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(54) **MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM**

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(76) Inventors: **Roderick Ian Macqueen**, New South Wales (AU); **Frank Minnici**, New South Wales (AU)

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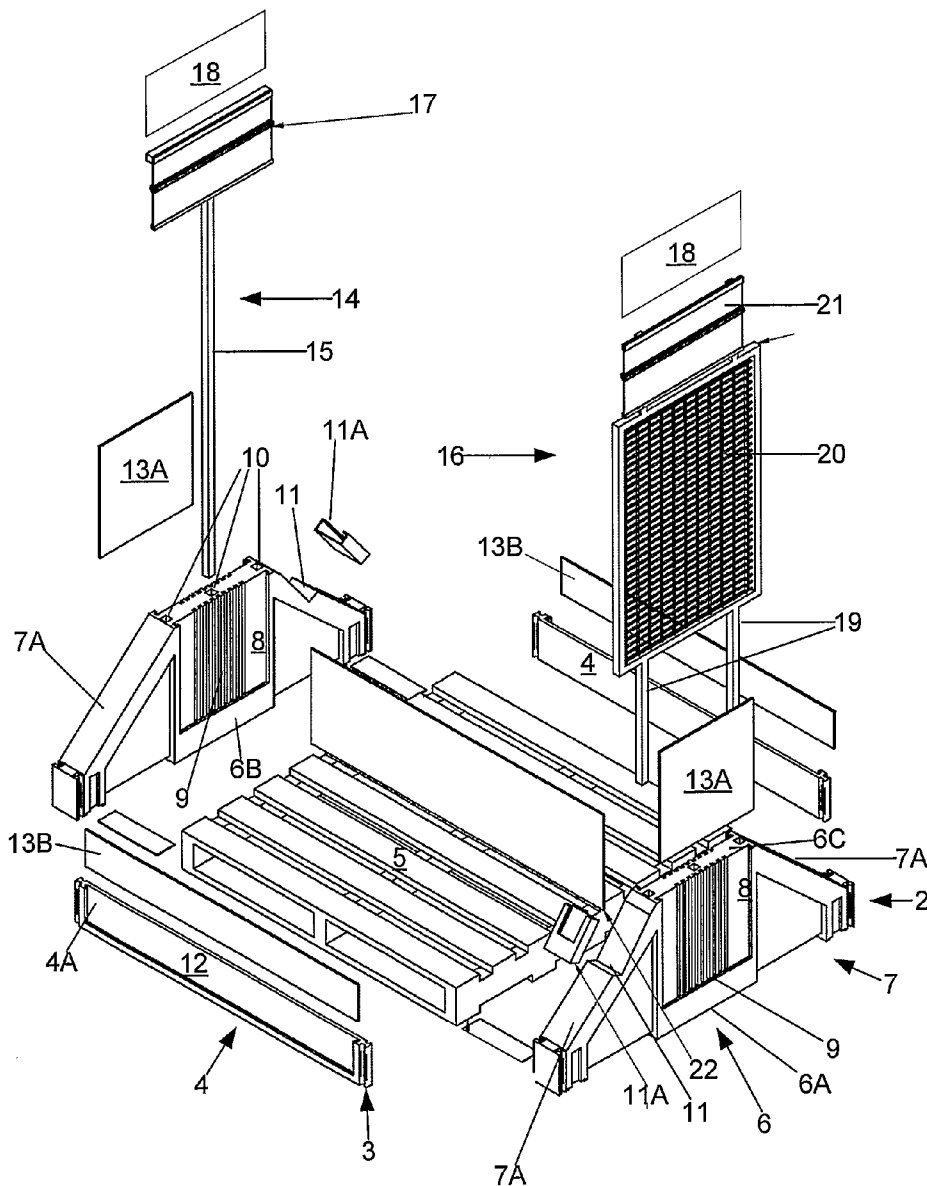
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for use with products provided on a pallet (5). The system includes a number of interconnected members (1, 4) adapted to define a perimeter for surrounding a pallet (5), at least some of the members includes mountings (10) for receiving a secondary support structure, the secondary support structure (14, 16) being adapted to display information relating to the products.

Correspondence Address:
COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP
ATTN: Patent Group
Suite 1100, 777 - 6th Street, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001 (US)

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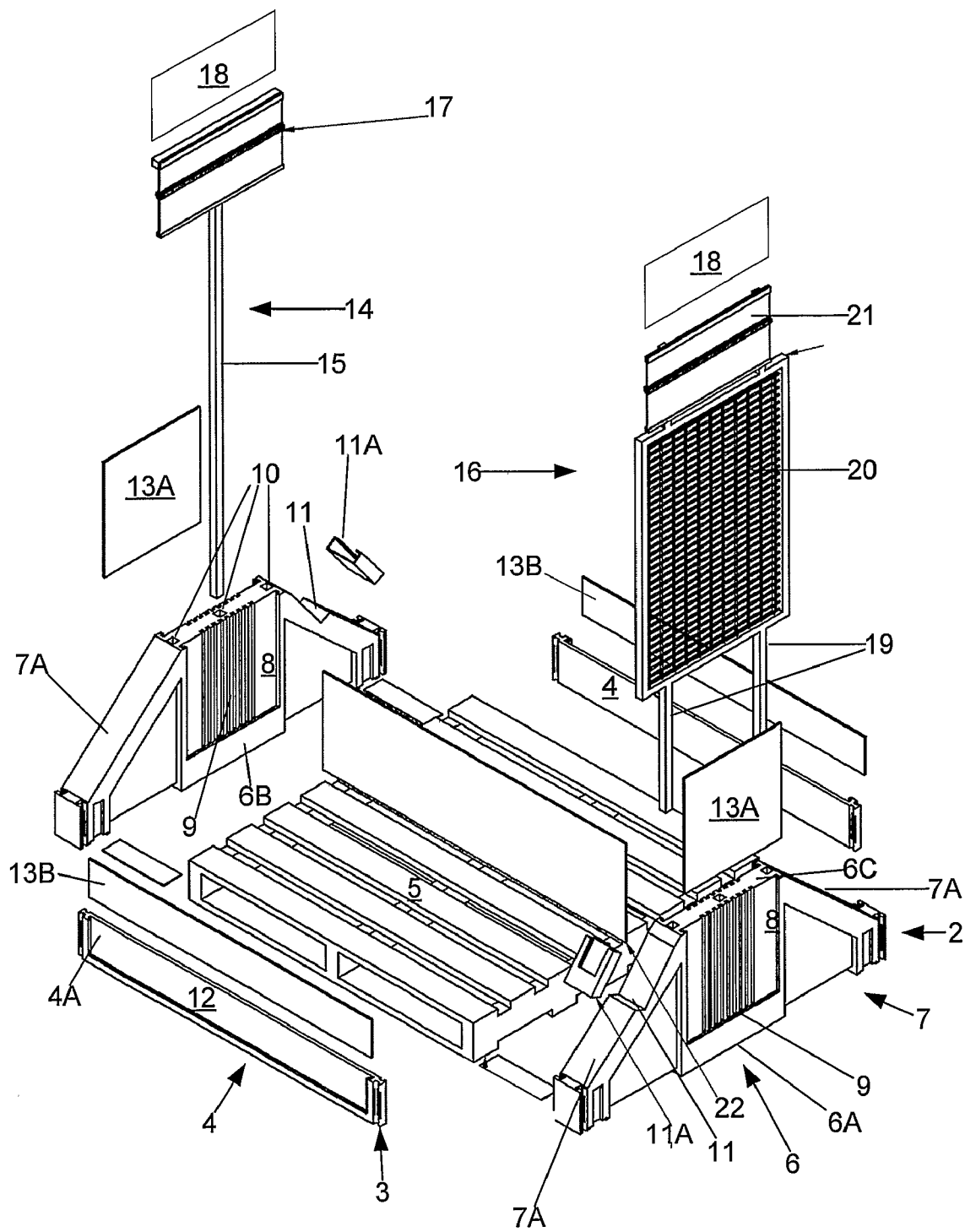


