CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for storing a plurality of objects such as trays, comprising:

at least one post; and

a platform defining a surface for supporting at least one object, the platform being coupled to the at least one post and moveable therealong between a first position and a second position below the first position when a first object is supported on the surface of the platform.

2. Apparatus according to claim1, in which the platform is disposed to one lateral side of the at least one post.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which displacement of the platform along the at least one post member between the first and second positions is dependent upon the mass of the first object being supported on the surface of the platform.

4. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3, in which the platform is moveable along the at least one post from the second position to the first position in response to the mass of the first object being removed from the surface of the platform.

5. Apparatus according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, in which movement of the platform along the at least one post between the first and second positions is controlled by a resilient member.

6. Apparatus according to claim 5, in which the resilient member is housed inside the at least one post.

7. Apparatus according to claim 5 or claim 6, in which the resilient member is configured to stretch as the platform moves from the first position to the second position.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, in which a first end of the resilient member is attached to a part fixed relative to the platform and a second end is attached to a part fixed

relative to the at least one post, with the resilient member being configured such that the first end moves towards the second end as the platform moves from the first position to the second position.

9. Apparatus according to claim 7 or claim 8, in which the resilient member extends over a pulley.

10. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the platform is coupled to the at least one post such that it is moveable into an inoperative position when no object is supported on the surface of the platform.

11. Apparatus according to claim 10, in which the platform is coupled to the at least one post via a hinge, enabling the surface of the platform to rotate (e.g. through an angle of 90°) from the first (i.e. operative) position into the inoperative position.

12. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a body comprising a plurality of side members, with one side member including the at least one post, the plurality of side members being hinged together and moveable from an active configuration where the plurality of side members partially surround the platform, to an inactive configuration where at least one side member pivots relative to an adjacent side member.

13. Apparatus according to claim 12, in which the body furthers comprises a base member rigidly coupled to one of the side members.

14. Apparatus according to claim 12, in which the body furthers comprises a base member pivotally coupled to one of the side members, and moveable from a substantially horizontal position to a substantially vertical position.

15. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the at least one post is part of a framework comprising at least one additional post, with the platform being moveably coupled to the or each additional post.

16. Apparatus according to claim 15, in which the platform is disposed between posts of the framework.

17. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a base with ground-engaging wheels, with the at least one post being mounted on the base.

18. Apparatus according to claim 17, in which the base has a profile to facilitate engagement with forks of a fork-lift vehicle.

19. Apparatus according to claim 17 or claim 18, further comprising a brake for preventing movement of the base over ground when engaged.

20. Apparatus according to any one of claims 17 to 19, further comprising a retractable cover which conceals the platform when deployed.

21. Apparatus according to claim 20 in which the retractable cover engages and slides along a groove in the at least one post.

22. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising one part of a releasable two-part coupling mechanism for engaging a corresponding part mounted on another apparatus.

23. Apparatus according to claim 22, in which the releasable two-part coupling mechanism comprises a male part, such as a pivoting latch, and a corresponding female part, such as a keeper.

24. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising an expandable container such as a bag for retaining objects on the platform, the expandable container being configured to expand as the platform moves from the first position to the second position.

25. Apparatus according to claim 24, in which an upper part of the expandable container is secured to the at least one post, allowing a lower part to move in sympathy with the platform.

26. Apparatus according to claim 24 or claim 25, in which the platform comprises a chamber for storing the expandable container when not in use and in a collapsed configuration.

27. Apparatus according to claim 26, in which the surface of the platform has at least one door to allow access to the expandable container when stored in the chamber.

28. A kit of parts for retro-fitting to an assembly, comprising apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 16 and 24 to 2.

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for storing a plurality of objects, comprising:

at least one post; and

a platform defining a surface for supporting at least one object, the platform being coupled to the at least one post and moveable therealong between a first position and a second position below the first position when a first object is supported on the surface of the platform;

characterised by an expandable container for retaining objects on the platform, the expandable container being configured to expand as the platform moves from the first position to the second position, with the platform comprising a chamber for storing the expandable container when not in use and in a collapsed configuration.

2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the platform is disposed to one lateral side of the at least one post.

3. Apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2, in which displacement of the platform along the at least one post between the first and second positions is dependent upon the mass of the first object being supported on the surface of the platform.

4. Apparatus according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the platform is moveable along the at least one post from the second position to the first position in response to the mass of the first object being removed from the surface of the platform.

5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, in which movement of the platform along the at least one post between the first and second positions is controlled by a resilient member.

6. Apparatus according to Claim 5, in which the resilient member is configured to stretch as the platform moves from the first position to the second position.

7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, in which the platform is coupled to the at least one post such that it is moveable into an inoperative position when no object is supported on the surface of the platform.

8. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising a body, comprising a plurality of side members, with one side member including the at least one post, the plurality of

side members being hinged together and moveable from an active configuration where the plurality of side members partially surround the platform, to an inactive configuration where at least one side member pivots relative to an adjacent side member.

9. Apparatus according to Claim 8, in which the body further comprises a base member rigidly coupled to one of the side members.

10. Apparatus according to Claim 8, in which the body further comprises a base member pivotally coupled to one of the side members, and moveable from a substantially horizontal position to a substantially vertical position.

11. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, in which the at least one post is part of a framework comprising at least one additional post, with the platform being moveably coupled to the or each additional post.

12. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising a base, with ground-engaging wheels, with the at least one post being mounted on the base.

13. Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which an upper part of the expandable container is secured to the at least one post, allowing a lower part to move in sympathy with the platform.

14. Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the surface of the platform has at least one door to allow access to the expandable container when stored in the chamber.

15. A kit of parts for retro-fitting to a trolley, comprising apparatus according to any of Claims 1 to 11 and 13 to 14.