



(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2006/04/11
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2006/10/26
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2013/05/28
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2006/12/04
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: EP 2006/003325
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2006/111303
(30) Priorité/Priority: 2005/04/20 (DE20 2005 006 351.7)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *B65D 77/04* (2006.01),
G09F 7/18 (2006.01)

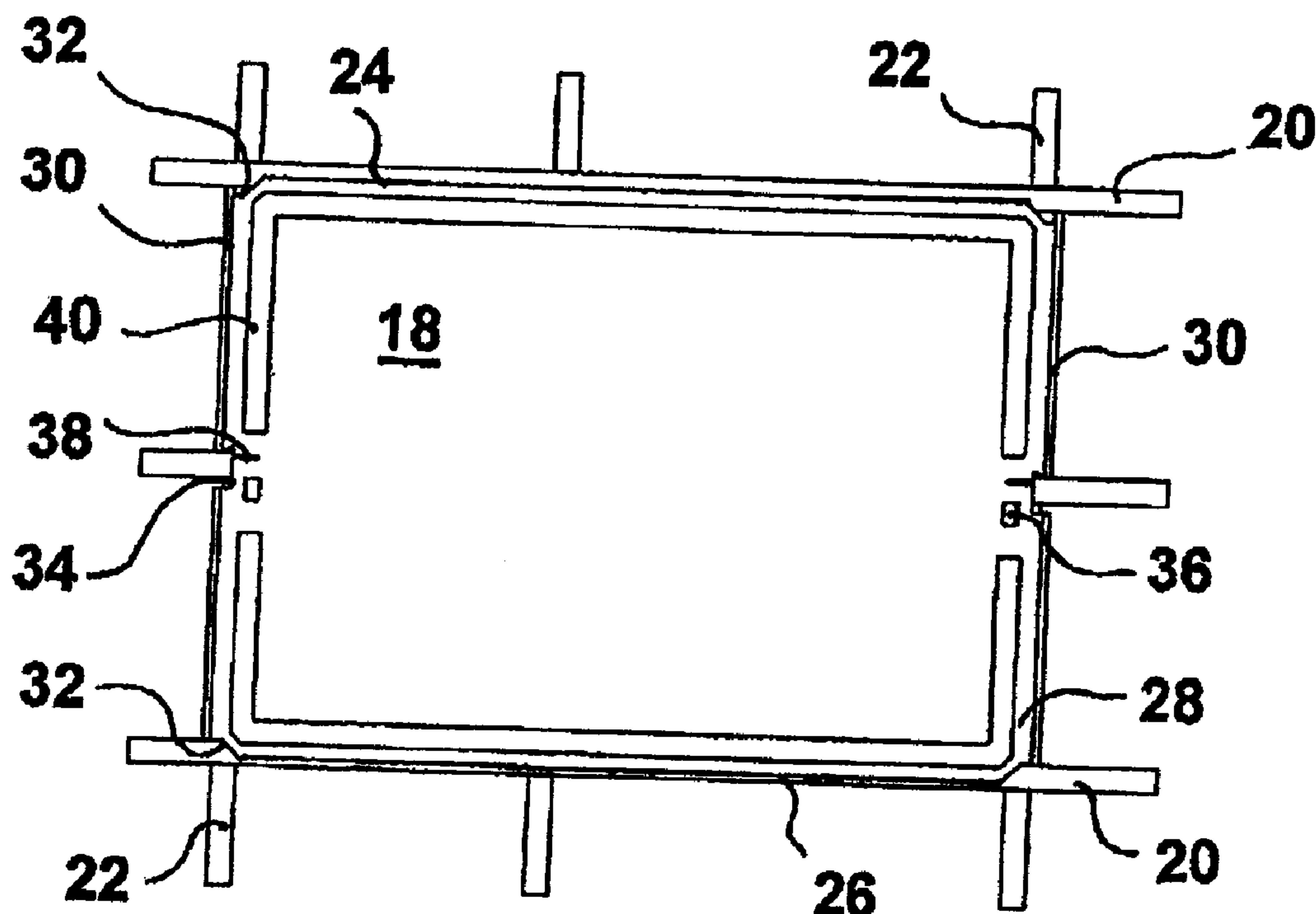
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
WEYRAUCH, DETLEV, DE;
SCHMIDT, KLAUS-PETER, DE;
PRZYTULLA, DIETMAR, DE;
WURZER, ERNST, DE