Fig. 1A

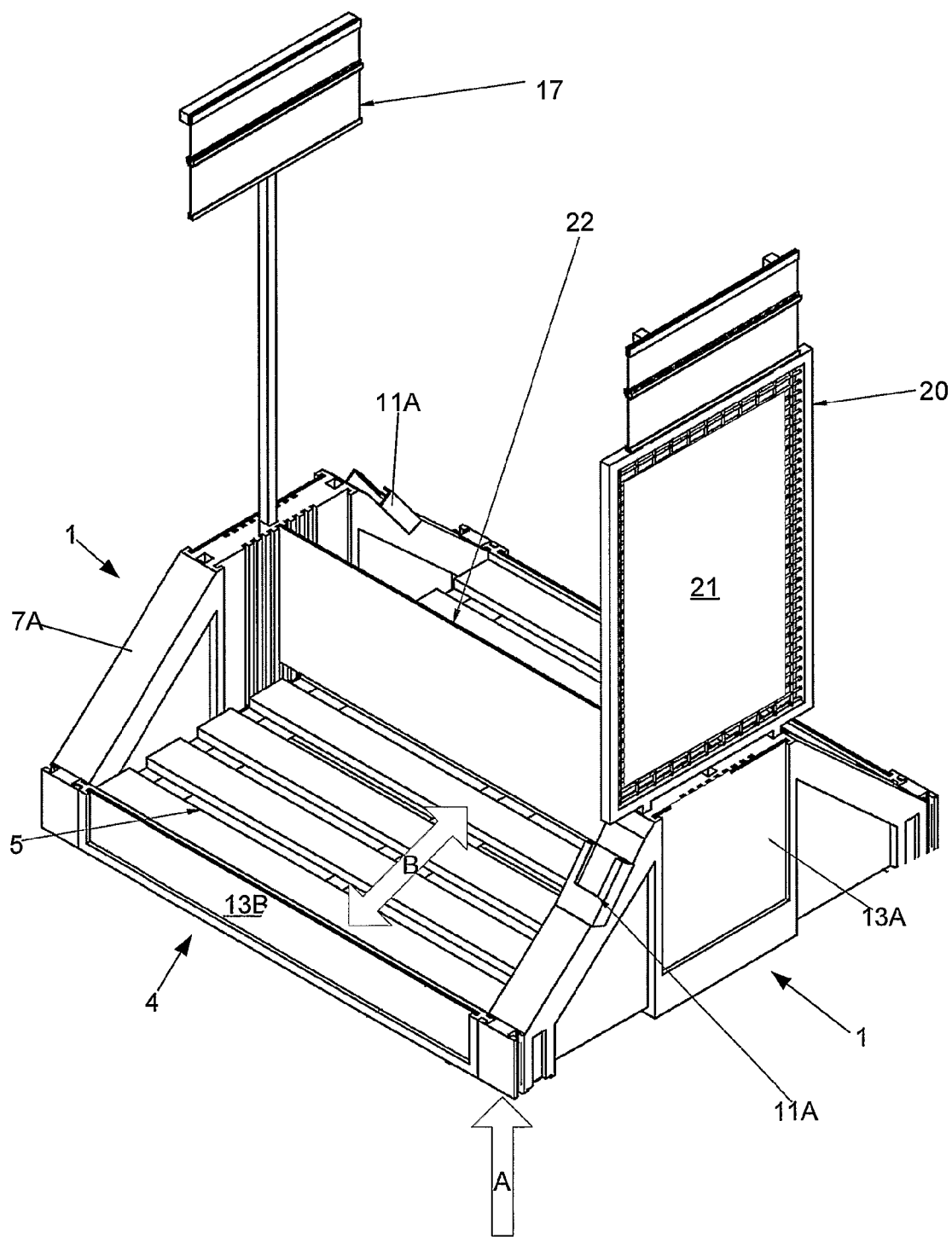


Fig. 1B

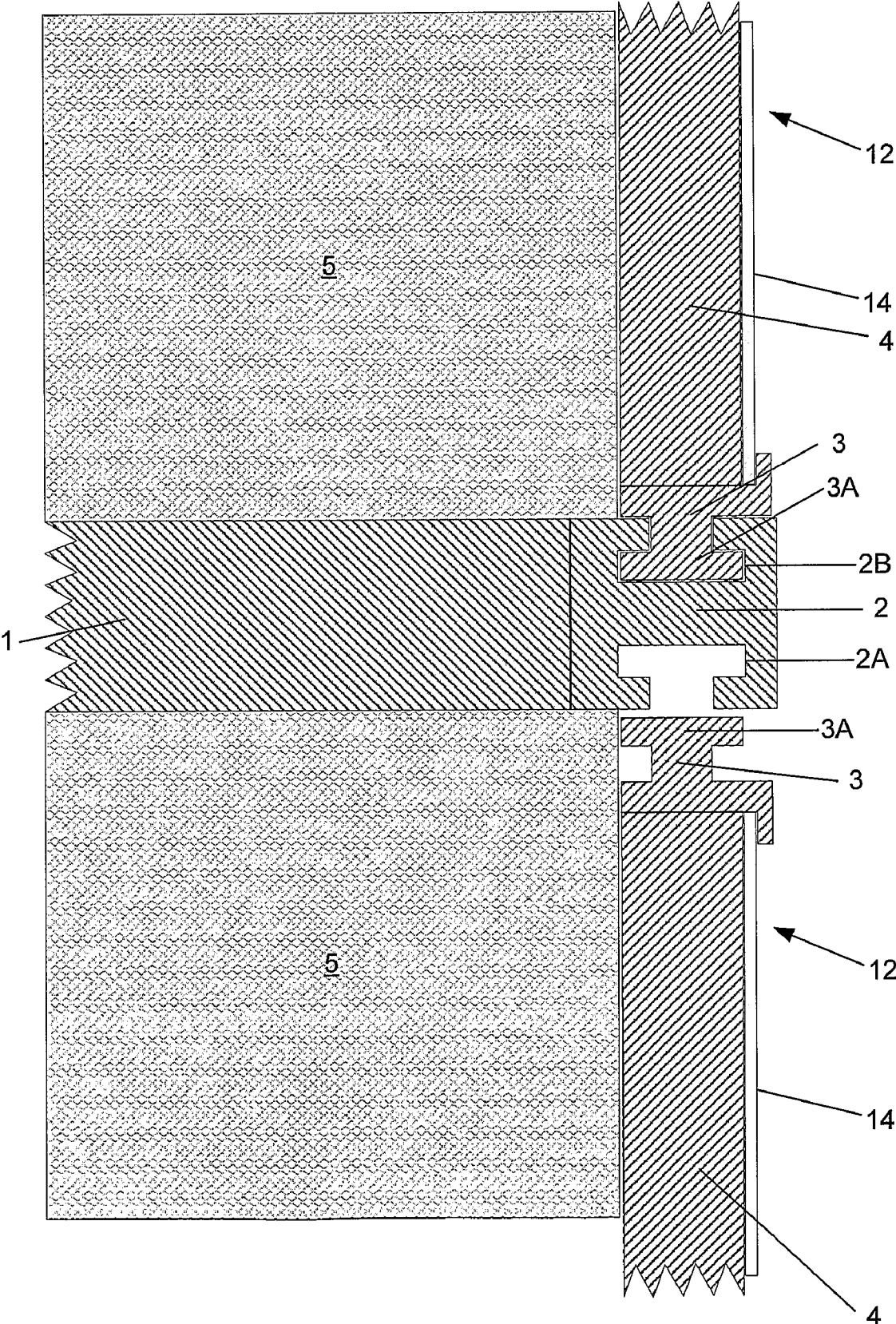


Fig. 1C

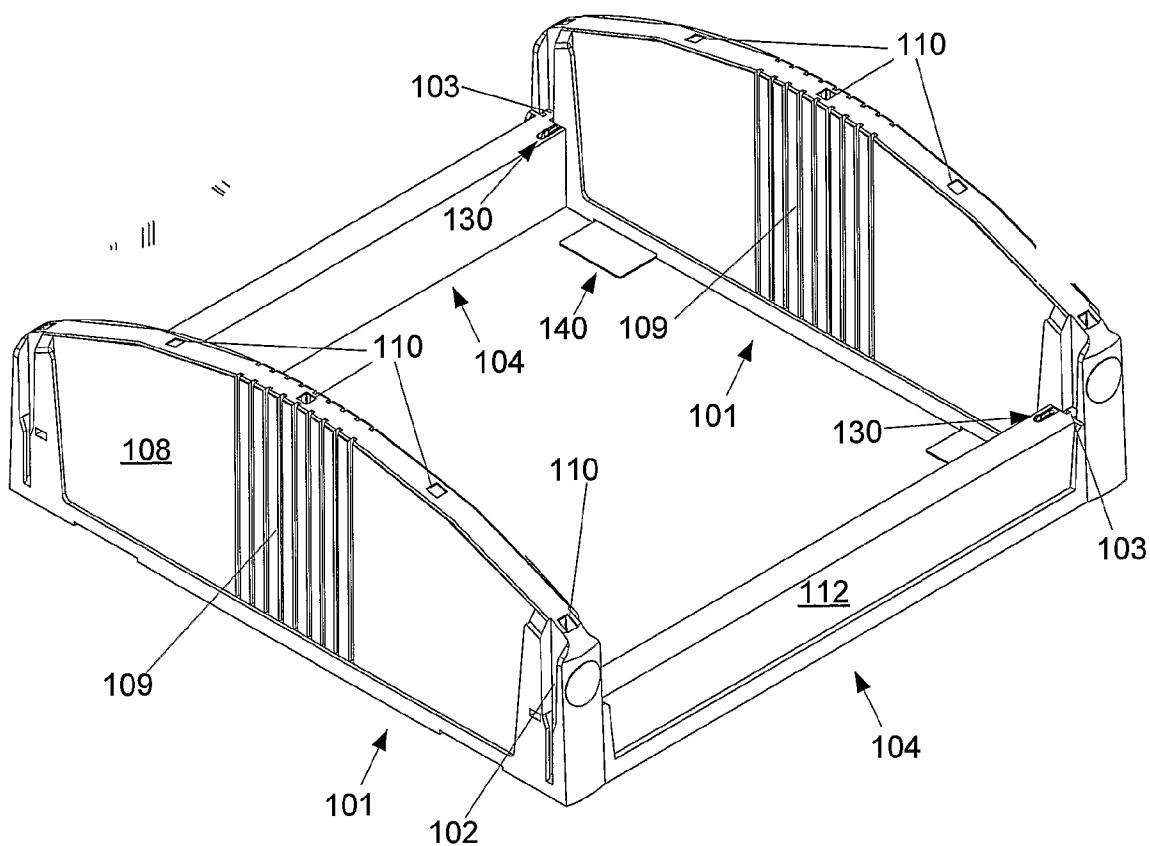


Fig. 2A

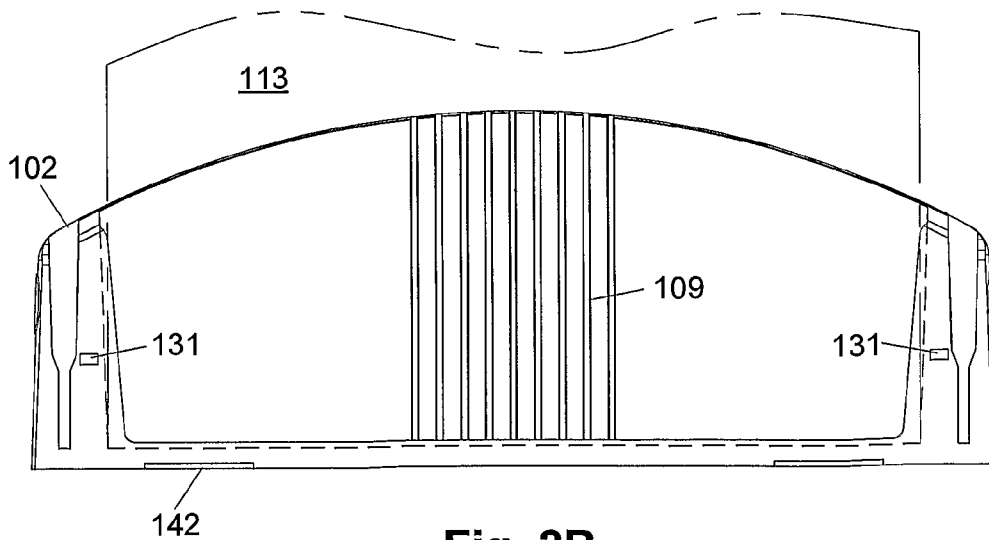


Fig. 2B

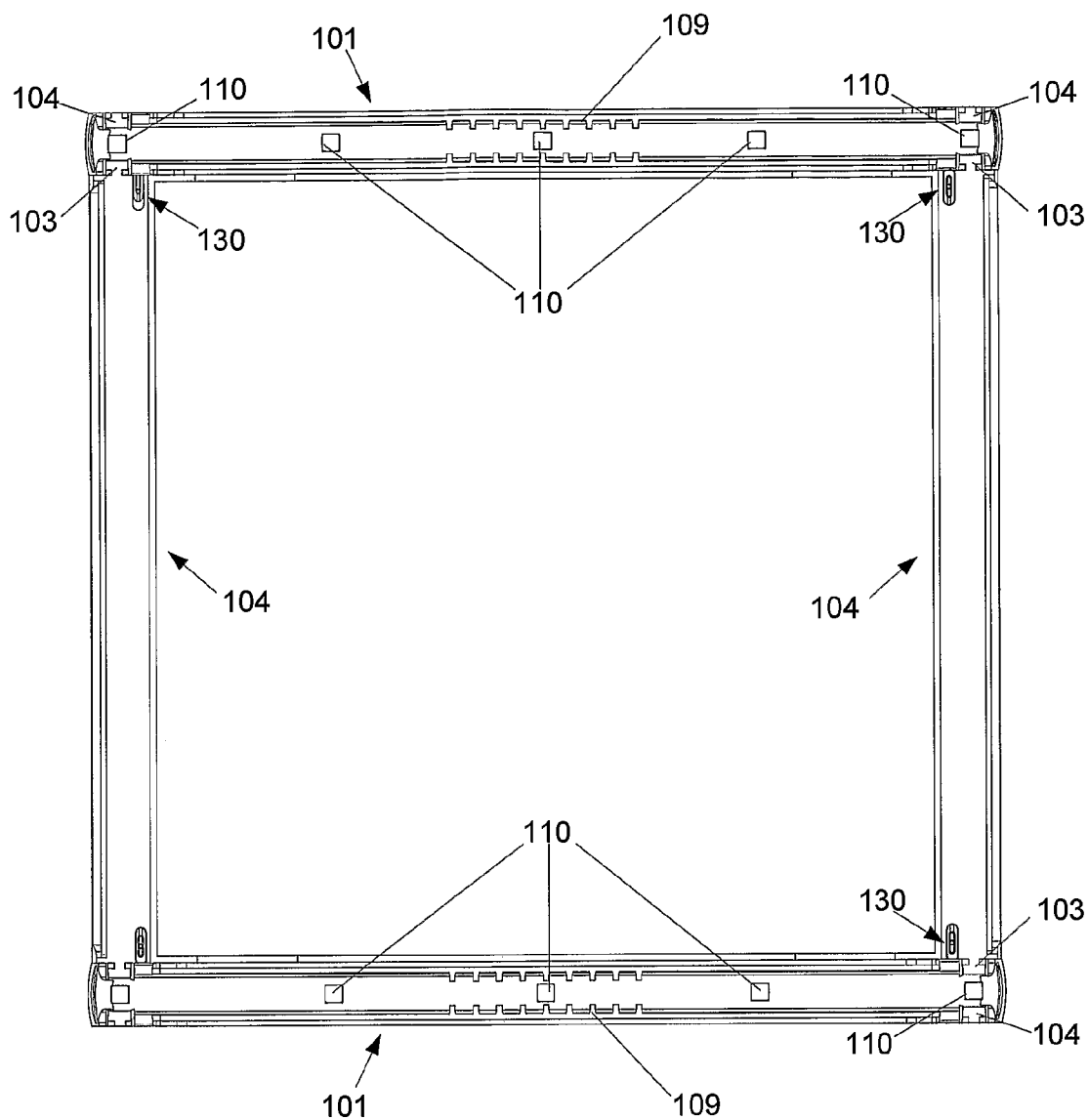


Fig. 2C

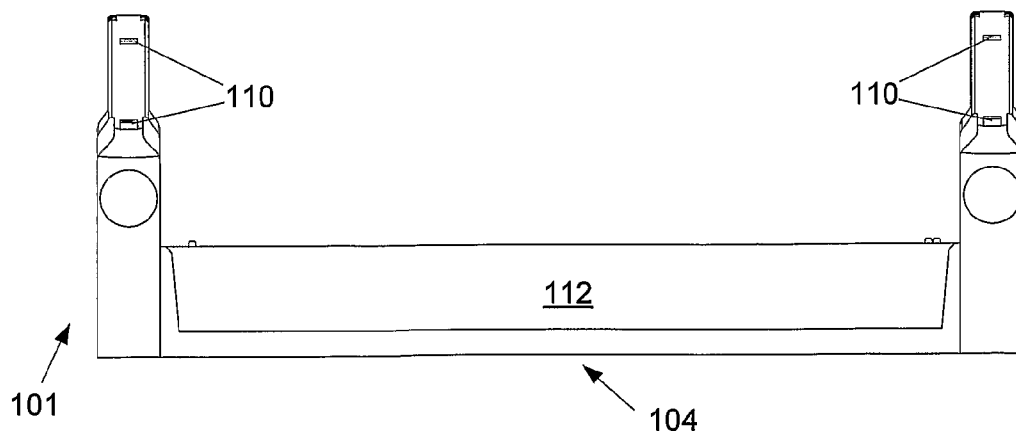


Fig. 2D

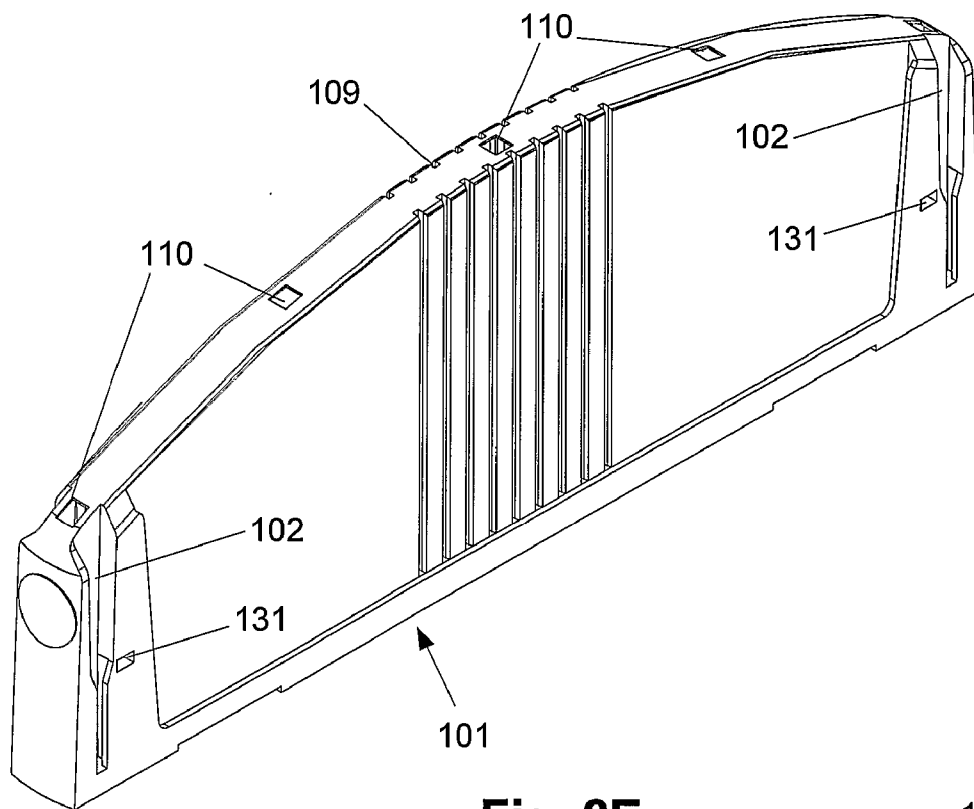


Fig. 2E

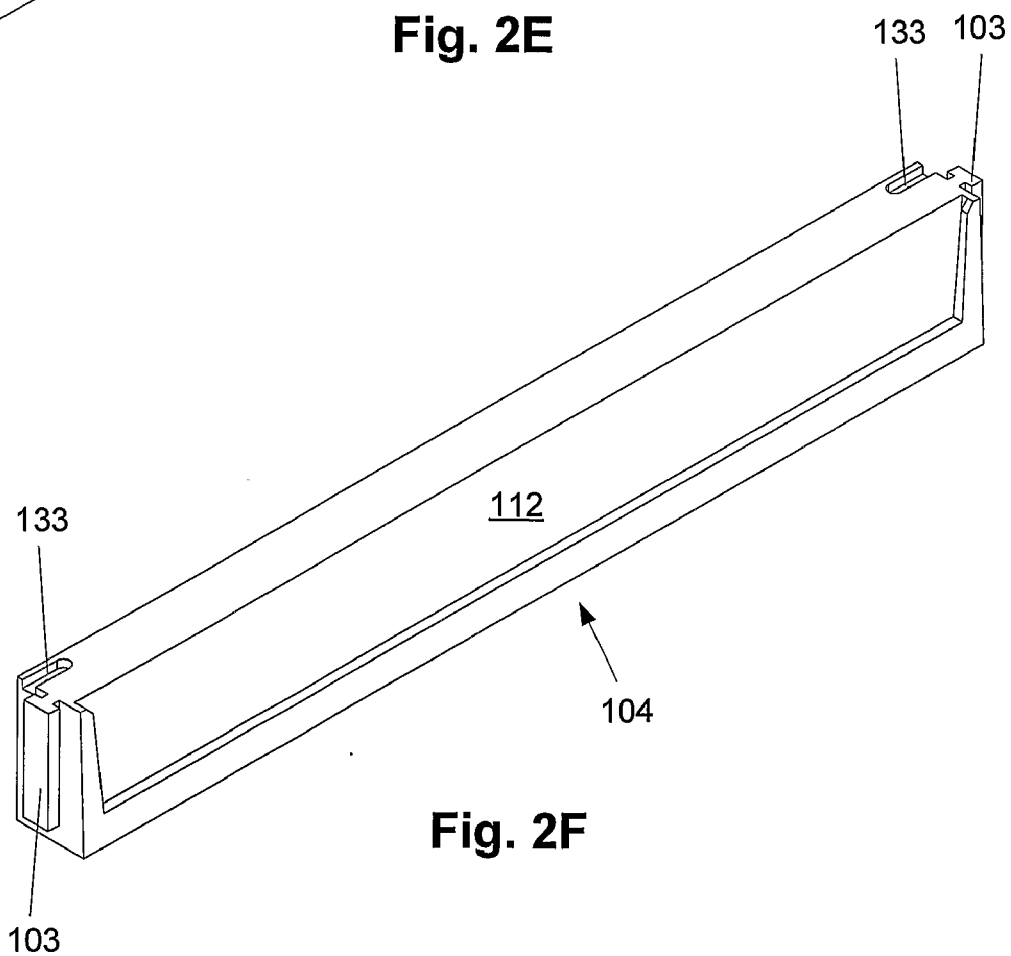


Fig. 2F

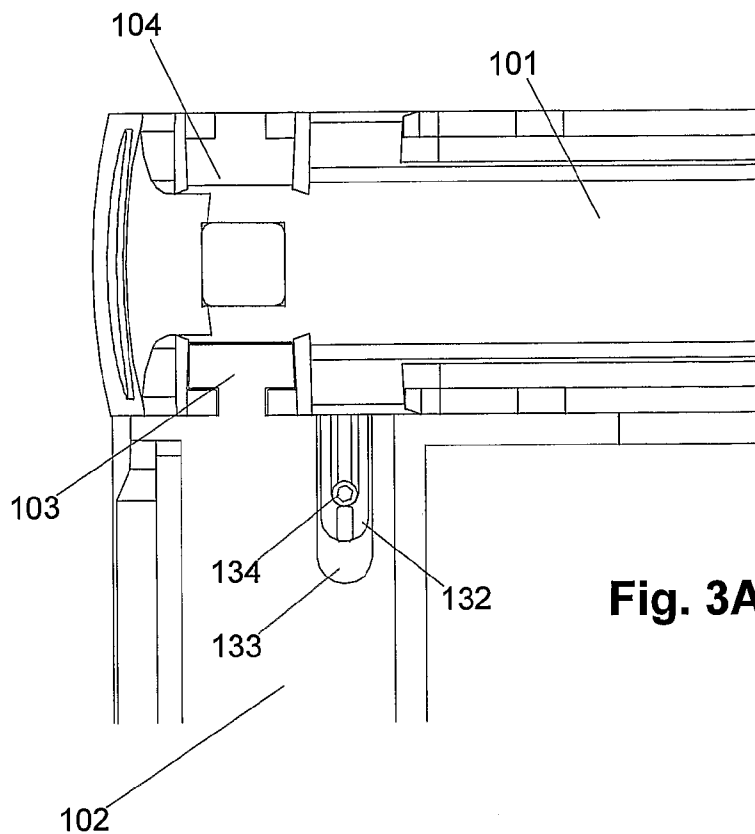


Fig. 3A

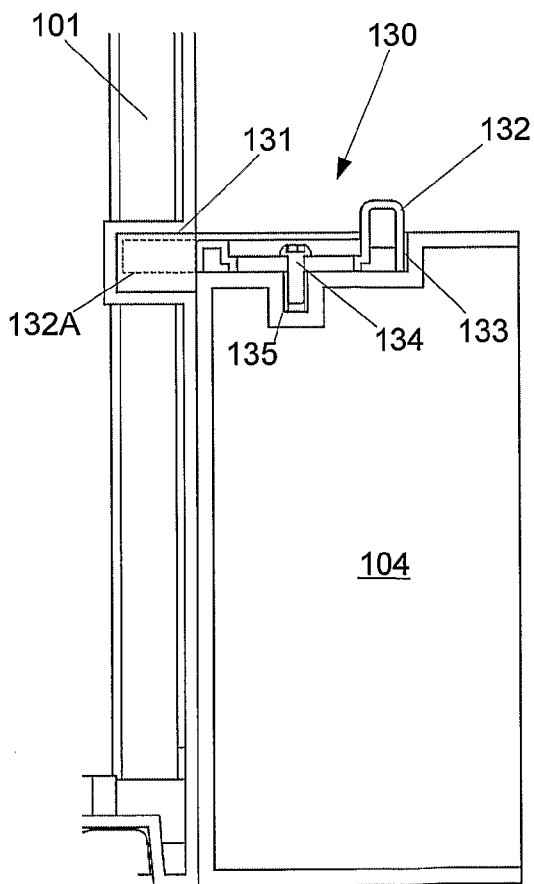


Fig. 3B

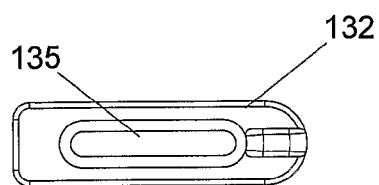


Fig. 3C

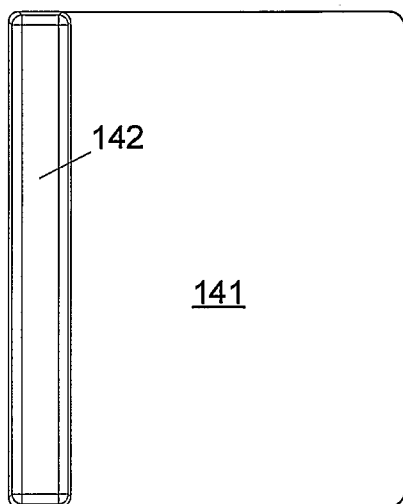


Fig. 4A

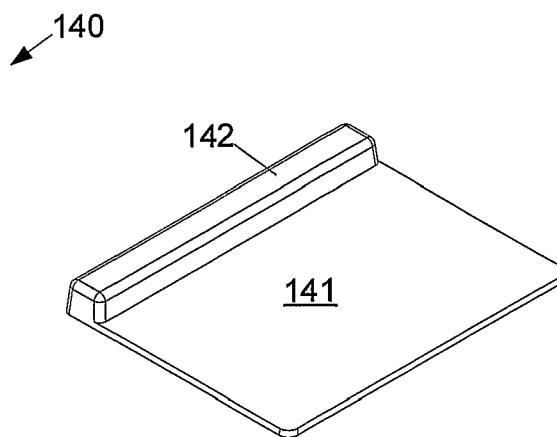


Fig. 4B

Fig. 5B

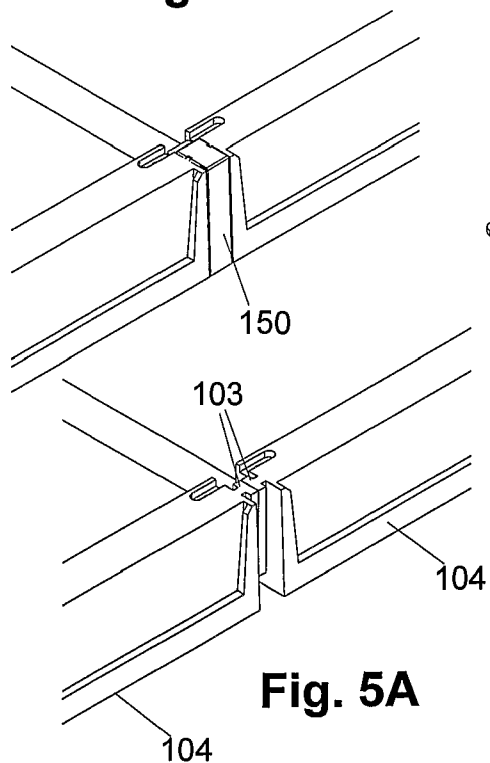


Fig. 5A

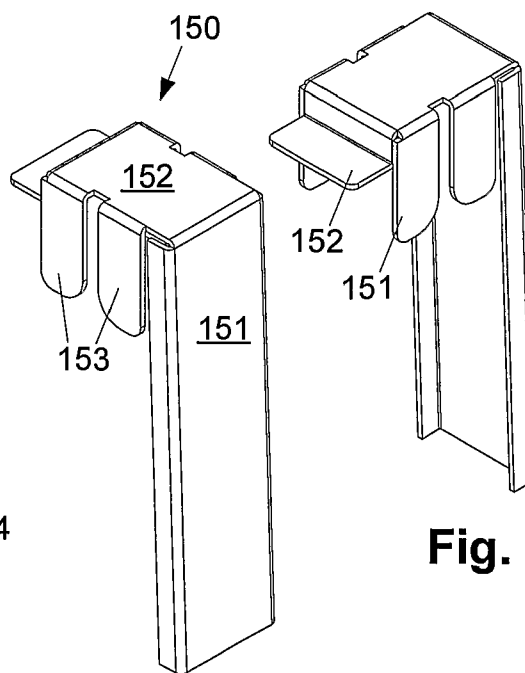


Fig. 5C

Fig. 5D

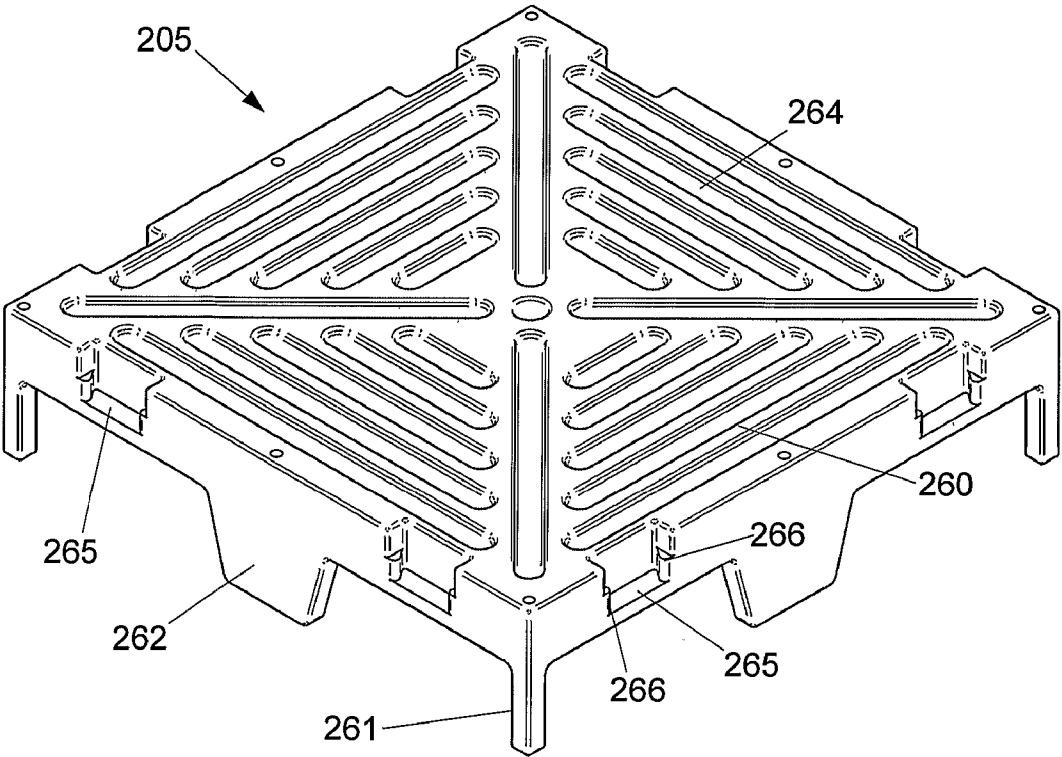


Fig. 6A

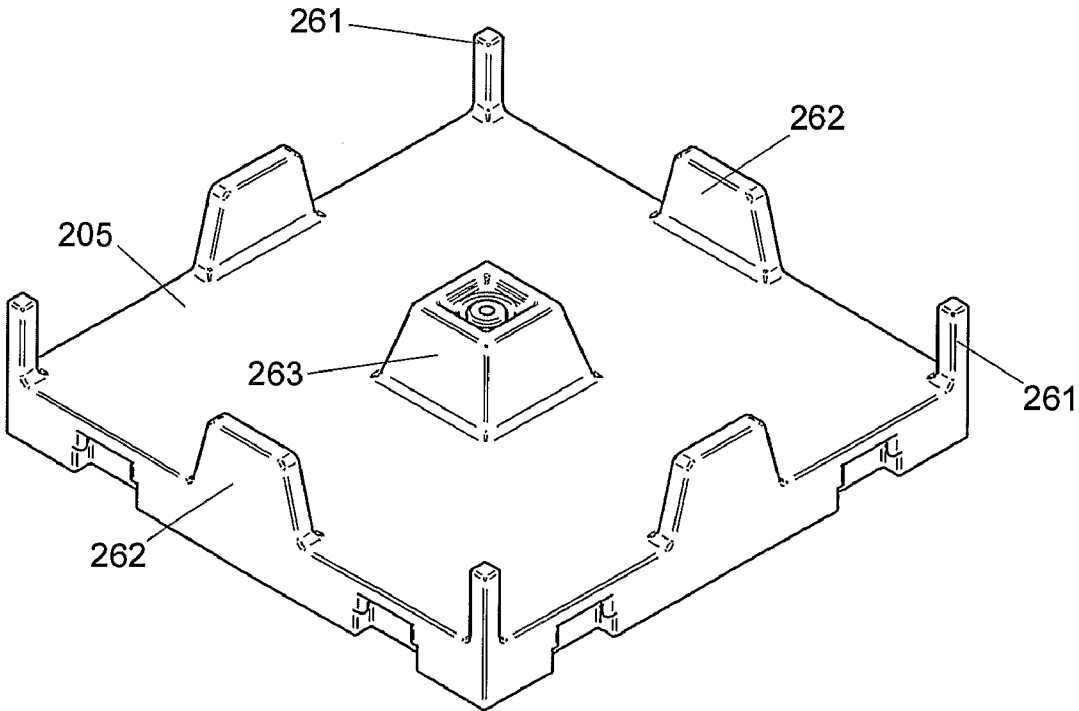


Fig. 6B

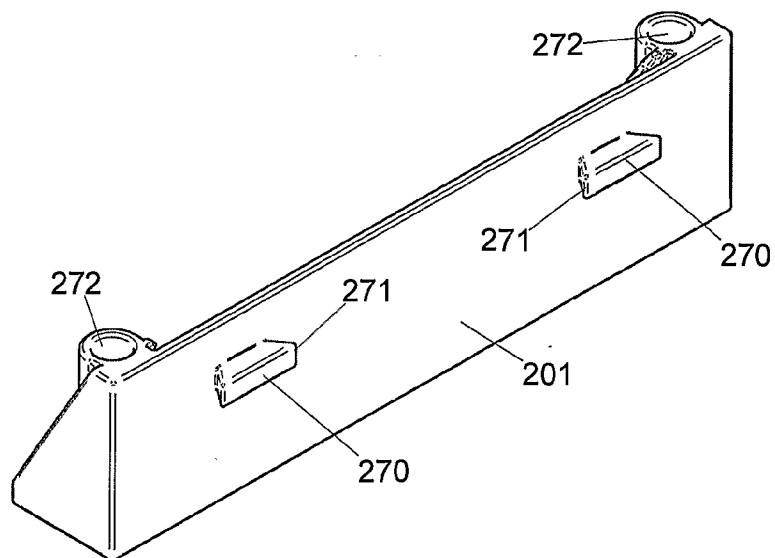


Fig. 7A

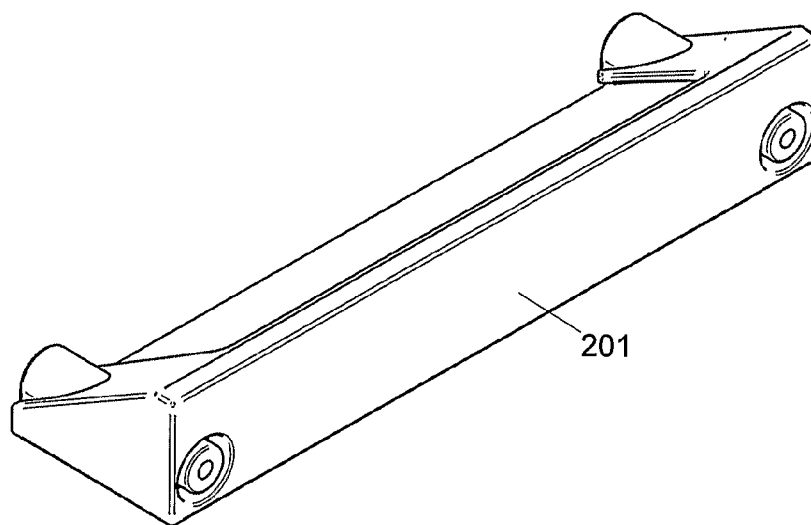


Fig. 7B

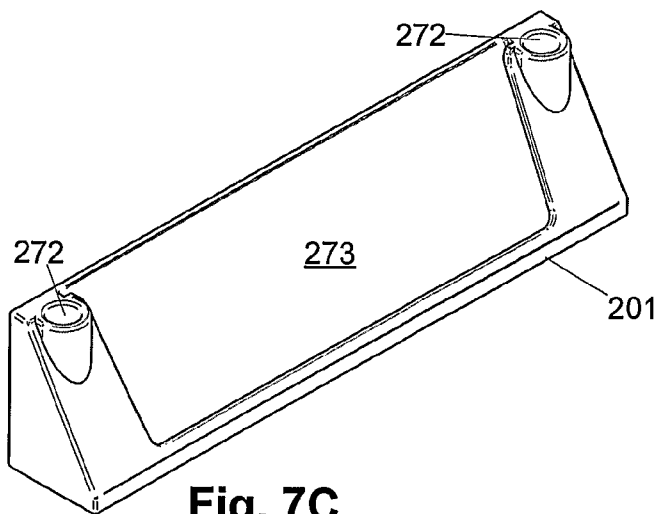


Fig. 7C

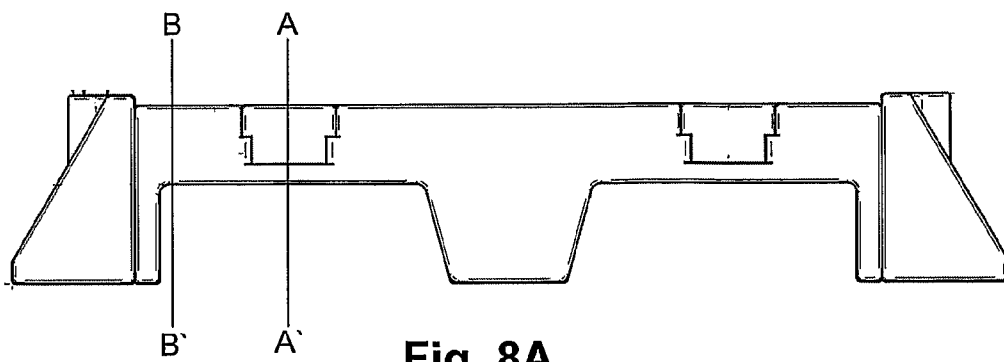


Fig. 8A

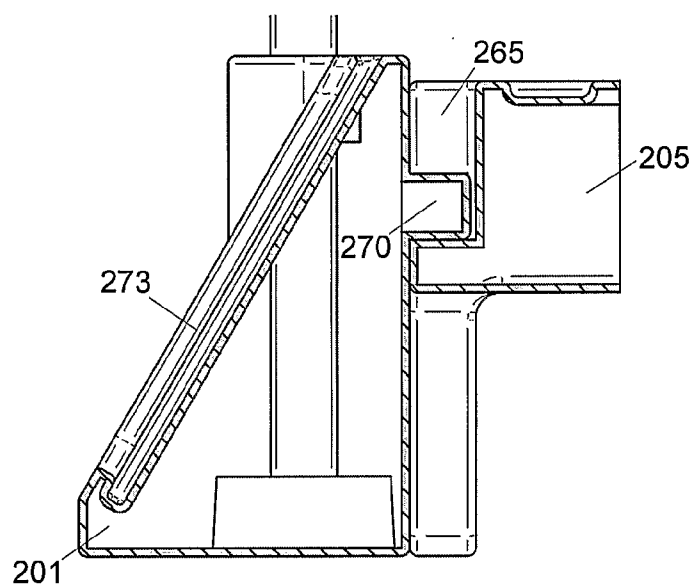


Fig. 8B

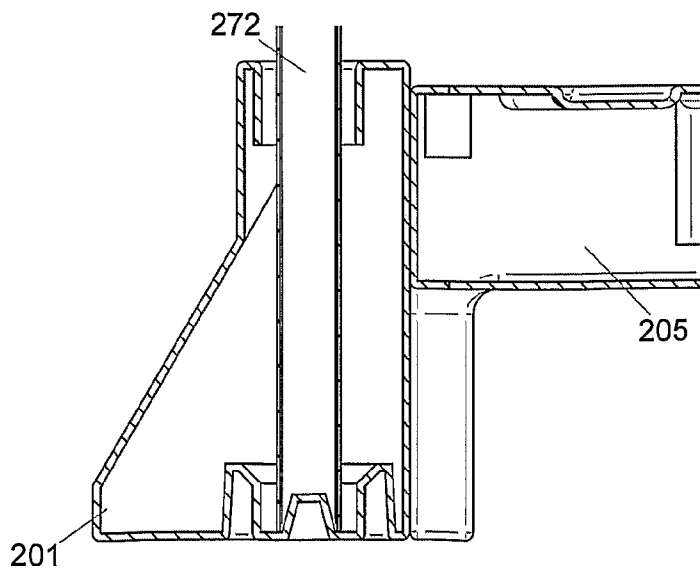


Fig. 8C

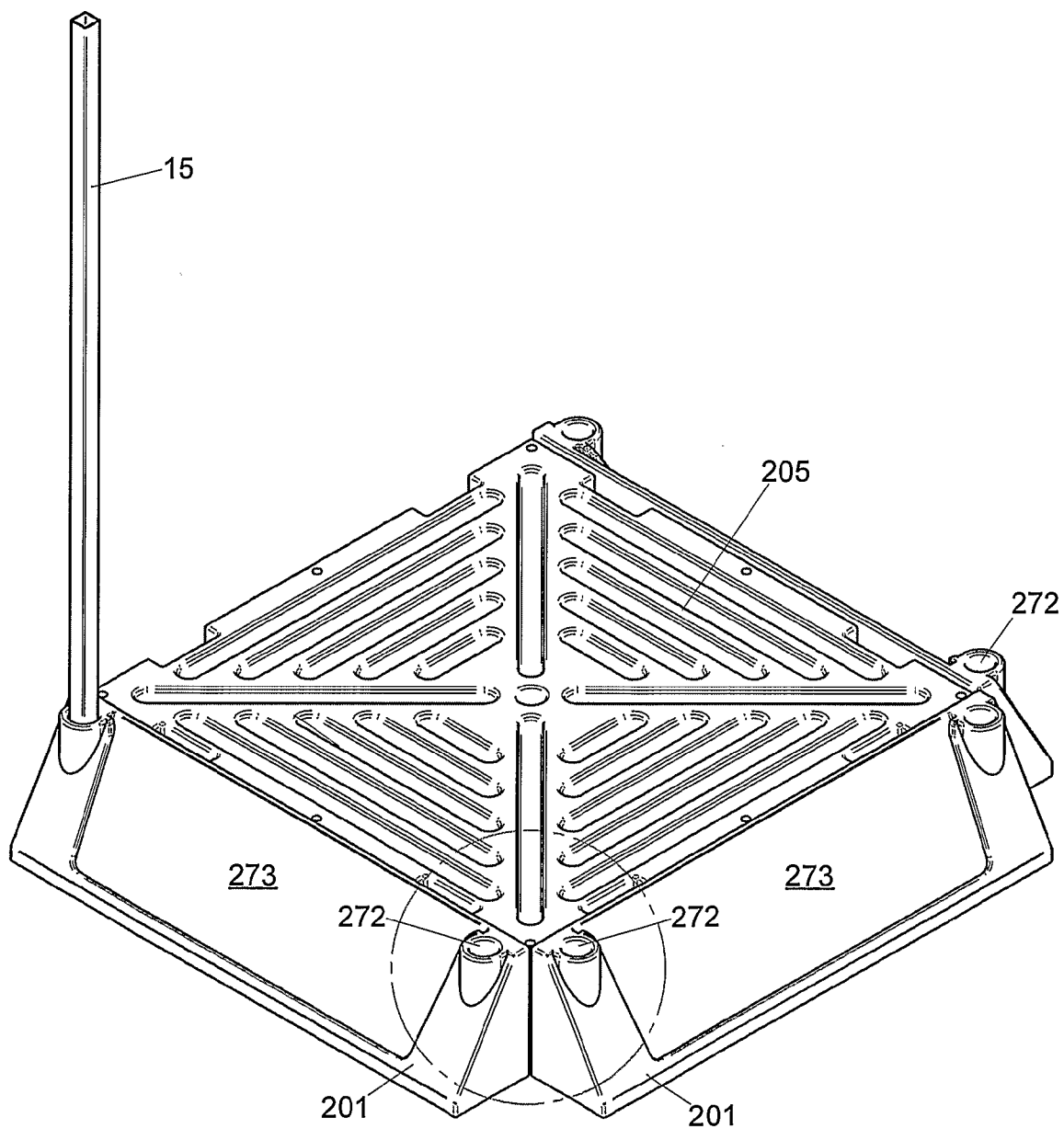


Fig. 8D

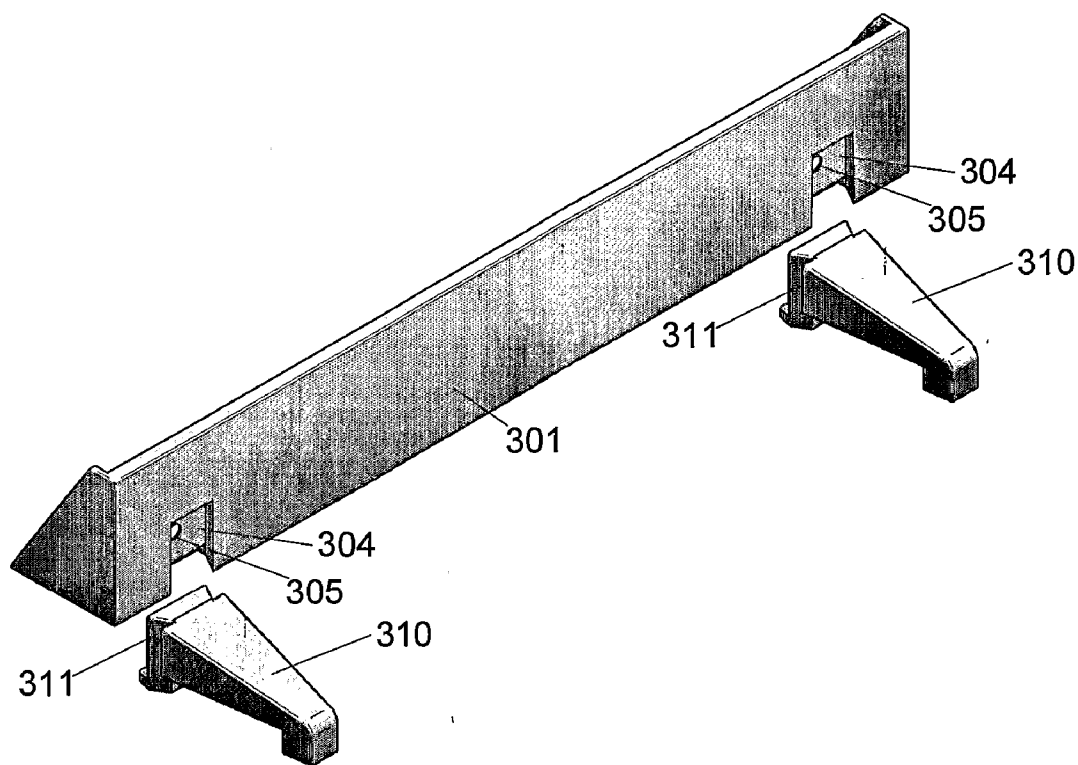


Fig. 9A

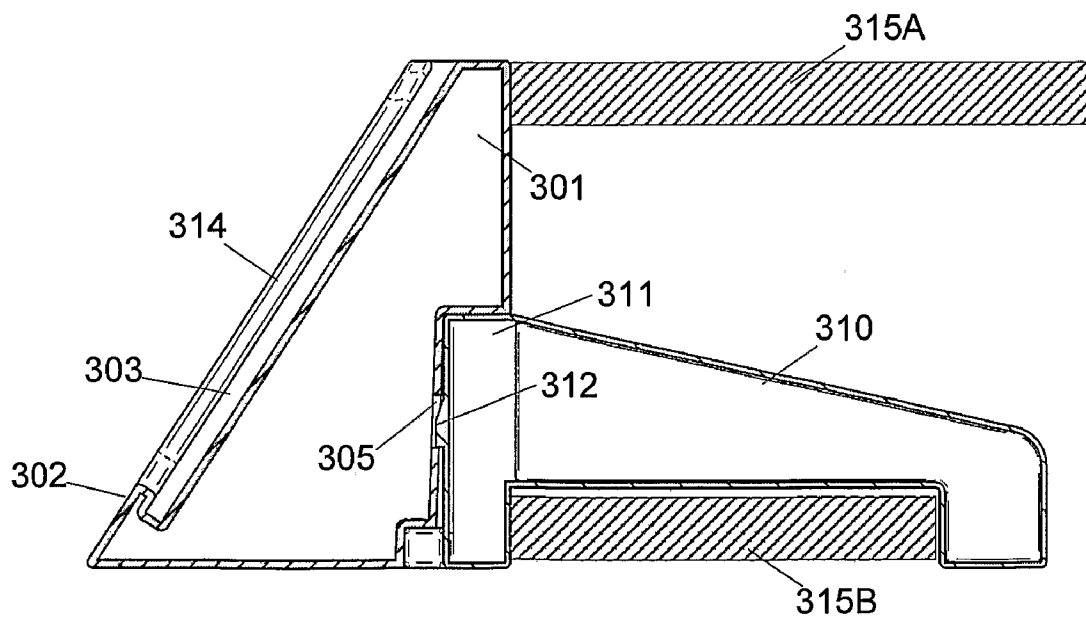


Fig. 9B

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a multi functional system for use with products provided on a pallet.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

[0002] The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of suggestion that the prior art forms part of the common general knowledge.

[0003] In some shopping environments, such as hardware stores and discount supermarkets, it is common to present products for sale on the pallets that are used for transporting the products. This is performed as it obviates the need to remove the product from the pallet and stack the product on appropriate shelving, or the like.

[0004] However, this arrangement suffers from a number of disadvantages. For example, when products are provided on shelving, the shelving can be used to display information relating to the product, such as pricing and the like. Additionally, use of pallets in store can lead to health and safety issues, such as the risk of customers injuring themselves on the pallet corners, or the like.

