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(71) Applicant: **Rom Limited**  
**Lichfield WS13 6RN (GB)**

(72) Inventor: **Render, Stephen**  
**Lichfield WS13 6ET (GB)**

(74) Representative:  
**Gee, Steven William**  
**1 South Lynn Gardens,**  
**London Road**  
**Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire CV36 4ER**  
**(GB)**

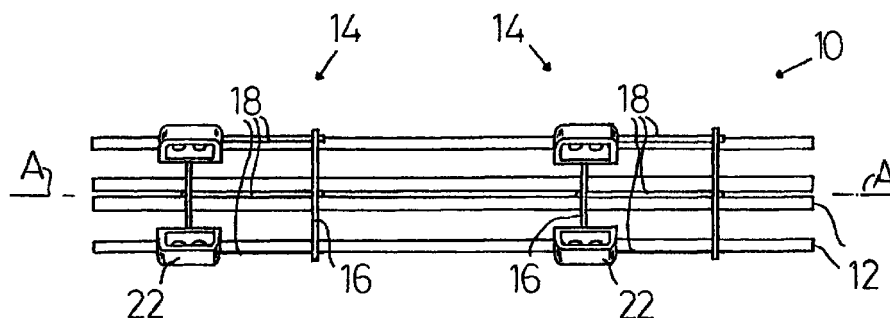
(54) **Cage former**

(57) This invention relates to a cage former (14), and in particular to a cage former for use in assembling and maintaining a pile cage (10) for a reinforced concrete pile.

According to one feature of the invention there is provided a cage former (14) having two frames (16) interconnected by a plurality of rods (18), the cage former having integral spacer means (22), characterised in that the spacer means is separate from each rod. Separating the spacer from the rod enables the number

of spacers to be chosen separately from the number of rods which may be required.

According to another feature of the invention, the spacer means (22) has an extended surface (30); this increases the surface area in engagement with the earth surrounding the pile in use, and reduces the likelihood that the spacer will dig into that earth and so misalign the pile cage.



**FIG 5**

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 20 1368

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.6)
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Y	* page 2, line 15 - line 19; claims 1,4,6,9; figures *	3	E04C5/20 E04C5/16
	* page 3, line 22 - line 26 *		
	* page 4, line 3 *		
	* page 4, line 5 - line 13 *		
	* page 5, line 31 - line 33 *		
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B21F E04C
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	13 April 2000	Demeester, J	
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 99 20 1368

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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13-04-2000

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