

W. H. GRUEBY.

FLOOR TILE.

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1,059,456.

Patented Apr. 22, 1913.

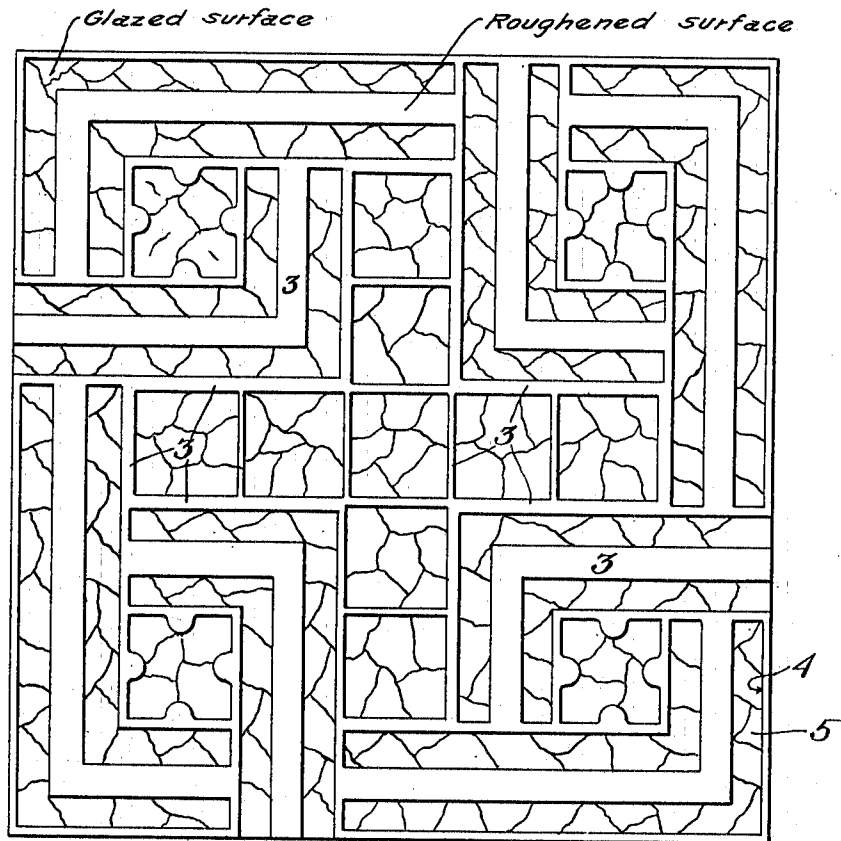


Fig. 1.

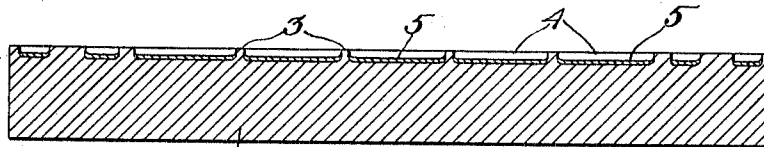


Fig. 2

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FLOOR-TILE.

1,059,456.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 22, 1913.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. GRUEBY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented new and useful Improvements in Floor-Tiles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to ornamental tiles intended for use in laying floors in situations where the useful qualities possessed by floors of stone, marble, ordinary tiling and the like are desirable.

Such floors as heretofore constructed have been found objectionable for the reason that when wet they become slippery, especially after having been worn by long continued use, and my invention is intended to provide a highly ornamental floor tile made of pottery material and having, in addition to the useful qualities usually possessed by floor tiles, a non-slipping tread surface. With this object in view I have produced a novel tile characterized by the provision of its top surface with unglazed raised portions alternating with glazed depressed portions, the unglazed raised portions being of such limited extent, as compared with the human foot, that when a floor is laid with the tiles the foot of a person walking upon the same will rest upon an unglazed surface and extend beyond the same. In other words, while the unglazed raised portions may be arranged to form any one of a practically endless variety of patterns and designs, their dimensions and relative locations are such that the tread surface thereby provided is discontinuous within the area of the human foot, so that instead of being supported by a continuous and uniform surface, which may be slippery even though it is the surface of an unglazed tile, as experience has shown, the shoe of a person stepping upon my tile will be subjected to the gripping action of a hard and well-defined edge such as forms the boundary line between each raised portion of the tile and the adjacent depressed portion thereof, and the person will thus be prevented from slipping upon a floor composed of such tiles, even though the tiles be wet. Furthermore, a floor thus constructed will not become wet to the same extent as a floor having a continuous and uniform surface throughout, because the depressed areas in my tile receive any water which may fall upon it, leaving the raised portions comparatively

dry, and, in addition to its non-slipping quality I have found that such a floor is much more nearly noiseless than are prior floors of the character above referred to, this being due to the fact that the areas of those portions of my tile which come in contact with the foot of a person walking on the same are much more limited in extent than is the case when the person is walking on a continuous surface.

By way of example I have illustrated a tile made in accordance with my invention in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the tile; and Fig. 2 is a transverse section through the same.

In the drawings, 2 indicates the body of the tile, which is a hard-fired tile made of pottery material and having its top surface formed into an ornamental pattern by means of the raised portions 3, which are unglazed, and the depressed portions 4 located between the raised portions 3 and covered with a coating of glaze 5, whereby a strong contrast in appearance between the portions 3 and 4 is brought out and the ornamental quality of the tile is increased. It will be observed that in the particular tile illustrated, the raised portions 3 have the form of relatively long and narrow ribs, which cover the top of the tile to such an extent that it is impossible for a person to step on the tile without having his foot supported wholly by certain of said raised portions and overlapping the edges of the same, but it is not at all necessary that said raised portions shall consist of such ribs or that a rectangular pattern shall be adopted, as the tile may be given any desired pattern so long as the above-mentioned requirements in regard to the size and discontinuity of the unglazed portions are observed.

The glazing of the depressed portions not only imparts a highly ornamental appearance to the tile but also results in vitrifying the raised portions of the tile to a greater or less extent, varying with the degree of heat employed in firing the tile, and the vitrification of these raised portions greatly increases their hardness, and consequently their durability in use, without impairing in any way their gripping or non-slipping qualities. These raised portions in turn protect the glaze from wear and thus preserve the original appearance of the tile.

The foregoing references to the glazing of certain portions of my tile are to be construed to include enameling and kindred processes whereby said portions may be provided with a superficial coating of glaze or enamel and thus given the ornamental qualities of prior tiles having such coatings, and the expression "unglazed" as applied to the raised portions of the tile is to be regarded as referring to the absence of a glazed surface of the character just referred to but not as excluding a surface such as results from vitrification, the distinction between glazed and vitrified surfaces and the various ways in which such surfaces may be produced being well understood in the art.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A floor tile comprising a body portion provided on its upper face with a substantially level non-slipping tread surface composed of spaced portions of unglazed tile material arranged sufficiently near together

to support the foot of a person stepping on the tile, the portions of the tile located between said spaced portions being slightly depressed and covered with an ornamental glaze.

2. A floor tile comprising a body portion provided on its upper face with a substantially level non-slipping tread surface composed of spaced portions of unglazed tile material of vitreous character and arranged sufficiently near together to support the foot of a person stepping on the tile, the portions of the tile located between said spaced portions being slightly depressed and covered with an ornamental glaze.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 10th day of August, 1911.

WILLIAM H. GRUEBY.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH T. BRENNAN,

MARY A. NYHAN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."