[0005] EP-0,841,029 describes a display shelf system for use with a pallet, which is formed from two side portions and a back portion. The side and back portions are attached to the pallet once it is placed in position, allowing a number of poles or bearers carrying advertising to be fixed thereto. However, this suffers from a number of disadvantages. In particular, the elements of the system are not self-supporting, and this only allows information to be displayed once all the elements are interconnected. This makes the construction process complex and time consuming. Furthermore, this requires complete disassembly of all the components to allow the system to be moved. Additionally, the system also leaves the front of the pallet exposed, which is not only visually unappealing, but can also be dangerous as consumers may catch themselves on the exposed pallet, resulting in injury or the like.

[0006] U.S. Pat. No. 5,586,666 describes a promotional pallet which can be varied in both length and width, and which will have places for signs and pennants in any of its configurations. In this instance, the pallet is a custom pallet, and therefore cannot be used with existing pallets. Additionally, the advertising supports are integrated with the pallet, and as a result, the pallet is unnecessarily cumbersome, making it unsuitable for transporting goods in many cases. Finally, the fact that the support structures are integrated means the same supports cannot be used on multiple pallets, thereby requiring advertising to be detached each time the pallet is changed.

[0007] DE-29,911,058 describes a system including a flat base on which a pallet rests in use. The base supports a rearwardly mounted information area. However, only allowing information to be provided rearwardly of the pallet limits the visibility of the information when the pallet is fully loaded, and restricts access to the pallet from the rear. Furthermore, the provision of the flat base requires the pallet is lifted onto the system, rather than allow the pallet to be slid into position. There are also significant limits on the amount of material that can be presented on the pallet.

[0008] FR-2,783,237 describes an open based carton for fitting over a pallet once in place. This is designed to rest on

