Aug. 14, 1962 W. H. NELSON 3,049,245

MAT FOR SEPARATING STACKED ROLLS

Filed May 18, 1960

FIG. 1.

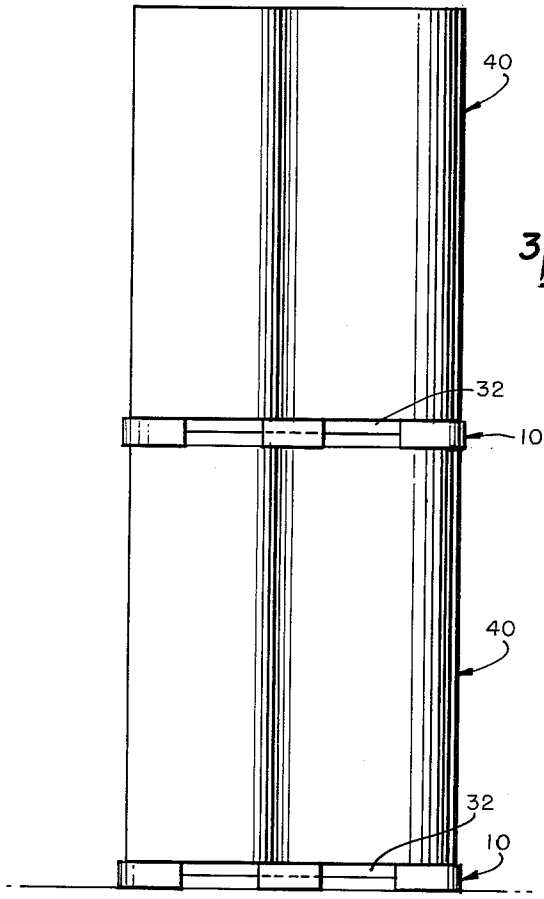


FIG. 2.

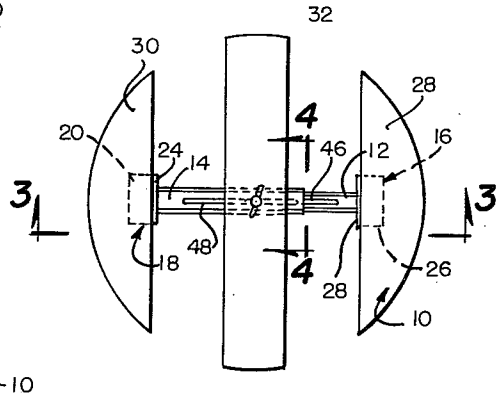


FIG. 4.

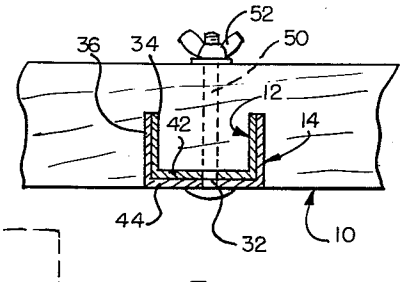
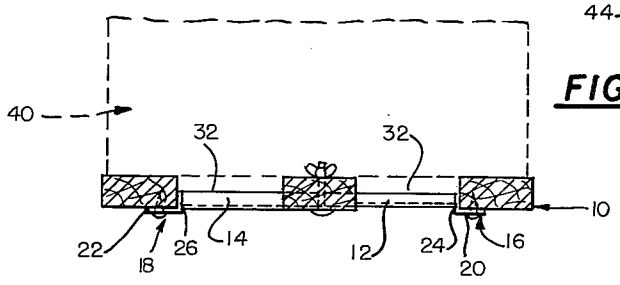


FIG. 3.



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MAT FOR SEPARATING STACKED ROLLS

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The present invention relates to a mat for separating and supporting stacked rolls of newsprint paper.

