G. H. DAVIS.

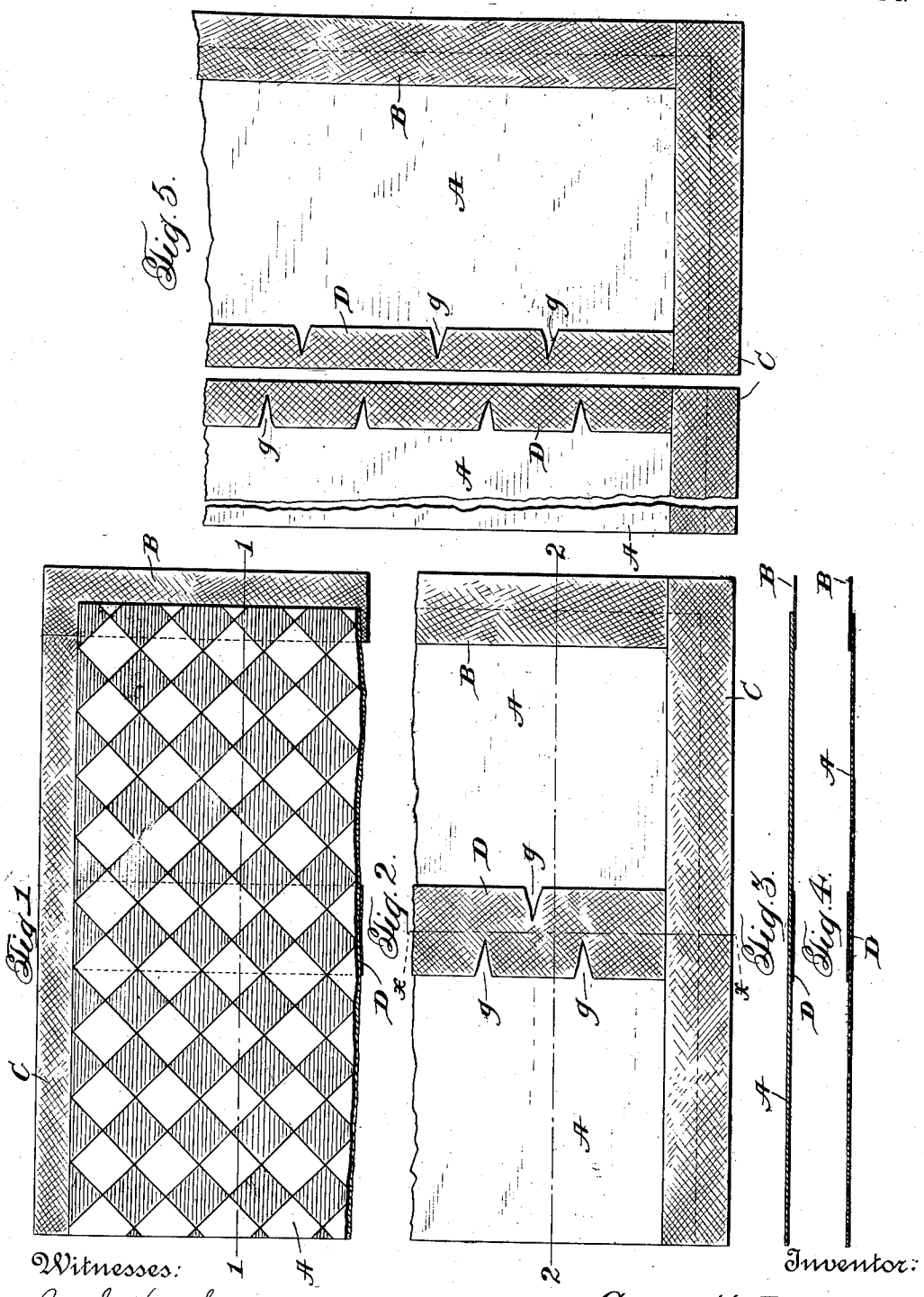
PAPER CARPET.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 24, 1911.

1,038,094.

Patented Sept. 10, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig 6.