the pallet surface, and does not therefore cover the pallet, leaving the pallet exposed, which is both visually unappealing and dangerous. Additionally, this is not intended to support separate advertising, making the system of little practical use.

[0009] US-2004/0226488 describes a pallet support system that is arranged to raise a pallet to provide access to goods thereon. This system includes enclosure members that surround the pallet, and can include advertising thereon, but this only allows limited advertising to be shown. Furthermore, the system is complex and expensive, therefore making the system unsuitable for use where multiple pallets are displayed simultaneously.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0010] In a first broad form the present invention provides a system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including a number of interconnected members adapted to define a perimeter for surrounding a pallet, at least one of the members including mountings for receiving a secondary support structure, the secondary support structure being adapted to display information relating to the products.

[0011] Typically the members include:

[0012] a) two side members, each side member having two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;

[0013] b) two guard members, each guard member having two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second connectors cooperating to connect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use.

[0014] Typically the side members include mounting holes for receiving a shaft of the secondary support structure.

[0015] Typically the system includes at least one locking mechanism for locking a guard member to a corresponding side member.

[0016] Typically the system includes at least one base member for extending beneath the pallet in use.

[0017] Typically the members include connectors adapted to cooperate with corresponding recesses on the pallet to couple the members to the pallet, and thereby interconnect the members.

[0018] In a second broad form the present invention provides a system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including:

[0019] a) two side members, each side member having two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;

