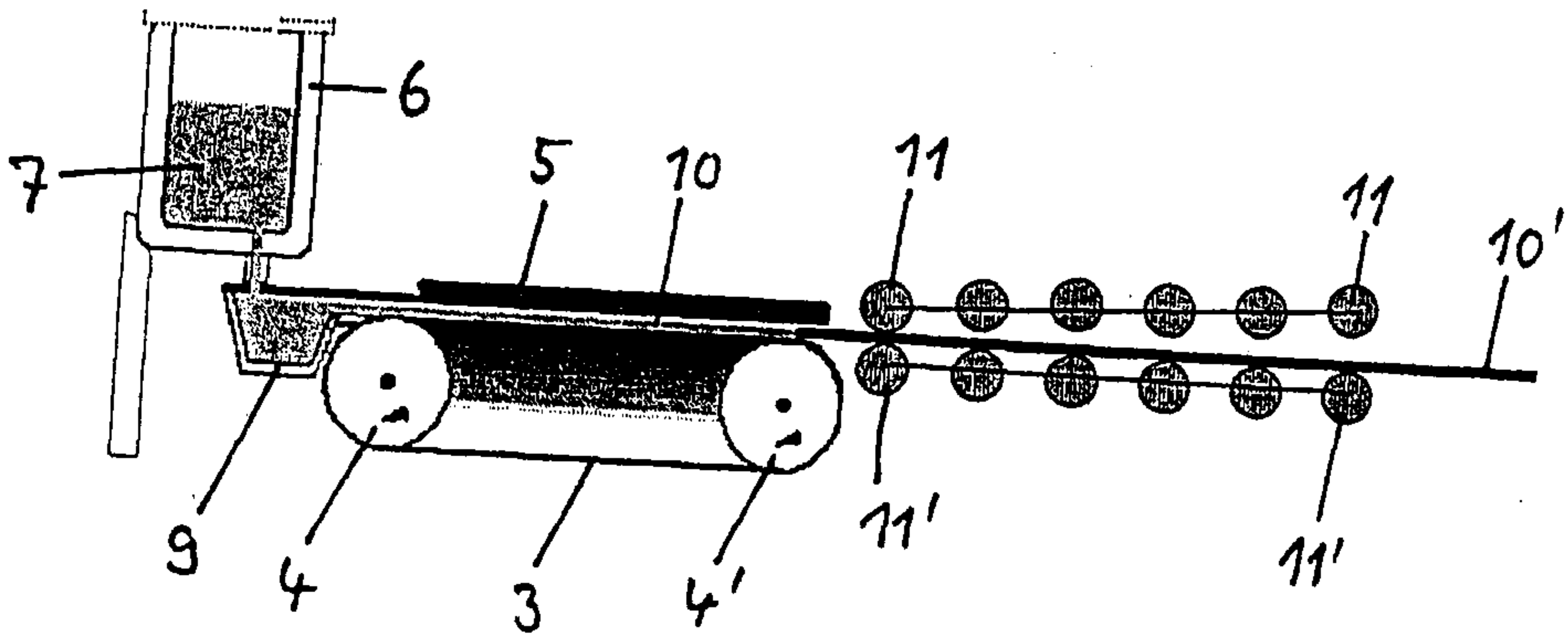


Fig. 5

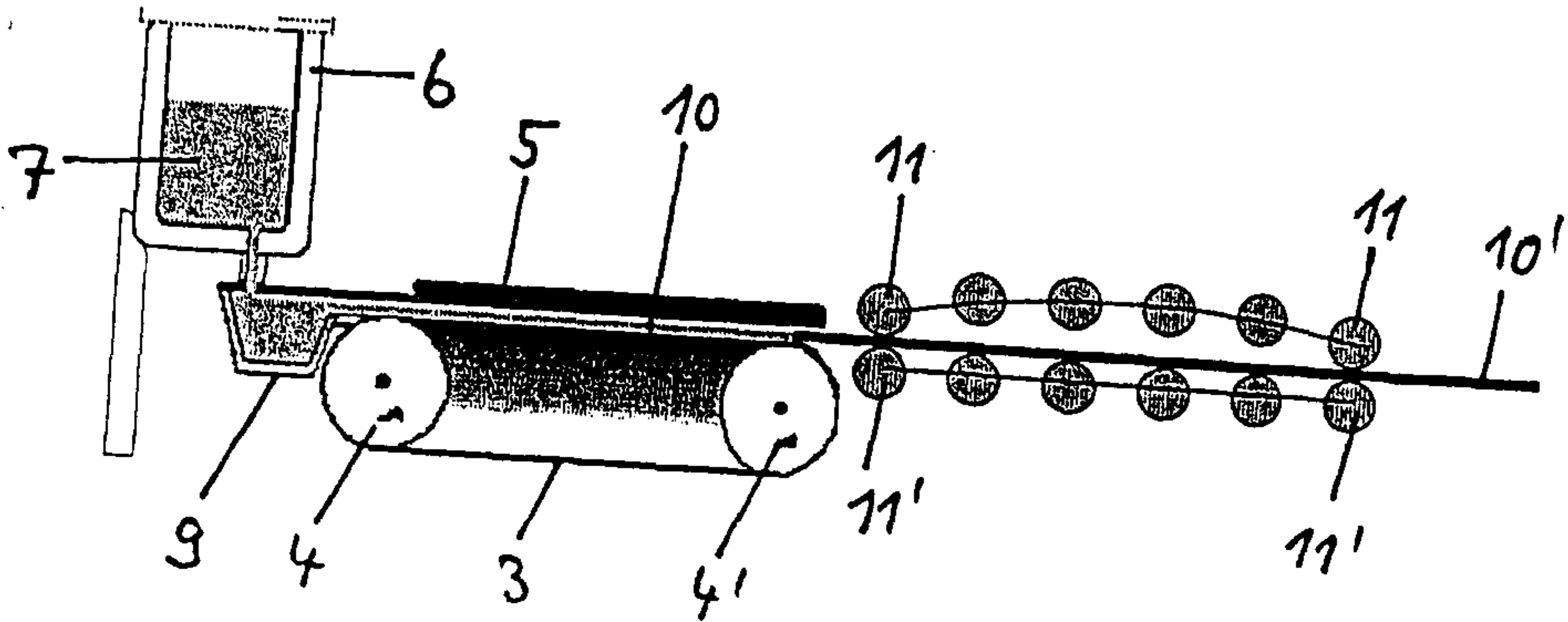


Fig. 6

