

**ABSTRACT**

A rotary lock for releasably connecting corner fittings of containers stacked one upon the other

A rotary lock comprising a locking pin axially rotatable in a housing and comprising a shank, at each end of which a transverse latch is secured, and which is subject to the action of a hand lever, the rotary lock being adapted to be brought basically into three positions relatively to the corner fittings of a container for the purpose of releasably connecting two containers one upon the other, said three positions being the locking position of one transverse latch, of the other transverse latch, or of both transverse latches, characterised in that only one spring means (33) is required which is connected on the one hand to the hand lever (30) and on the other hand to the locking pin (10), and the housing (20, 20') comprises a locking means (24, 24', 25, 25', 26, 26') to lock the hand lever and hence the locking pin (10) in positions corresponding to the said three positions of the transverse latches (12, 12'), that position in which the two transverse latches (12, 12') are in their locking position being the basic position of the rotary lock and any rotation of the locking pin (10) out of this position, irrespectively of whether to the left or right, so takes place against the force of the spring means (33) that energy can be stored in the spring means (33) for subsequent automatic locking.