[0020] b) two guard members, each guard member having two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second connectors cooperating to connect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use, and wherein the functions include at least one of:

[0021] i) presenting information relating to the products;

[0022] ii) presenting information relating to a retailer;

[0023] iii) defining a position in which the pallet is to be located;

[0024] iv) dividing the pallet into two or more portions, each portion being used to present different products;

[0025] v) preventing individuals from being able to contact the pallet; and,

[0026] vi) improving the appearance of the pallet.

[0027] Typically the system includes at least two display points for receiving media including information relating to the products.

[0028] Typically the display points include at least a side member display point coupled to at least one side member and a guard member display point coupled to at least one guard member.

[0029] Typically each side member includes a body having:

[0030] a) a central portion; and,

[0031] b) two outer portions, each outer portion extending from the central portion to the first connectors.

[0032] Typically the two outer portions include a sloped face.

[0033] Typically the display points include at least one of:

[0034] a) a mounting recess provided in a face of the side member;

[0035] b) a shaped portion of a surface of the side member, the shaped portion being adapted to receive a container for holding media;

[0036] c) one or more mounting holes for receiving corresponding one or more shafts coupled to a display panel; and,

[0037] d) a mounting recess provided in a face of the guard member.

[0038] Typically the display panel includes at least one of:

[0039] a) a header panel; and,

[0040] b) a hangsell panel.

[0041] Typically each side member includes a number of grooves provided on at least one face, the grooves being adapted to mount a divider extending between the two side members.

[0042] Typically the first and second connectors are formed from recesses and correspondingly shaped tongues.

[0043] Typically the first connectors are adapted to allow two guard members to be coupled to each first connector such that the guard members extend away from the side member in opposing directions perpendicular to a face of the side member.

