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ABSTRACT

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONVEYING TRAYS

In a tray conveying apparatus, a supply path (3) and a discharge path (8) are situated on the upper and lower sides, respectively, of the apparatus. The stocking, waiting, switching and collecting stations (4), (1), (5), (6) are arranged one under the other in order on the base-end side of the supply path (3). The waiting station (1) is situated on the supply path (3), while the switching station (5) is situated on the discharge path (8). The working station (2) is situated on the front-end side of the supply path (3), and the shunting station (7) is situated under the working station (2) on the discharge path (8). Each of the stocking, waiting, switching, working and shunting stations (4), (1), (5), (2), (7) is so constructed as to support and release the tray. The collecting station (6) is vertically movable by the separating lifter (19), and the receiving plate (17) under the shunting station (7) is vertically movable by the transferring lifter (18).

(FIG. 1)

