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54 **Method and apparatus for supporting a strand or a plurality of strands.**

57 The invention relates to an apparatus for supporting a strand or a plurality of strands comprising: pairs of first and second spaced apart nozzles (94, 96) wherein each of said pairs of nozzles (94, 96) are tilted generally towards each other such that a generally upwardly directed gas stream issuing from said first nozzle (94) of each of said pairs of nozzles (94, 96) intersects a generally upwardly directed gas stream issuing from said second nozzle (96) of said

pair along a line; means to support said nozzles (94, 96) in a generally inclined orientation; means (76) to allow delivery of pressurized gas to said nozzles (94, 96) wherein said line of intersection between gas streams from each of said pairs of first and second nozzles (94, 96) and a strand (14) positioned between each of said pairs of nozzles (94, 96) each forms a generally vertical plane.

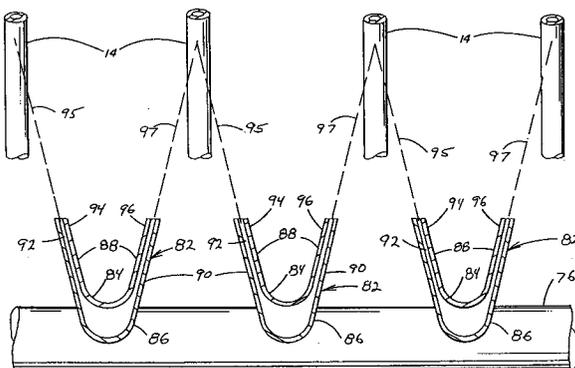


FIG. 8

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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.5)
A	US-A-2 351 549 (SCHWARTZ) * the whole document * ---	1-3, 9, 10, 13	F26B13/20
A	DE-A-27 54 438 (EDGAR PICKERING (BLACKBURN) LTD)) * the whole document * ---	1-3, 9, 10	
A	US-A-3 823 488 (HOUBEN ET AL) * the whole document * ---	1-3, 9, 10	
A	DE-B-10 97 943 (H. KRANTZ SÖHNE) * the whole document * ---	1-3, 9, 10	
A	EP-A-0 235 723 (VITS) * the whole document * -----	1-3, 9, 10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			F26B B65H D06B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 18 April 1995	Examiner Silvis, H
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	