(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
MAUSER-WERKE GMBH, DE

(74) Agent: MARKS & CLERK

(54) Titre : PLAQUE D'IDENTIFICATION POUR CONTENANT A PALETTE

(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION PLATE FOR PALLET CONTAINER



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The present invention relates to a pallet container for storage and transport of liquid or free-flowing materials, including an inner thin-walled plastic container having an upper fill opening and a lower drain valve, a lattice frame disposed in close surrounding relationship to the plastic container and having horizontal and vertical lattice rods which are welded together, and a bottom plate on which the plastic container is supported and on which the lattice frame is mounted. For identifying the respective content, the lattice frame of the pallet container is provided on the front side on which the discharge fitting is located at the bottom as well as also on its backside with an identification plate (Label Plate) which is easy to mount - without additional aids like retention clamps - for stick-on of respective data sheets.



Abstract

The present invention relates to a pallet container for storage and transport of liquid or free-flowing materials, including an inner thin-walled plastic container having an upper fill opening and a lower drain valve, a lattice frame disposed in close surrounding relationship to the plastic container and having horizontal and vertical lattice rods which are welded together, and a bottom plate on which the plastic container is supported and on which the lattice frame is mounted.

For identifying the respective content, the lattice frame of the pallet container is provided on the front side on which the discharge fitting is located at the bottom as well as also on its backside with an identification plate (Label Plate) which is easy to mount – without additional aids like retention clamps –for stick-on of respective data sheets.

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Identification Plate for
Pallet Container

The invention relates to an identification plate for a pallet container for storage and transport of liquid or free-flowing materials, including an inner thin-walled plastic container having an upper fill opening and a lower drain valve, a lattice frame disposed in close surrounding relationship to the plastic container and having horizontal and vertical lattice rods which are welded together, and a bottom plate on which the plastic container is supported and on which the lattice frame is mounted. The bottom plate may be constructed as simple wooden pallet, as steel frame pallet, or as plastic pallet.

Various configurations of such pallet containers in lightweight construction with a fill volume of about 1,000 l are generally known, e.g. reference U.S. 6,244,453 (with lattice frame of quadrilateral tubes) and used for transport of liquid or free-flowing materials. The pallet containers may be used for the transport and storage of hazardous liquid materials like chemicals (e.g. solvents, acids etc.), only when passing the inspection tests by an authorized official institution and receiving a registration number. Typically, each pallet container has mounted on the lattice frame on the side of the discharge fitting an identification plate (Label Plate) on which a respective information sheet is glued or placed in an attached transparent pocket for identification of the respective content, content manufacturer, pallet manufacturer, registration number, or similar data. Some manufacturers secure the identification plates through a bolted connection onto two or three horizontal rods of the lattice frame. Such bolted connections by means of four or six bolts are time-consuming and may result in injuries as a consequence of the protruding bolt heads.

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An identification plate or lettering plate without bolted connections is disclosed in US 5,787,623. The pallet container described in this reference has lattice rods which are designed as round tubes and drawn in at the intersection points for formation of trough-shaped double-walled depressions which extend in longitudinal direction of the lattice rods so that the lattice rods which are welded together at the intersection points lie approximately in a plane (round tube lattice frame). The lettering plate mounted thereon has a lower support edge which is beveled or flanged outwardly and which abuts a lower horizontal lattice rod and engages behind the latter, whereas the upper edge is designed as a clawed edge and in the mounted state of the lettering plate fits behind an upper horizontal lattice rod thereby resiliently bracing the lettering plate. This is disadvantageous because on one hand the edges which reach behind the horizontal lattice rods can touch the thin-walled inner plastic container, in particular when a filled inner container bulges outwards between two vertical rods and is exposed to shaking during transport, and on the other hand anyone is able to overcome the resilient bracing by hand without any further aids in order to remove and manipulate (e.g. exchange) the sheet metal plate without authorization. According to a modified configuration, the sheet metal plate is provided on the upper side of the outer edges with particular insert sleeves for plastic clamp pins which fit in the mounted state of the plate with their head into the trough-shaped depressions of the upper horizontal lattice rods and thereby fix the plate. A seal of originality may be provided in the form of an additional push button with a web, which spreads like a wedge, and bolts, which are attached by film hinges and must be pressed into a particularly provided depression on the upper edge of the sheet metal plate. This construction is disadvantageous because of the need for additional plastic securing elements which may become brittle through exposure to weather influences and may easily break off when subjected to impacts.

