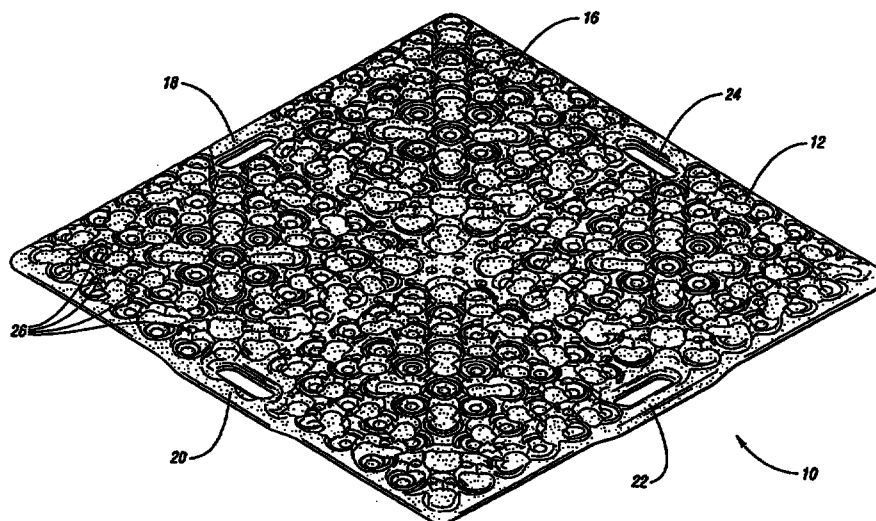




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(54) Title: PALLET STACKING DEVICE**(57) Abstract**

The present invention provides an interface between stacked arrays of containers (B) having container tops. The interface includes a pallet (36) loaded with a stacked array of containers (B) and a layer of exposed container tops adjacent the pallet (B). A plastic coupling member (10) is positioned between the layer of exposed container tops and the pallet (36). The plastic coupling member (10) includes a contoured surface configured with an array (16) of indentations formed therein and properly spaced to mate with each of the layer of exposed container tops. The array (16) of indentations is sufficiently deep to prevent relative lateral displacement of the coupling member (10) with respect to the layer of exposed container tops. A method of vertically stacking crates (38, 40, 42, 44, 46) using such an interface is also provided.