[0044] Typically the multi-functional system is adapted to be used with a number of pallets n by interconnecting a number of guard members $2n$ and a number of side members $n+1$.

[0045] Typically the multi-functional system is formed from roto-molded plastic

[0046] Typically the side members are adapted to be coupled to a floor to thereby define the location of the pallet.

[0047] Typically the system is a system according to the first broad form of the invention.

[0048] In a third broad form the present invention provides a display system for displaying information relating to products provided on a pallet, the display system including:

[0049] a) two side members, each side member having:

[0050] i) two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;

[0051] ii) a side member display point for receiving media including information relating to the products; and,

[0052] b) two guard members, each guard member having:

[0053] i) two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second

connectors cooperating to connect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use; and,

[0054] ii) a guard member display point for receiving media including information relating to the products.

[0055] Typically the display system is a system according to the first or second broad forms of the invention.

[0056] In a fourth broad form the present invention provides a system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including:

[0057] a) a pallet including a number of recesses; and,

[0058] b) a number of members adapted to define at least part of a perimeter for surrounding a pallet, each member including at least one connector for coupling the member to a corresponding recess, and at least one of the members including mountings for receiving a secondary support structure, the secondary support structure being adapted to display information relating to the products.

[0059] Typically the display system is a system according to any one of the first, second or third broad forms of the invention.

[0060] In a fifth broad form the present invention provides a system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including a front member having:

[0061] a) a face having a recess for receiving information;

[0062] b) at least two feet arranged such that when the front member is provided along a pallet edge, the feet cooperate with the pallet to locate the front member.