It is an object of the present invention to provide for a pallet container of a type involved here an improved constructive design for an identification plate which can

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easily be secured to the lattice frame without additional fastening or securing means.

In the identification panel according to the invention the upper edge and lower edge are slight beveled (bent) to the rear and abut in the mounted state over the entire length - without any recess for a covered vertical rod - against the outwardly pointing surface of an upper and a lower horizontal rod, while both lateral edges are beveled (bent) to the rear to a comparably greater extent and respectively rolled up at their rear end to form a rolled edge, wherein both lateral bevels have respective recesses in the metal sheet for the upper and lower horizontal rods, and wherein the rolled edge is extended by a piece in rod-like manner upwards and downwards, projects into these recesses, and engages behind the upper and lower horizontal rod. This enables a simple and secure attachment of the identification plate to the lattice frame. It is hereby provided in accordance with a configuration of the invention that the respective distances or a firm abutment under slight prestress of the upper and the lower edge from the upper and lower horizontal rods or the right and left rolled edge from the respective right and left vertical rods are predeterminable by the degree of the bevels or the bevel angle of the upper and/or lower edge or/and both lateral borders of the identification plate, such as to ensure a rattle-free securement with immovable firm seat.

According to a further configuration of the invention, when the identification plate is of suitable size and a further horizontal rod is covered, a respective recess is provided for the covered horizontal rod approximately in midsection of each of both lateral bevels, with the rolled edge being extended downwards by a piece in rod-like manner, projecting from atop into these recesses and engaging behind the covered horizontal rod.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, there is provided an identification plate for a pallet container, comprising a plate body for placement upon a lattice frame of a pallet container, said plate body having an upper edge,

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which is bent rearwards at a first angle for attachment to an upper horizontal rod of the lattice frame, a lower edge, which is bent rearwards at the first angle for attachment to a lower horizontal rod of the lattice frame, and opposite lateral edges extending between the upper and lower edges and bent rearwards at a second angle which is greater than the first angle, wherein each of the lateral edges ends at its rear in a rolled edge and is formed with terminal recesses for receiving the upper and lower horizontal rods, and said rolled edge is sized to project with its ends in a rod-like manner into the recesses to engage behind the upper and lower horizontal rods.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided in combination:

a pallet container for storage and transport of liquid or free-flowing materials, said pallet container including an inner thin-walled plastic container having an upper fill opening and a lower drain valve, a lattice frame disposed in close surrounding relationship to the plastic container and having horizontal lattice rods and vertical lattice rods which are welded together, and a bottom plate for support of the plastic container and attachment of the lattice frame; and

an identification plate including a plate body for placement upon the lattice frame of the pallet container, said plate body having an upper edge, which is bent rearwards at a first angle for attachment to a first one of the horizontal lattice rods of the lattice frame, a lower edge, which is bent rearwards at the first angle for attachment to a second one of the horizontal lattice rods of the lattice frame, and opposite lateral edges extending between the upper and lower edges and bent rearwards at a second angle which is greater than the first angle, wherein each of the lateral edges ends at its rear in a rolled edge and is formed with terminal recesses for receiving the first and second horizontal lattice rods, and said rolled edge is sized to project with its ends in a rod-like manner into the recesses to engage behind the first and second horizontal lattice rods.

According to a further embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a method of attaching an identification plate to a lattice frame of a pallet container, comprising the steps of:

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providing an identification plate with upper and lower edges bent rearwards at a first angle, and opposite lateral edges extending between the upper and lower edges and bent rearwards at a second angle which is greater than the first angle, wherein each of the lateral edges ends at its rear in a rolled edge sized to jut out;

angling the identification plate in relation to a first horizontal rod of the lattice frame to thereby position the upper edge of the identification plate against the first horizontal rod and engage the rolled edge behind the first horizontal rod;

pivoting the identification plate in a direction toward the lattice frame until the rolled edge reaches behind a second horizontal rod of the lattice frame below the first horizontal rod;

pivoting the identification plate further in a direction toward the lattice frame until the lower edge of the identification plate engages a third horizontal rod of the lattice frame below the second horizontal rod and the rolled edge reaches behind the third horizontal rod; and

pushing the identification plate downwards to engage the rolled edge behind the second horizontal rod and to engage the rolled edge behind the third horizontal rod.