In the newsprint industry, the rolls of newsprint are preferably stored on end and in stacks of two or more high. The rolls are handled by a fork-lift truck of conventional design. Customarily it has been the practice to place a roll on several pieces of wood arranged more or less parallel to each other and spaced apart so that the fork of the truck may be inserted between the wood pieces to engage the bottom end of the upended roll. Frequently, damage to the roll end results when the fork is inserted, and often the workmen handling the wood pieces have suffered injuries while trying to insert the pieces below a roll.

An object of the present invention is to provide a mat for supporting and separating stacked rolls of newsprint or other heavy cylindrical objects.

Another object is to provide a mat which is sturdy in construction and economical to manufacture.

A further object is to provide a mat for use in storage and handling of paper rolls which is adaptable for rolls of varying sizes, and one which is collapsible to a compact size for storage when not in use.

These objects and advantages of the invention will be fully understood from the following description when considered with the attached drawings, in which:

FIGURE 1 is an elevational view of two rolls of paper, stored in superimposed relation and using mats constructed according to the present invention,

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of the mat of the present invention,

FIGURE 3 is a view taken on line 3—3 of FIGURE 2, and

FIGURE 4 is a view on an enlarged scale taken on line 4—4 of FIGURE 2.

Referring to the drawing, in which like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, the reference numeral **10** designates the mat of the present invention, generally. The mat **10** comprises a pair of horizontally disposed channel members **12** and **14**, each having a web and opposed flanges, arranged with the flanges projecting above the webs and so that the members are longitudinal of each other, with the member **12** within and telescopingly disposed with respect to the member **14**.

Transversely arranged and fixedly secured to one end of the member **14** is an L-shaped support element **16**. Another L-shaped support element **18** is disposed transversely of and is fixedly secured to one end of the member **12**. The elements **16** and **18** are arranged so that their long legs, **20** and **22** respectively, are horizontal and their short legs, **24** and **26** respectively, are vertical and abut the aforesaid ends of the members **12** and **14**.

The long legs of the elements **18** and **20** project outwardly and are coplanar with respect to the webs of the respective members **12** and **14**.

Each element **18** and **20** supports on its long leg a wood piece **28** having one straight side edge and a curved side edge merging at its ends with the straight side edge.

Another wood piece **30** is disposed transversely of the members **12** and **14** intermediate their ends and is provided on its underface with slots, as at **32** in FIGURE 4, receiving the flanges **34** and **36** of the members **12** and **14**.

The length of the short leg of each support element **16** and **18** is less than the thickness of the pieces **28** and **30** so that a slot, as at **38** in FIGURE 1, is formed between the members **12** and **14** and the bottom end of a roll of paper, designated generally by the numeral **40** in FIGURE 1.

The webs **42**, **44** of the members **12** and **14** are provided with slots **46**, **48**, having closed ends and in registry with each other. The shank of a bolt **50** extends through the slots **46** and **48** and through a hole in the wood piece **30**.

A wing nut **52** is threadably engaged on the bolt **50** for securing the webs **42**, **44** together in any position of adjusted movement relative to each other.

In use, the wing nut **52** is loosened and the wood pieces **28** are pulled out from each other or pushed toward each other so that they approximate the diameter of a roll of paper to be supported. The wing nut **52** is then tightened and the assembled mat **10** is handled as a unit to be placed on the floor or on the upper end of a roll of paper, for support of a roll deposited on the mat **10** by the fork lift of a truck, the forks slipping freely into the space above the members **12** and **14** on each side of the wood piece **30**, and engaging the bottom of the roll of paper.

While only a single embodiment of the present invention has been illustrated and described, other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the annexed claim without departing from the spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

A support mat for an upended roll of paper comprising at least three horizontally disposed wood pieces arranged in lateral spaced relation, a pair of channel members arranged in longitudinal, nested, telescopic relation and positioned below said pieces, means embodying a transversely arranged angle iron on one end of each of said members securing said member to the adjacent one of the outer two of said pieces, and means embodying a bolt and a wing nut on said bolt extending through the middle one of said pieces and said members releasably securing said members to said middle piece, the spaces above said channel members on each side of the middle piece forming a slot for a lift fork.

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