What is claimed:

1. A pallet protector comprising:

a faceplate with a generally planar front surface and a generally planar back surface, the faceplate defining at least two generally rectangular openings of comparable dimensions to a rectangular tine-accepting pallet entry opening of a pallet;

and at least two protrusions, the protrusions comprising walls, integral with the faceplate and extending rearward from the back surface of the faceplate from perimeter regions of the at least two rectangular openings;

the protrusions having at least three sidewalls, including an upper side wall, a left side wall and a right sidewall, such that the protector fits nestingly in the tine-accepting side of a pallet;

the faceplate having no substantial rearward protrusions other than from the perimeters of the at least two rectangular openings.

2. A reinforced pallet comprising the pallet protector of claim 1 secured to a compatible pallet.

3. The pallet protector of claim 1 or 2 where the at least three sidewalls extend beyond the major plane of the back surface a distance of at least about the width of the pallet's lead board.

4. The pallet protector of claim 1 or 2 where the at least three extended sidewalls include a lower wall and therefore comprise four sidewalls.

5. The pallet protector of claim 1 or 2 where at least two sides of the at least two rectangular openings are beveled.

6. The pallet protector of claim 1 or 2 where the protector is comprised of plastic.

7. The pallet protector of claim 1 or 2 where at least two of the rectangular openings are framed by a beveled perimeter.

8. The pallet protector of claim 7 comprised of a plastic material.

9. The pallet protector of claim 8 where the plastic material is a polyethylene thermoplastic.

10. A pallet protector for a pallet having an overall rectangular shape with height and width dimensions corresponding to those of a face of an industry standard pallet, the pallet protector comprising a faceplate with a generally planar front surface and a generally planar back surface, the faceplate defining one or more generally rectangular openings corresponding in size and relative position to the entry openings in the pallets' face when the protector is operatively abutted to the face; further, the rectangular pallet protector openings of the faceplate having protrusions along at least portions of at least three sides, the protrusions extending rearward from the back surface of the faceplate from perimeter regions of the openings.

11. The pallet protector of claim 10 where the industry standard pallet’s dimensions are listed in ISO 6780.

12. The pallet protector of claim 10 where the at least three sides are at least four sides.

13. The pallet protector of claim 10 where the protrusions extend at least the width of an upper lead board.

14. The pallet protector of claim 10 where at least a portion of a protrusion has an angled transition region.

15. The pallet protector of claim 14 comprising a polyethylene thermoplastic material.

16. The pallet protector of claim 10 where at least a portion of the upper side of the rectangular openings has a beveled edge effective to deflect a tine away from the pallet.

17. The pallet protector of claim 10 where at least a portion of the lower side of the rectangular openings has a beveled edge effective to deflect a tine away from the pallet.

18. A method of protecting a pallet comprising:

attaching at least one pallet protector to a face of a pallet of corresponding dimensions, the pallet protector having a faceplate with a generally planar front surface and a generally planar back surface, the faceplate defining at least two generally rectangular openings of comparable dimensions to a rectangular tine-accepting pallet entry opening;

further, the at least two rectangular openings having at least three sidewalls that extend rearward beyond the major plane of the back surface of the faceplate; still further, the pallet protector comprising a resilient material effective to protect the attached pallet and the faceplate having no substantial protrusions other than from the perimeters of the rectangular openings.

19. The method of protecting a pallet of claim 18 further comprising attaching a second pallet protector to the pallet.