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According to a preferred configuration of the invention, a U-shaped section is punched out on each side of the outer front face of the identification plate approximately in midsection directly below the covered horizontal rod and provided at the top with an appended tab (tongue) which in mounted state is bent to the rear and from below against the covered horizontal rod to form a seal of originality.

The invention will now be explained and described in more detail by way of an exemplary embodiment which is shown schematically in the drawings. It is shown in:

Figure 1 a frontal view of a pallet container with identification plate according to the invention,

Figure 2 a frontal view of an attached identification plate according to the invention,

Figure 3 a plan view of the attached identification plate according to the invention,

Figure 4 mounting step 1 of the identification plate according to the invention,

Figure 5 mounting step 2 of the identification plate according to the invention,

Figure 6 mounting step 3 of the identification plate according to the invention, and

Figure 7 clamping of the identification plate according to the invention.

Figure 1 shows a frontal view of a pallet container 10 for storage and transport of liquid or free-flowing materials, including an inner thin-walled plastic container 12

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having an upper fill opening and a lower drain valve, a lattice frame 14 disposed in close surrounding relationship to the plastic container 12 and having horizontal lattice rods 20 and vertical lattice rods 22 which are welded together, and a bottom plate 16 on which the plastic container 12 is supported and on which the lattice frame 14 is mounted. The horizontal and vertical lattice rods 20, 22 have an advantageous square profile (compare Fig. 7), as described in the reference US 6,244,453 B1. In this tube profile, the outwardly and inwardly directed side surfaces of the jointly welded horizontal and vertical lattice rods have on both edges a raised rim and a lower center area such that a defined four-point support is formed at the intersections points of the tubular rods for ensuring optimum welding (projection welding) of the lattice tubes. The tubular rods do not extend in a plane but in two tube planes on top of one another so that the resultant lattice frame - compared to a conventional lattice frame with dented round tubes extending approximately in a same plane - have enhanced buckling strength.

Secured above the discharge fitting to the outside of the lattice frame 14 by way of a snap-locking connection (snap fit) is an identification plate 18 according to the invention. As shown by the exemplary embodiment of Figure 2, the identification plate 18 has a rectangular broadside of a width of about 550 mm and a height of about 385 mm, and is made from a very thin galvanized steel sheet of a thickness of only 0.6 mm. The upper edge 24 and lower edge 26 of the identification plate 18 rest externally upon an upper and a lower horizontal lattice rod 20. Since the edgings of the upper and lower edge 24, 26 are slightly beveled to the rear by about 30° over a width of 8 mm and terminate in the lower center area of the square horizontal rod 20, there is no possibility to grab the edge 24, 26 with the fingers (no risk of injury).

The lateral edges of the identification plate 18 are beveled to the rear by about 75° as bevels 28 in the form of broad strips of about 25 mm, i.e. bent to a comparably greater degree, and are rolled up on their rearward end to the outside to form a rolled

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edge 30. Both rolled edges 30 have hereby only a small diameter of merely about 5 mm.

Figure 3 clearly shows by way of a plan view the securement of the identification plate 18 to the horizontal rods 20 and depicts the positioning of each rolled edge 30 behind a horizontal rod 20 and at the same time abutting from outside upon a vertical rod 22. Figures 4, 5, and 6 show the various mounting steps of the identification plate 18 according to the invention onto the lattice frame 14. In Figure 4, the upper edge 24 of the identification plate 18 is placed from outside against an upper horizontal rod 20 so that the rolled edge 30 projecting into the upper recess 32 engages from bottom to top behind the upper horizontal rod 20. Then - as shown in Figure 5 - the lower part of the identification plate 18 is swung inwards so that the rolled edge 30 projecting from top to bottom into the central recess 34 reaches behind the center horizontal rod 20. Finally, the identification plate 18 is fully swung inwards in Figure 6 until the lower edge 26 strikes against the outwardly directed surface of the lower horizontal rod 20 so that the rolled edge 30 projecting from top to bottom into the lower recess 32 reaches behind the lower horizontal rod 20. The sheet metal plate 18 is finally secured by shifting the latter by about 6 mm downwards so that the rolled edge 30 in the central recess 34 engages from top to bottom behind the center horizontal rod 20, and the rolled edge 30 in the lower recess 32 engages from top to bottom behind the lower horizontal rod 20, wherein the upwardly pointing rolled edge 30 in the upper recess 32 is designed long enough to still engage the upper horizontal rod 20 by about 5 mm from bottom to top.