[0063] In one example, the front member can replace at least one of the side and guard members of the first broad form of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0064] An example of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

[0065] FIG. 1A is a schematic exploded perspective view of a first example of a multi-functional system for use with a pallet;

[0066] FIG. 1B is a schematic perspective view of the multi-functional system of FIG. 1A;

[0067] FIG. 1C is a schematic plan view of the connectors of FIG. 1A;

[0068] FIG. 2A is a schematic perspective view of a second example of a multi-functional system for use with a pallet;

[0069] FIG. 2B is a schematic side view of the system of FIG. 2A;

[0070] FIG. 2C is a schematic plan view of the system of FIG. 2A;

[0071] FIG. 2D is a schematic end view of the system of FIG. 2A;

[0072] FIG. 2E is a schematic perspective view of the system one of the side members of FIG. 2A;

[0073] FIG. 2F is a schematic perspective view of the system one of the guard members of FIG. 2A;

[0074] FIG. 3A is a schematic plan view of an example of a locking system for use with the system of FIG. 2A;

[0075] FIG. 3B is a schematic side view of the locking system of FIG. 3A;

[0076] FIG. 3C is a schematic plan view of the locking member of FIG. 3A;

[0077] FIG. 4A is a schematic plan view of an example of a base member for use with the system of FIG. 2A;

[0078] FIG. 4B is a schematic perspective view of the base member of FIG. 4A;

[0079] FIG. 5A is a first schematic perspective view of a connecting element;

[0080] FIG. 5B is a second schematic perspective view of the connecting element of FIG. 5A;

[0081] FIG. 5C is a schematic perspective view of two guard members;

[0082] FIG. 5D is a schematic perspective view of two guard members interconnected using the connecting element;

[0083] FIGS. 6A and 6B are schematic perspective views of an example of a pallet;

[0084] FIGS. 7A to 7C are schematic views of side members used a third example of a multi-functional system for use with the pallet of FIG. 6A;

[0085] FIGS. 8A to 8D are schematic views of the side members of FIGS. 7A to 7C when connected to the pallet of FIGS. 6A and 6B; and,

[0086] FIGS. 9A and 9B are schematic perspective and cross sectional views of a front member.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0087] An example of a multi-functional system will now be described with reference to FIGS. 1A to 1C.

[0088] In particular, as shown in FIG. 1A, the multi-functional system is formed from two side members 1, each having two connectors 2, which are adapted to couple to corresponding connectors 3, provided on respective guard members 4. In use, when interconnected, the side members 1 and the guard members 4 operate to define an enclosure that can be arranged so as to surround a pallet 5 or other article holding system.

[0089] Each side member 1 is formed from a central portion 6, and two outer portions 7, which extended between the central portion 6 and the connectors 2. The central portion 6 has outer and inner faces 6A, 6B, each of which are shaped so as to define respective mountings recesses 8, having a number of laterally spaced grooves 9 defined therein. Additionally a number of mounting holes 10 are provided on an upper face 6C of the central portion 6, as shown. Each outer portion 7 has a sloped face 7A, with at least one of the sloped faces 7A defining a shaped holder 11, adapted to receive a housing 11A, as shown.

[0090] Each guard member 4 also includes a mounting recess 12, provided on an outer face 4A as shown.

[0091] The connectors are shown in more detail in FIG. 1C. As shown, each connector 2 includes two shaped recesses 2A, 2B, which are adapted to receive a respective tongue 3A provided on each of the connectors 3. This allows a guard member 4 to be coupled to each side of the side members 1, in turn allowing a number of display members to be coupled together. It will be appreciated that in this arrangement adjacent pallets 5 share a common side member 1 as shown.

[0092] In use, when it is desired to remove or insert a pallet 5 into the multi-functional system, a selected one of the guard members 4 can be raised in the direction of the arrow A, thereby decoupling the guard member 4 from the side members 1. The pallet 5 can then be removed or inserted as shown by the arrow B, before the guard member 4 is replaced, thereby ensuring the pallets are encircled by the multi-functional system.

[0093] In use, each of the mounting recesses 8, 12, are designed to receive laminar media 13A, 13B, such as card-

board inserts of the like, to allow advertising material to be inserted into the mounting recesses 8, 12 as shown in FIG. 1B. In addition to this, the mounting holes 10 can be adapted to receive either a header mount 14 or a hangsell mount 16.

[0094] The use of the sloped face 7A allows the central portion 6 to be of an increased height compared to the guard members 4, thereby maximising the size of the mounting recess 8 to maximise the size of the media 13A which can be displayed therein, whilst still allowing easy access to products provided on the pallet.

[0095] As shown, the header mount 14 is formed from a shaft 15 attached to a header panel 17, which, in use, can receiver laminar printed media 18, such as advertising cards, pricing cards or the like.

[0096] Similarly, the hangsell mount 16 includes two mounting shafts 19 coupled to a hangsell panel 20 and a header panel 21. Again, the hangsell panel 20 allows laminar media 18, such as posters or the like to be supported. In particular, this allows advertising material that is normally suspended from the ceiling of stores to be attached to the display apparatus.

[0097] The container 11A acts as a holder to allow material such as brochures to be presented.

[0098] Thus, it will be appreciated that the display apparatus allows a number of different media to be mounted on the display apparatus, to thereby display information regarding products or like provided on the pallet.

[0099] In particular, in the example above, the multi-functional system includes at least five different types of display point including:

- [0100] the mounting recess 8;
- [0101] the mounting recess 12;
- [0102] the header mount 14
- [0103] the hangsell mount 16; and,
- [0104] the container 11A.

[0105] It will be appreciated that additional display points may also be incorporated and that it is not essential to include all of the above described display points in the display apparatus, and that these are included in a single example for ease of description only. Thus, a combination of any one or more of the display points may be used depending on the preferred implementation.

[0106] In any event, it will be appreciated that this allows a wide range of product information to be presented, including pricing or the like. Whilst any information may be displayed at any one of the display points, in general the header mount 14 and the hangsell mount 16 are used to display pricing and/or product identification information to allow these to be viewed by a potential customer from a distance.

[0107] In the case of the hangsell mount 16, this can advantageously be used to replace posters that would otherwise normally be hung from the ceiling. This avoids the problems associated with updating, replacing or moving hanging posters which typically requires an individual to climb a ladder or scaffolding to make appropriate adjustments, which in turn can involve significant time and expense by the retailer.

[0108] In addition to this, the guard or side members may also include embossed information such as the logo, name or information regarding the retailer using the display apparatus. This in turn provides a mechanism for corporate branding of the multi-functional system to provide additional exposure for the retailer, whilst allowing advertising for the associated

products to be provided. It will be appreciated that retailer specific information may also be provided at any one of the display points.

[0109] A divider **22** may be positioned between the inner faces **6B** and supported by the grooves **9**, to divide the pallet **5** into two portions. This allows different products to be provided on each portion of the pallet. Thus, different and/or competing products may be displayed on the same pallet, whilst being clearly separated. In this instance, then the presented information can relate to each product through the use of appropriate media, such that, for example, different inserts **13B** may be provided on each of the guard members **4**.

[0110] In addition to presenting information, the system also operates to obscure the pallet **5**. This has two main effects, namely to hide the pallet from view, thereby making the appearance of the overall display more presentable, without having to remove the products from the pallets. Additionally, the multi-functional system avoids customers coming into contact with the pallet **5**, thereby helping improve the safety of the product display.

[0111] The system can also be used to define locations at which the pallets **5** can be placed in a store. This can be achieved for example by defining a desired layout for the pallets **5**, and then positioning the multi-functional system at appropriate positions within the store. In this case, the multi-functional system can be semi-permanently positioned, for example, by attaching the side members **1** to the floor, so that the multi-functional system remains static when the pallets **5** are removed and inserted. This can be achieved for example through the use of suitable mounting brackets to couple the side members to the floor, or any other suitable technique.

[0112] It will be appreciated that this is achievable as the multi-functional system can form a free-standing structure and does not rely on coupling to the pallet to hold the multi-functional system in place. As a result, this allows retailers to design a store layout by arranging the multi-functional systems to provide definitive locations for each pallet to be used, which in turn assists in ensuring products are correctly displayed. In particular, this avoids the haphazard layout of pallets that can occur if pallets are simply placed in an available space upon the retail floor.

[0113] To assist with this, as described above, a number of multi-functional systems can be connected in sequence, so that the pallets **5** can be arranged in a line, or the like.

[0114] The side and guard members are typically formed by rotational molding (roto-molding), thereby providing a cheap, durable but lightweight product, although it will be appreciated that other construction techniques may be used.

[0115] A second example of a multi-functional system will now be described with reference to FIGS. **2A** to **2F**.

[0116] In particular, in this example the multi-functional system utilises similar elements to those shown in FIGS. **1A** to **1C** and these are designated by reference numerals increased by 100. Thus, in this example, the multi-functional system includes two side members **101** connected to guard members **104**, via respective connectors **102**, **103** as shown.

[0117] In this example each side member **101** includes a number of laterally spaced grooves **109** provided within a mounting recess **108**, which in use is adapted to receive advertising media **113** as shown in FIG. **2B**.

[0118] Each of the guard members **104** also includes a mounting recess **112** for receiving media (not shown). In addition to this, the system includes a locking member, generally shown at **130**, which allows the guard members **104** to

be locked to the side members **101**, as well as base members **140**, which will be described in more detail below.

[0119] The side members **101** also include a number of mounting holes **110** which are adapted to receive secondary mounting structures similar to the header mount **14** or hang-sell mount **16** shown in FIG. **1A**. Accordingly, the mounting holes **110** are adapted to support secondary mounting structures to allow additional advertising to be associated with the system, and the pallet provided therewith. In this example, five mounting holes are shown, but will be appreciated that any number may be provided in order to allow a desired configuration of secondary supports to be used.

[0120] To provide suitable support to the secondary support structure, it is desirable for the mounting holes and the support structure to have complimentary shapes. Thus, for example, if the holes have a square cross section, then typically the mounting shafts **15**, **19** will also utilise a square cross section.

[0121] It is also preferable that the side member has sufficient thickness around the mounting holes, and that the mounting holes have a suitable depth to ensure that the secondary support structure is held in place even if a lateral force is applied thereto. Accordingly, in this example, the side members **101** have a greater height and width than the guard members **104**, which are not required to support secondary support structures.

[0122] In one example, the height of the side members **101** is in the region of 500 mm, whilst the width is approximately 90 mm. This configuration, especially when formed from a robust material, such as a roto moulded plastic, provides sufficient depth and width to allow a range of different secondary support structures to be used, without unduly adding to the floor area required as compared to a pallet on its own.

[0123] It will be appreciated from this that the functionality and operation of the pallet guard will substantially as described above with respect to FIGS. **1A** to **1C**.

[0124] A number of additional features will now be described.

[0125] FIGS. **3A** to **3C** show an example of the locking mechanism **130** in more detail. As shown, the locking mechanism **130** is formed from a recess **131**, provided in the side member **101**, which cooperates with a corresponding locking member **132**, slidably mounted in a member recess **133** on the guard member **104**. The locking member **132** includes an aperture **135** that receives a screw **135**, which is in turn mounted to the guard member **104**, as shown at **136**.

[0126] In use, this allows the locking member **132** to be moved between an unlocked position shown in FIG. **3B** and a locked position shown in FIG. **3A**. In the locked position, an end portion **132A** of the locking member **132** extends into the recess **131**, as shown in dotted lines in FIG. **3B**.

[0127] Accordingly, it will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that when the guard member **104** has been coupled to a side member **101**, the locking member **132** can be slid into the recess **131**, thereby locking the guard member **104** to the corresponding side member **101**.

[0128] This is not per se intended to prevent the side member **101** and the guard member **104** from being disconnected, but is intended to reduce the chance of this happening inadvertently, for example, when the side or guard members **101**, **104** are handled, or when media is being added or removed.

[0129] However, in the event that additional security is desirable, for example to prevent individuals removing intentionally removing the guard members **104**, then once the

locking member 132 is positioned within the recess 131, the screw can be tightened, to thereby prevent the locking member 132 being removed from the recess without appropriate tools, or the like.

[0130] FIGS. 4A and 4B show the base member 140 in additional detail. As shown the base member includes a substantially laminar portion 141 and a ridge 142. In use, the ridge 142 is attached to an underside of one of the side members 101, as shown in FIG. 2B. The flat laminar portion 141 then projects into the perimeter defined by the guard and side members 101, 104 as shown in FIG. 2A. As a result, when a pallet is placed within the perimeter, the pallet will rest on the laminar portion 140, thereby preventing the side members 101 from being moved.

