CLAIMS

1. A shuttle table assembly comprising

a shuttle table for receiving a plurality of IC units at a first position and for offloading said units at a second position, said shuttle table movable from said first to second position;

a cover assembly mounted to said shuttle table, the cover assembly having at least one cover movable from an open position to a closed position, said closed position covering said units on the shuttle table;

~~wherein the~~said cover assembly is coupled to a guide for closing the cover as the shuttle table moves from the first to the second position, wherein the guide is a cam and the cover assembly is coupled to the cam through at least one follower in contact with said cam;

said cover assembly includes a pair of covers, each for covering half of the shuttle table and a corresponding follower for each cover in contact with said cam;

said cover assembly further includes a pair of linkage assemblies, each intermediate the cover and follower, said linkage assembly includes a spring for biasing the cover to the closed position.

2. The shuttle table assembly according to claim 1 wherein the shuttle table is rotatable from the first to the second position.

3. The shuttle table assembly according to claim 1 or 2 wherein movement between the first and second positions is a 90° rotation of the shuttle table.

~~4. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the guide is a cam and the cover assembly is coupled to the cam through at least one follower in contact with said cam.~~

~~5. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the cover assembly includes a pair of covers, each for covering half of the shuttle table and a corresponding follower for each cover in contact with said cam.~~

~~6. The shuttle table assembly according to claim 5, wherein the cover assembly includes a pair of linkage assemblies, each intermediate the cover and follower.~~

~~7. The shuttle table assembly according to claim 6, wherein each linkage assembly includes a spring for biasing the cover to the closed position.~~

~~8.~~4. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to ~~3~~7, wherein each cover includes a recess on a side contiguous with the shuttle table and the shuttle table includes a corresponding projection such that in the closed position the projection is arranged to engage the recess so as to permit the cover to lie flat on said shuttle table, and in moving from the

open position said projection is arranged to disengage from the recess and bias the cover upwards.

~~9.~~5. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1~~5~~ to 4~~8~~, wherein each of said covers includes a lip projecting so as to be directed towards an IC unit receiving surface of said shuttle table when in the closed position.

~~10.~~6. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 5~~9~~, further including a pusher for applying an axial load to IC units on the shuttle table so as to offload said units from the shuttle table.

~~11. A method for delivering IC units, the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~placing a plurality of IC units on a shuttle table at a first position;~~

~~moving said shuttle table to a second position;~~

~~during the moving step, closing a cover over the shuttle table, and then;~~

~~offloading said units at a second position.~~

CLAIMS

1. A shuttle table assembly comprising

a shuttle table for receiving a plurality of IC units at a first position and for offloading said units at a second position, said shuttle table movable from said first to second position; a cover assembly mounted to said shuttle table, the cover assembly having at least one cover movable from an open position to a closed position, said closed position covering said units on the shuttle table;

said cover assembly is coupled to a guide for closing the cover as the shuttle table moves from the first to the second position. wherein the guide is a cam and the cover assembly is coupled to the cam through at least one follower in contact with said cam:

said cover assembly includes a pair of covers, each for covering half of the shuttle table and a corresponding follower for each cover in contact with said cam:

said cover assembly further includes a pair of linkage assemblies, each intermediate the cover and follower, said linkage assembly includes a spring for biasing the cover to the closed position.

2. The shuttle table assembly according to claim 1 wherein the shuttle table is rotatable from the first to the second position.

3. The shuttle table assembly according to claim 1 or 2 wherein movement between the first and second positions is a 90° rotation of the shuttle table.

4. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein each cover includes a recess on a side contiguous with the shuttle table and the shuttle table includes a corresponding projection such that in the closed position the projection is arranged to engage the recess so as to permit the cover to lie flat on said shuttle table, and in moving from the open position said projection is arranged to disengage from the recess and bias the cover upwards.

5. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein each of said covers includes a lip projecting so as to be directed towards an IC unit receiving surface of said shuttle table when in the closed position.

6. The shuttle table assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 5, further including a pusher for applying an axial load to IC units on the shuttle table so as to offload said units from the shuttle table.