

HANDLING APPARATUS & METHOD FOR A LEAD FRAME PROCESSING SYSTEM**ABSTRACT**

Within a continuous in-line frame processing system which uses a continuous belt, a loading and unloading station loads unprocessed frames onto the belt and unloads processed frames from the belt. The loading and unloading station includes magazines buffer stacks. The loading stack ensures a continuous supply of magazines of frames to be loaded onto the belt and the unloading buffer ensures space into which the loaded magazines can be placed for removal. A transfer means automatically transfers empty magazines from the position at which the frames are loaded onto the belt to a position at which processed frames can be loaded back into the magazine from the belt.

Fig. 5