CLAIMS

1 A crate comprising a framework of demountable elements comprising

i) at least two base plates, each being generally rectangular and having longer and shorter sides, in which each of the longer and shorter sides is provided with an upturned hem,

ii) at least four flat limbed support members, each support member having first and second ends, a longer side of each base plate being supported by one of the support members,

iii) at least eight connector members, each being located at ~~an end~~a corner of the first and second ends of each support member,

iv) a plurality of ~~upright~~ posts comprising pairs of corner posts and pairs of upright posts , each post adapted to be associated with at least one connector member, each pair of posts connected by a transverse member, the transverse member covering at least one of the longer upturned hems of at least one of the base plates and

v) a plurality of panels, each panel being adapted to be secured to two of the posts, at least one of the panels being located on a transverse member and adapted during use of the crate to be demounted from the framework.

2 A crate according to claim 1, in which each post is associated with a single connecting member.

3 A crate according to claim 1, in which one or more of the posts is associated with two adjacent connecting members.

4 A crate according to claim 1~~any previous claim~~, in which the crate is stackable.

5 A crate according to claim 4, in which a plurality of the posts are provided with a first engagement means extending above an adjacent panel for engagement with a second engagement means formed in the underside of a second crate to be located above the crate.

6 A crate according to claim 5, in which the first engagement means is a shaped protrusion.

7 A crate according to claim 1 ~~any previous claim~~, in which the support members are provided with means for receiving the forks of a fork-lift truck.

8 A method of constructing a crate comprises providing four flat limbed support members having first and second ends, two of the support members supporting longer sides of a first base plate being generally rectangular and having longer and shorter sides and two of the support members supporting longer sides of a second base plate being generally rectangular and having longer and shorter sides, the second base plate being disposed adjacent the first, providing connecting members at each of the first and second ends of each of the support members, providing ~~an upright~~a plurality of posts, comprising pairs of corner posts and pairs of upright posts, each pair of posts connected by

a transverse member, the transverse member covering at least one of the longer upturned hems of at least one of the base plates ~~in association~~ associating ~~with each~~ at least one connecting member with each post and securing a plurality of panels, each panel being adapted to be secured to two of the posts ~~between each pair of adjacent posts~~, at least one of the panels being releasably secured to its associated posts.

9 A method according to claim 8, in which each of the first and second base plates has a pair of longer sides and a pair of shorter sides.

10 A method according to claim 9, in which the base plates are disposed with their longer sides adjacent one another.

11 A method according to claim 9, in which the first and second base plates are disposed with their shorter sides adjacent one another.

12 A method according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 8 ~~to 11~~, in which each post is associated with a single connecting member.

13 A method according to ~~any of~~ claim~~s~~ 8 ~~to 11~~, in which a post ~~may be~~ is associated with two adjacent connecting members.