Figure 7 shows the identification plate 18 in its final position. As clearly shown in the detailed view A, the two dimples 38 arranged respectively on the outside in the middle of the identification plate 18 reach behind the upper raised edge of the center horizontal rod 20 so that the plate is firmly seated immovably. Finally, both tabs 36 are bent from below against the center horizontal rod 20 to form a seal of originality,

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and the sheet metal plate can be detached from the lattice frame only by means of a respective tool. According to a slightly different variation that is provided for exposure to great stress, the U-shaped sections are rotated by 90° so that the tabs 36 are articulated on the side. The immovable securement of the identification plate 18 is realized by bending these vertically aligned tabs to the rear flatly against a vertical rod 22 and vertically directly below a horizontal rod 20. This seal of originality can be bent back only when the pallet container is reconditioned, i.e. when the inner plastic container is removed, in the event the identification plate should be detached and exchanged. At slightest tolerance values (no rattling), the vertical tab 36 has a greater section modulus in axial direction in relation to the horizontal rod lying above, and an inadvertent bending back is impossible.

The front surface of the identification plate 18 is provided with a wraparound bead-like structure which is breached only in midsection across the covered horizontal rod 20. This wraparound structure also protects the stick-on data sheets against wear, when identical pallet containers are stacked in close side-by-side relationship for transport and exposed to shaking during transport. The identification plate is thus secured substantially to only the three covered horizontal rods (abutting from outside thereagainst, with the extended rods of the rolled edge engaging behind), wherein the vertical rods are still further arranged between the horizontal rods and the thin-walled inner plastic container so that parts of the identification plate are absolutely prevented from touching the inner container.

Each pallet container is typically equipped with two such identification plates; such a sheet metal plate is disposed on the lattice frame on the front side of the pallet container above the discharge fitting, and the second sheet metal plate is secured in corresponding fashion on the lattice frame on the backside of the lattice frame.

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Identification plates may be dented or damaged during handling, transport or transfer of filled pallet containers. When repeatedly using such pallet containers, reconditioning is required. Damaged identification plate can be easily replaced hereby by a new identification plate so long the inner container is removed from the lattice frame and the sheet metal tongues (tabs) bent inwards as seal of originality have again been straightened out from the inside of the lattice frame.

List of Reference Numerals

- 10 pallet container
- 12 plastic container
- 14 lattice frame
- 16 bottom pallet
- 18 identification plate
- 20 horizontal lattice rod
- 22. vertical lattice rod
- 24 upper edge (18)
- 26. lower edge (18)
- 28 bevel (18)
- 30 rolled edge (28)
- 32. recess (28)
- 34 recess for (20)
- 36 tab (18)
- 38 dimple (18)
- 40 structure (18)

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The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An identification plate for a pallet container, comprising a plate body for placement upon a lattice frame of a pallet container, said plate body having an upper edge, which is bent rearwards at a first angle for attachment to an upper horizontal rod of the lattice frame, a lower edge, which is bent rearwards at the first angle for attachment to a lower horizontal rod of the lattice frame, and opposite lateral edges extending between the upper and lower edges and bent rearwards at a second angle which is greater than the first angle, wherein each of the lateral edges ends at its rear in a rolled edge and is formed with terminal recesses for receiving the upper and lower horizontal rods, and said rolled edge is sized to project with its ends in a rod-like manner into the recesses to engage behind the upper and lower horizontal rods.
2. The identification plate according to claim 1, wherein the first and second angles are selected to adjust a distance of the upper and lower edges from the upper and lower horizontal rods and a distance of the lateral edges from respective vertical rods of the lattice frame so as to ensure a rattle-free securement to the lattice frame.
3. The identification plate according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the lateral edges of the plate body has a further recess approximately in midsection for attachment to a further horizontal rod between the upper and lower horizontal rods, and the rolled edge of the lateral edge is sized to respectively project into the further recess and engaging behind the further horizontal rod.
4. The identification plate according to claim 3, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with at least one U-shaped punched-out section disposed at a location directly below the further horizontal rod and provided with a tab appended on one side of the U-shaped section and bent rearwards to extend horizontally flatly from below against the further horizontal rod to form a seal of originality.