[0131] It will be appreciated that in the event that the locking mechanism 130 is used, this prevents the guard members 104 from being decoupled from the side members 101, with the base member 140 preventing the side members 101 being moved relative to the pallet. As a result, the system forms a sturdy and substantially immovable structure around the pallet. This in turn provides a sturdy base from which the secondary support members can be supported, thereby allowing advertising or the like to be provided.

[0132] It will be appreciated that in this instance, if an individual attempts to move any one of the side or guard members 101, 104, as the members are interconnected, the individual effectively has to move the entire structure. Furthermore, as the pallet rests on the base members 140, the individual effectively also has to move the pallet and its contents.

[0133] As a result this provides a substantially immovable structure which is capable of supporting advertising or the like, through the use of secondary support structures. In this instance, if an individual inadvertently leans against the secondary support structure, the combination of the structure, the pallet and the products, will be sufficient to prevent movement of the structure or pallet, which in turn can help reduce accidents, and the like.

[0134] FIGS. 5A to 5D show an example of a connecting element for allowing guard members to be interconnected, which in turn allows a number of pallets to be provided within the perimeter of the system.

[0135] In this example, the connector element 150 includes a shaped body having side and upper body portions 151, 152. Tongues 153 project downwardly from the upper body portion as shown. In use, when two guard members 104 are positioned in an end to end arrangement, as shown in FIG. 5C, the connector element can be attached to the connectors 103, as shown, thereby interconnecting the guard members. It will be appreciated that this allows a number of guard members to be interconnected thereby extending the perimeter defined by the guard and side members 104, 101, which in turn allows multiple pallets to be provided within the perimeter.

[0136] As an alternative to this however, guard members 104 can be connected to either side of the side members 101 allowing a sequence of units to be provided. In this instance a respective side member 101 will be provided between each of the pallets.

[0137] A third example of a multi-functional system designed for use with a custom pallet will now be described with reference to FIGS. 6 to 8.

[0138] An example of the custom pallet is shown generally at 205 in FIGS. 6A and 6B. The pallet 205 includes a base 260, having a number of corner supports 261, side supports

262, and a centre support 263, which operate the support the base 260 above the ground in use. It will be appreciated that this allows the pallet to be lifted by a forklift or other similar device, as is the case for standard pallets.

[0139] In this example, an upper surface of the pallet base 260 includes a number of molded shapes 264. These can provide additional strength to the pallet base, as well as allowing drainage of fluids, for example as may occur if frozen goods are placed thereon.

[0140] The pallet 205 also includes eight recesses 265, each of which has a pair of lips 266, as shown.

[0141] An example of side members suitable for attachment to the pallet are shown in FIGS. 7A to 7C at 201. The side members 201 include connectors 270 having protrusions 271. Mounting holes 272 are provided as shown, together with a media recess 273.

[0142] In use, the side members 201 are coupled to the pallet by inserting the connectors 270 into the recesses 265, such that the protrusions 271 cooperate with the lips 266 to hold the side members 201 in place, as shown, for example, in FIGS. 8A to 8C. This results in a configuration in which side members 201 can be connected to any one or more sides of the pallet, as shown, for example, in FIG. 8D, where three side members 201 are provided.

[0143] In use, the mounting holes 201 can be used to support a secondary support structure similar to the header mount 15 or the hangsell mount 60 shown in FIG. 1.

[0144] Accordingly, it will be appreciated that this can be used in a manner similar to that described above with respect to the first and second examples, to provide the pallet with a more pleasing appearance as well as to act as a guard to prevent individuals contacting the pallet 205.

[0145] Additionally, by providing a planar side member 201 having connectors 270 positioned on either side, this allows a number of pallets to be interconnected by persons skilled in the art. Accordingly, this allows any sequence of pallets to be provided.

[0146] A further example of information display apparatus will now be described with reference to FIGS. 9A and 9B.

[0147] In this example, the apparatus includes a front member 301, having a sloped face 302 defining a recess 303, for receiving laminar media 314. The front member 301 includes a slot 304, having an aperture 305, for receiving feet 310, as shown. Each foot 310 include a tongue 311, having a projection 312, so that when the tongue 311 is inserted into the slot 304, the projection 213 cooperates with the aperture 305, to lock the foot 310 in place, as shown in FIG. 9B.

[0148] In use, the feet 310 are adapted to align the front member 301 with a pallet 315. This is achieved by inserting the feet between the pallet support surface 315A, on which goods are mounted in use, and the pallet support 305B, which rests against the ground in use. This allows a single front member to be provided along one edge of a pallet in use.

[0149] This can be used in a number of different circumstances, for example, in situations in which pallets are arranged such that side and guard members cannot be used, or if it is desired to provide side and guard members along three edges of the pallet, with the front member being mounted to the remaining edge of the pallet only. This can be used to allow the side and guard members to be provided in a fixed position to locate the pallet. The pallet can be inserted between the side members to the required position and the front member subsequently fitted to ensure the pallet is encircled, as described in the examples above.

[0150] It will therefore be appreciated from this that the front member is an example of a specific form of member that can be used interchangeably with guard and side members, or in a stand alone form.

[0151] In the above examples, the guard and side members **4, 1; 104, 101, 201** may be identical in construction and/or appearance. Additionally, and/or alternatively, the mounting holes **10; 110, 272** may be provided in any one of the guard and side members **4, 1; 104, 101, 201** members. Furthermore, each of the guard and side members **4, 1; 104, 101, 201** may be formed from one or more members which are coupled together to form guard and side members **4, 1; 104, 101, 201** similar to those shown in the above examples.

[0152] Thus, it will be appreciated that the system is capable of providing one or more of the following functions.

[0153] The system can be used to present information relating to the products via one or more of the display points discussed above, as well as presenting information relating to a retailer, such as a logo, name or the like.

[0154] The system can include self supporting elements that can be used to support advertising when interconnected or when free standing. The use of a free standing arrangement with an easily removable guard member allows pallets to be easily removed and replaced without requiring complex deconstruction of the apparatus. Furthermore, this allows the system to be used define a position in which pallets are to be located within a store or the like, thereby allowing pallets to be easily replaced, whilst maintaining a desired store arrangement. The system can be interconnected to allow a number of pallets to be positioned in sequence, thereby allowing the pallets to define supermarket aisles, or the like.

[0155] The system can be used to divide the pallet into two or more portions allowing combinations of different products to be presented on a common pallet.

[0156] The system typically utilises secondary support structures to support at least some of the advertising or other product information. This, it turn allows the secondary support structures can be easily interchanged between systems to allow changes in advertising, which may be required for example if the system is used to display ranges of different products.

[0157] Furthermore, the use of interchangeable secondary support structures allows a variety of types of advertising to be easily displayed, thereby enhancing the ability of the user to display a range of advertising appropriate to the product. Thus, a range of posters, leaflets, or the like can be provided, meaning the product supplier does not have to provide specifically configured advertising material.

[0158] The system can substantially surround the pallet in use preventing individuals from being able to contact the pallet, thereby helping ensure health and safety requirements are satisfied and improving the appearance of the pallets.

[0159] Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that numerous variations and modifications will become apparent. All such variations and modifications which become apparent to persons skilled in the art, should be considered to fall within the spirit and scope that the invention broadly appearing before described.

1. A display system for displaying information relating to products provided on a pallet, the display system including:

- a) two side members, each side member having:
 - i) two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;

- ii) a side member display point for receiving media including information relating to the products; and,
- b) two guard members, each guard member having:
 - i) two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second connectors cooperating to selectively interconnect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use; and,
 - ii) a guard member display point for receiving media including information relating to the products.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the side members include mounting holes for receiving a shaft of the secondary support structure.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the system includes at least one locking mechanism for locking a guard member to a corresponding side member.

4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the system includes at least one base member for extending beneath the pallet in use.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the members include connectors adapted to cooperate with corresponding recesses on the pallet to couple the members to the pallet, and thereby interconnect the members.

6. A system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including:

- a) two side members, each side member having two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;
- b) two guard members, each guard member having two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second connectors cooperating to selectively interconnect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use, and wherein the functions include at least one of:
 - iii) presenting information relating to the products;
 - iv) presenting information relating to a retailer;
 - v) defining a position in which the pallet is to be located;
 - vi) dividing the pallet into two or more portions, each portion being used to present different products;
 - vii) preventing individuals from being able to contact the pallet; and,
 - viii) improving the appearance of the pallet.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein the system includes at least two display points for receiving media including information relating to the products.

8. A system according to claim 7, wherein the display points include at least a side member display point coupled to at least one side member and a guard member display point coupled to at least one guard member.

9. A system according to claim 8, wherein each side member includes a body having:

- a) a central portion; and,
- b) two outer portions, each outer portion extending from the central portion to the first connectors.

10. A system according to claim 9, wherein the two outer portions include a sloped face.

11. A system according to claim 8, wherein the display points include at least one of:

- a) a mounting recess provided in a face of the side member;
- b) a shaped portion of a surface of the side member, the shaped portion being adapted to receive a container for holding media;

- c) one or more mounting holes for receiving corresponding one or more shafts coupled to a display panel; and,
- d) a mounting recess provided in a face of the guard member.

12. A system according to claim 11, wherein the display panel includes at least one of:

- a) a header panel; and,
- b) a hangsell panel.

13. A system according to claim 6, wherein each side member includes a number of grooves provided on at least one face, the grooves being adapted to mount a divider extending between the two side members.

14. A system according to claim 6, wherein the first and second connectors are formed from recesses and correspondingly shaped tongues.

15. A system according to claim 6, wherein the first connectors are adapted to allow two guard members to be coupled to each first connector such that the guard members extend away from the side member in opposing directions perpendicular to a face of the side member.

16. A system according to claim 6, wherein the multi-functional system is adapted to be used with a number of pallets n by interconnecting a number of guard members $2n$ and a number of side members $n+1$.

17. A system according to claim 6, wherein the multi-functional system is formed from roto-molded plastic

18. A system according to claim 6, wherein the side members are adapted to be coupled to a floor to thereby define the location of the pallet.

19. (canceled)

20. A system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including a number of interconnected members adapted to define a perimeter for surrounding a pallet, at least one of the members including mountings for receiving a secondary support structure, the secondary support structure being adapted to display information relating to the products.

21. A system according to claim 20, wherein the members include:

- a) two side members, each side member having two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;

- b) two guard members, each guard member having two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second connectors cooperating to connect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use.

22. (canceled)

23. A system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including:

- a) a pallet including a number of recesses; and,
- b) a number of members adapted to define at least part of a perimeter for surrounding a pallet, each member including at least one connector for coupling the member to a corresponding recess, and at least one of the members including mountings for receiving a secondary support structure, the secondary support structure being adapted to display information relating to the products.

24. (canceled)

25. A system for use with products provided on a pallet, the system including a front member having:

- a) a face having a recess for receiving information;
- b) at least two feet arranged such that when the front member is provided along a pallet edge, the feet cooperate with the pallet to locate the front member.

26. A system according to claim 25, wherein the apparatus includes:

- a) two side members, each side member having:
 - ix) two first connectors positioned at opposing ends of the side member;
 - x) a side member display point for receiving media including information relating to the products; and,
- b) two guard members, each guard member having:
 - i) two second connectors positioned at opposing ends of the guard member, the first and second connectors cooperating to selectively interconnect the guard and side members such that the guard and side members substantially encircle the pallet in use; and,
 - ii) a guard member display point for receiving media including information relating to the products and, wherein the front member is one of the side and guard members.

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