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54 **Process for packing stacked items and enabling handling by a fork-lift truck.**

57 A process comprising a first stage consisting in arranging items in the form of a substantially parallelepiped stack (2) wherein at least the bottom layer (3) is narrower than the others, so as to form a pair of steps, and wherein, between the aforementioned bottom layer and the others, there is placed a sheet (5) of a first meltable material; a second stage wherein a first strip (10) of a second heat-shrinkable material is wound about the four surfaces of the stack perpendicular to a first vertical plane, so as to form a first continuous loop; a third stage wherein a second strip (15) of the aforementioned second material is wound about the four surfaces of the stack perpendicular to a second vertical plane perpendicular to the aforementioned first vertical plane, so as to form a second loop; a fourth stage wherein the assembly so formed is heated, so as to at least partially melt the aforementioned strip and sheet material and seal the free ends of the same; a fifth stage wherein the strip portions overlapping the aforementioned steps are deformed permanently in

such a manner as to adhere to the surfaces of the same; and a sixth stage wherein the assembly so formed is cooled for shrinking the material and so forming the package.

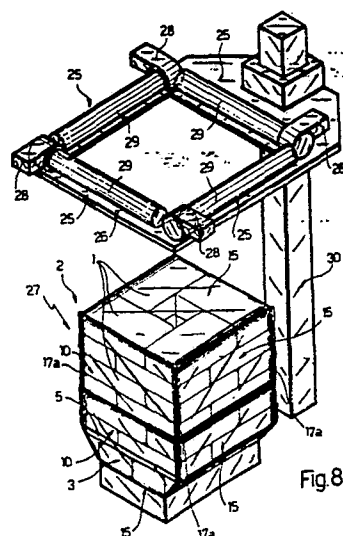


Fig. 8



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	FR-A-2 481 995 (THIMON) * Page 3, line 16 - page 6, line 8; figures 1-7 *	1,4-8	B 65 B 11/58 B 65 B 53/06
A	---	2,3,9	
Y	US-A-4 005 777 (MARANTZ) * Column 2, line 28 - column 4, line 36; figures 1-3 *	1,4-8	
A	FR-A-2 346 229 (MOLLERS) * Page 9, line 29 - page 11, line 18; figure 1 *	1	
Y	GB-A-1 194 311 (WELDOTRON) * Page 2, line 114 - page 3, line 22; figure 1 *	7,8	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 65 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	16-05-1989	CLAEYS H.C.M.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	