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**Shea et al.**

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR POSITIONING GUIDE ARMS IN A STRIP FABRICATION ASSEMBLY**

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(Continued)

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 24 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **10/759,412**

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(Continued)

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

(60) Division of application No. 10/121,304, filed on Apr. 12, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,705,500, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/912,914, filed on Jul. 25, 2001, now abandoned.

A method of dispensing a strip product using a strip fabrication assembly, by entering arm positions for guide arms of the assembly into a guide arm controller device, moving the corresponding guide arms of the strip fabrication assembly to the respective arm positions using the guide arm controller device, and feeding different strip materials through the assembly using the guide arms, after moving them to the entered arm positions. The guide arms are coupled to threaded rods, and are moved by actuating servo motors which are coupled to the threaded rods. The guide arm controller device may include a programmable logic controller, which has been programmed to control the servo motors in response to entry of guide arm positions. The controller may further provide for the listing and searching of different sets of previously entered arm positions on a display device of the guide arm controller device, and selection of one of the previously entered sets of arm positions as a current set of arm positions, using an input interface. Multiple sets of arm positions corresponding to different strip product orders can be stored for later use.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/285,442, filed on Apr. 19, 2001, now abandoned, provisional application No. 60/283,490, filed on Apr. 12, 2001.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**B23Q 15/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **226/19; 226/179; 700/18; 242/563.1**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **226/179, 226/19, 15; 156/178, 179, 574, 470; 700/18; 242/563.1**

See application file for complete search history.

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**24 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets**

