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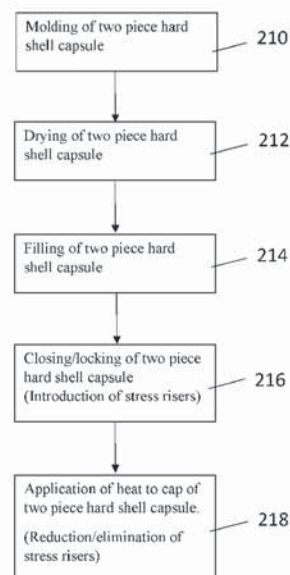
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(54) Title: A METHOD TO RELIEVE STRESS IN CAPSULE SHELLS TO REDUCE PROPENSITY TO BREAK



(57) Abstract: A method of treating a soft or hard capsule shell to reduce or alleviate stress in the capsule shell. The method includes a step of heating at least a portion of the soft or hard capsule shell to a temperature above a glass transition temperature of the capsule shell but below a melt temperature of the capsule shell for a time sufficient to reduce internal stress in the capsule shell. The method can be used to reduce cracking of hard or soft capsule shells by application of the heat treatment to the filled capsule shells after fabrication and filling.

Figure 2