6. A component handling assembly according to claim 5 wherein the conduit is integral to each of the one or more nests.

7. A component handling assembly according to claim 5 or 6 further comprising a vacuum generating means which is arranged in fluid communication with the conduits defined in the one or more nests.

8. A component handling assembly according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprises a detection means operable to detect the orientation of a component which cooperates with a nest.

9. A component handling assembly according to claim 8, wherein the assembly further comprises a position correction means which is operable to move a component, which has become displaced from a predefined orientation, to return the component to the predefined orientation.

10. A method of handling a component, comprising the steps of transporting a component using a turret; moving the component into a predefined orientation, while the component is held on the turret; transferring the component onto a~~n~~ nest of an index table such that the component is supported above the nest and has a predefined orientation on the nest of the index table.

11. A method of according to claim 10 wherein the step of transferring the component onto an index table comprises the step of transferring the component onto a top surface of a nest on the index table.

12. A method of according to claim 10 or 11 further comprising the step of apply a vacuum force to the component to hold the component in the predefined orientation on a nest of the index table.

13. A method of according to any one of claims 10-12 further comprising the step of detecting the orientation of a component on a nest of the index table.