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5. The identification plate according to claim 3, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with at least one U-shaped punched-out section disposed at a location directly below the further horizontal rod and provided with a tab appended on one side of the U-shaped section and bent rearwards to extend vertically from below against an end face of the further horizontal rod to form a seal of originality.

6. The identification plate according to claim 3, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with a lateral rib-shaped dimple disposed at a location immediately above the further horizontal rod for abutment against an outwardly pointing surface of the further horizontal rod.

7. The identification plate according to claim 3, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with a wraparound bead-shaped structure at an outer area of the front face, and said structure is breached in midsection in an area of the further horizontal rod.

8. In combination:

a pallet container for storage and transport of liquid or free-flowing materials, said pallet container including an inner thin-walled plastic container having an upper fill opening and a lower drain valve, a lattice frame disposed in close surrounding relationship to the plastic container and having horizontal lattice rods and vertical lattice rods which are welded together, and a bottom plate for support of the plastic container and attachment of the lattice frame; and

an identification plate including a plate body for placement upon the lattice frame of the pallet container, said plate body having an upper edge, which is bent rearwards at a first angle for attachment to a first one of the horizontal lattice rods of the lattice frame, a lower edge, which is bent rearwards at the first angle for attachment to a second one of the horizontal lattice rods of the lattice frame, and opposite lateral edges extending between the upper and lower edges and bent rearwards at a second angle which is greater than the first angle, wherein each of the lateral edges ends at its rear in a rolled edge and is formed

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with terminal recesses for receiving the first and second horizontal lattice rods, and said rolled edge is sized to project with its ends in a rod-like manner into the recesses to engage behind the first and second horizontal lattice rods.

9. The combination according to claim 8, wherein the first and second angles are selected to adjust a distance of the upper and lower edges from the first and second horizontal lattice rods and a distance of the lateral edges from respective vertical lattice rods of the lattice frame so as to ensure a rattle-free securement to the lattice frame.

10. The combination according to claim 8 or 9, wherein each of the lateral edges of the plate body comprises a further recess approximately in midsection for attachment to a third one of the horizontal lattice rods between the first and second horizontal lattice rods, and the rolled edge of the lateral edge is sized to respectively project into the further recess and engaging behind the third horizontal rod.

11. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with at least one U-shaped punched-out section disposed at a location directly below the third horizontal lattice rod and provided with a tab appended on one side of the U-shaped section and bent rearwards to extend horizontally flatly from below against the third horizontal lattice rod to form a seal of originality.

12. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with at least one U-shaped punched-out section disposed at a location directly below the third horizontal lattice rod and provided with a tab appended on one side of the U-shaped section and bent rearwards to extend vertically from below against an end face of the third horizontal lattice rod to form a seal of originality.

13. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with a lateral rib-shaped dimple disposed at a

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location immediately above the third horizontal lattice rod for abutment against an outwardly pointing surface of the third horizontal lattice rod.

14. The combination according to claim 10, wherein the plate body comprises a front face which is formed with a wraparound bead-shaped structure at an outer area of the front face, and said structure is breached in midsection in an area of the third horizontal lattice rod.

15. A method of attaching an identification plate to a lattice frame of a pallet container, comprising the steps of:

providing an identification plate with upper and lower edges bent rearwards at a first angle, and opposite lateral edges extending between the upper and lower edges and bent rearwards at a second angle which is greater than the first angle, wherein each of the lateral edges ends at its rear in a rolled edge sized to jut out;

angling the identification plate in relation to a first horizontal rod of the lattice frame to thereby position the upper edge of the identification plate against the first horizontal rod and engage the rolled edge behind the first horizontal rod;

pivoting the identification plate in a direction toward the lattice frame until the rolled edge reaches behind a second horizontal rod of the lattice frame below the first horizontal rod;

pivoting the identification plate further in a direction toward the lattice frame until the lower edge of the identification plate engages a third horizontal rod of the lattice frame below the second horizontal rod and the rolled edge reaches behind the third horizontal rod; and

pushing the identification plate downwards to engage the rolled edge behind the second horizontal rod and to engage the rolled edge behind the third horizontal rod.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the pushing step includes the step of locking dimples formed in midsection of the identification plate behind an elevated edge of the second horizontal rod.

