# Patent claims

1. Connecting device (1) for connecting first and second elongated members (2, 4), the connecting device (1) comprising:
   - a first connecting member (3) adapted to be connected to the first elongated member (2) at a reduced diameter portion (21) at an end thereof;
   - a second connecting member (7) adapted to be connected to the second elongated member (4) at a reduced diameter portion (41) at an end thereof; and
   - a link member (5) for connecting the first and second connecting members (3, 7) together, wherein the connecting members (3, 7) are hollow so as to be able to receive the reduced diameter portion (21, 41) of the elongated members (2, 4) therein, whereby the connecting device (1) is formed with a maximum diameter (D) substantially equal to the diameter of the first and second elongated members (2, 4),
   characterized in that
   - the connecting members (3, 7) are formed with a ~~slightly~~ curved outer surface (11, 13) in a longitudinal direction thereof, so as to aid in supporting an overlying layer elongated member (4) and to improve the fit to a drum (6).

2. Connecting device (1) according to claim 1, wherein a first part (11) of an outer surface of the connecting device (1), when the connecting device (1) is being bent, forms a substantially circular arc (A).

3. Connecting device (1) according to claim 2, wherein a second part (13) of the outer surface of the connecting

device (1), when the connecting device (1) is being bent, forms a substantially circular arc (A').

4. Connecting device (1) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the link member (5) connects the first and second connecting members (3, 7) by means of first and second bolts (9) through-going in the connecting members (3, 7) and in ~~the~~ first and second holes (51) in the link member (5).

5. Connecting device (1) according to claim 4, wherein the first and second holes (51) of the link member are provided with a first part (511) formed with a first diameter, and a second part (513) formed with a second diameter.

6. Connecting device (1) according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the link member (5) is formed with expanded width portions (53) parallel to the center axes of the holes (51).

7. Connecting device (1) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the connecting device (1) is adapted to constitute a weak link when connecting the first and second elongated members (2, 4).

8. Lifting crane comprising an elongated member extended by means of a connecting device (1) according to any of the preceding claims.

9. Method for connecting first and second elongated (2, 4) members by means of a connecting device (1) according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:
- reducing the diameter of an end part (21) of the first elongated member (2),