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(54) **Method and apparatus for forming packs of stirrups and pack of stirrups thus formed**

(57) A method for forming packs (10) of stirrups (12), entails arranging or picking up at least one first stirrup (12) at a front input region (E) and picking up the stirrup (12) by way of grip and welding means (5) that can move along a longitudinal direction with respect to the aid input region (E). Then the alternating movement of the grip and welding means (5) into a forward position is produced in order to draw the stirrup (12) into the same forward position. At least one longitudinal auxiliary rod (11) is fixed externally to the stirrup (12), which is retained

by the grip and welding means (5). A series of additional stirrups (12), picked up in succession by the grip and welding means (5) at the input region (E), is arranged adjacent to the first stirrup (12) drawn into the forward position, so as to form a pack (10) of stirrups (12). The longitudinal auxiliary rod (11) is fixed externally to at least the last stirrup (12) and finally is cut ahead of the resulting pack (10). The invention also concerns an apparatus for forming packs of stirrups and a pack of stirrups thus formed.

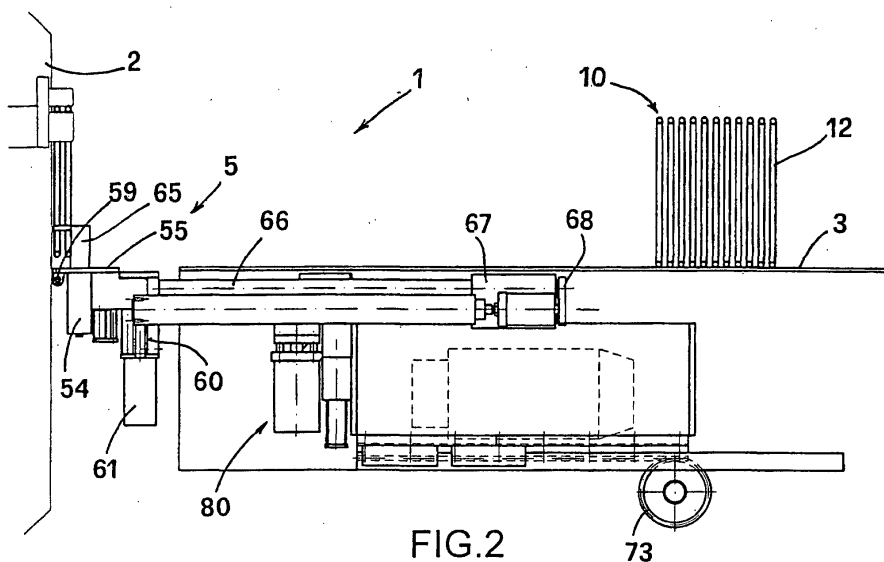


FIG.2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 01 4544

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.7)
A	EP 0 811 442 A (SCHNELL SPA) 10 December 1997 (1997-12-10) * the whole document * -----	1,13	B21F27/00 B21F27/12
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B21B B21F B65B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 26 July 2004	Examiner Ritter, F
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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