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17. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of bending tabs of the identification plate backwards to rest flatly against the second horizontal rod to establish a seal of authenticity.

18. The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of bending tabs of the identification plate backwards to rest flatly against a vertical rod of the lattice frame and vertically against an end face of the second horizontal rod to establish a seal of authenticity.

Application number / numéro de demande: EP0603325

Figures: 1

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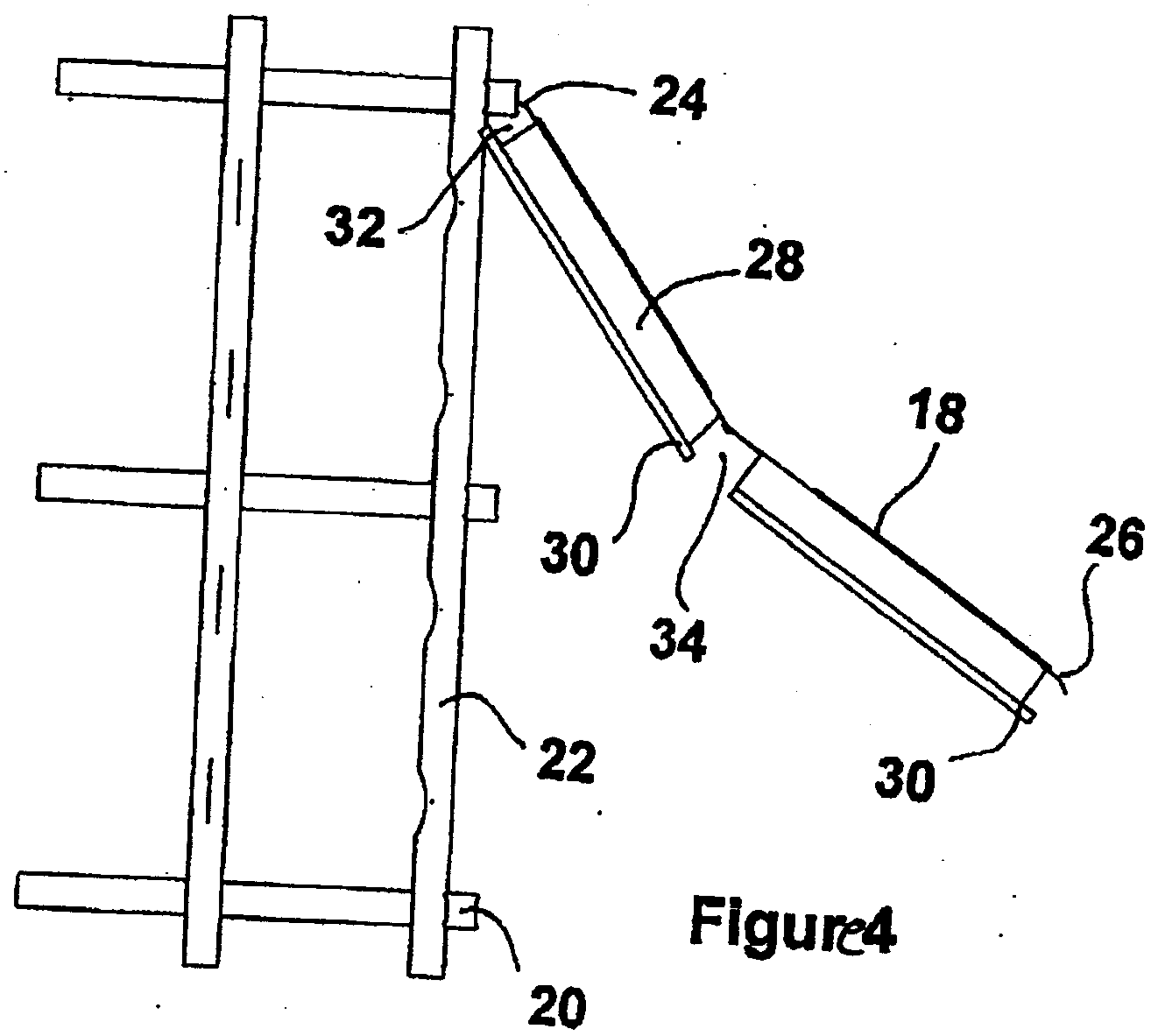
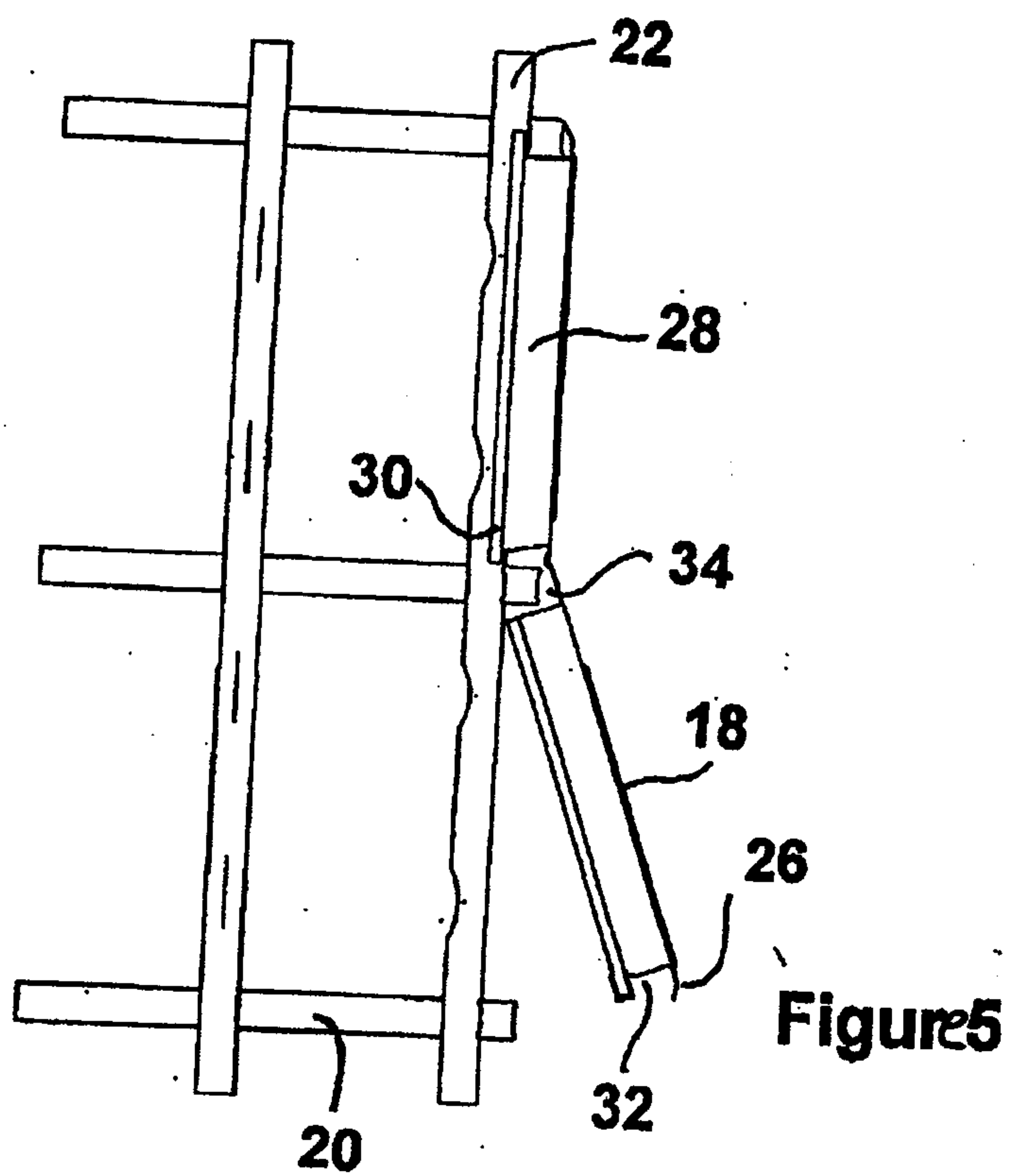
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