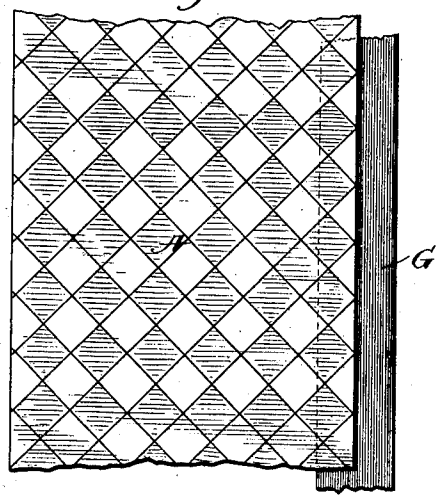
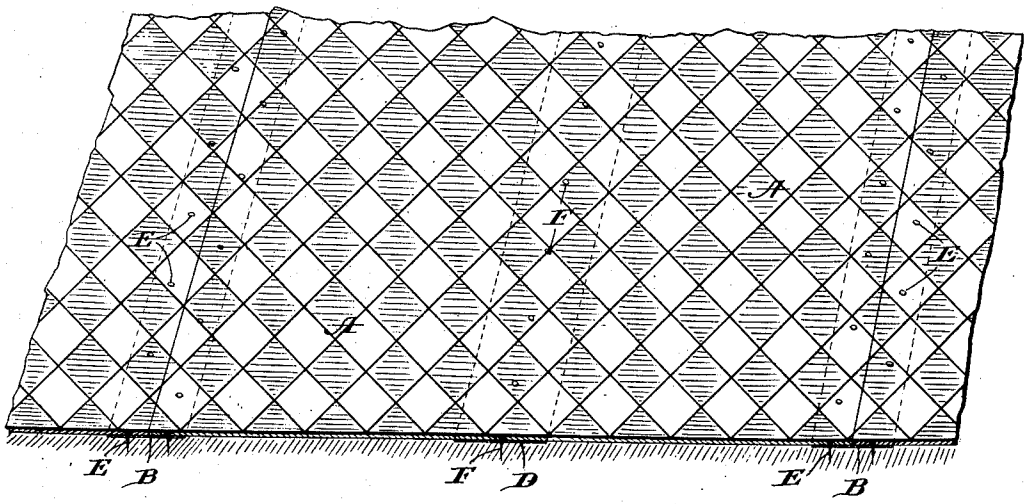


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE H. DAVIS, OF PORTLAND, MAINE, ASSIGNOR TO E. T. BURROWES, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

PAPER CARPET.

1,038,094. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 10, 1912.

Application filed February 24, 1911. Serial No. 610,646.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE H. DAVIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Paper Carpets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to improvements in the art of floor coverings, and has for its primary object the provision of what may be properly styled a paper carpet, which, owing to its efficiency and the cheapness with which the same may be manufactured and sold may fill a long-felt want or enter a field of service not heretofore contemplated in floor coverings, and may also, to a considerable extent, supplant the ordinary linoleums, oil-cloths, straw mattings, and in fact the cheaper grades of cloth carpet.

It is universally recognized that there exist innumerable instances where it is desirable to have a neat and durable floor covering, but where the expense of the usual coverings is not justified,—for example, spare rooms not subjected to very hard usage,—and it is equally well-known that the comparatively expensive ordinary floor coverings, is, in many cases, notably among the poorer classes, prohibitive of their use. It is with a view of meeting these exigencies that the present invention has been devised.

I am aware that it has been attempted to provide a suitable floor covering of various superposed and connected layers of fabric such as cloth and paper, specially impregnated or treated by an oily preservative or strengthening composition, but such a composite structure is also relatively expensive as compared to the present invention and does not embrace the idea, as embodied herein, of providing a carpet composed substantially of paper alone or in itself of such density and thickness to render the same useful and practical for the purposes entitled.

With all of the foregoing considerations in mind, the present improvements may be defined as embracing a carpet, the body portion of which is constituted by paper of the density and thickness referred to, provided with stiffening or reinforcing means enabling the same to be securely tacked in place to restrict the possible tendency of the paper to tear away from its fastenings, and the same possessing as inherent or as auxiliary features, means for maintaining the strips in straight or true condition which might otherwise arise from undue shrinkage, warping, etc.

The invention also includes the provision of the paper body with means adapted to reinforce margins or edges along severed lines, said means affording a guide to direct the severing operation and constituting a protection against the pulling of the heads of tacks through the paper and thus releasing the carpet from the floor; or the means referred to may, in unsevered condition constitute intermediate points for tacking the carpet to the floor, in addition to tacking the usual margins of the strips.

More specifically the invention contemplates a carpet strip having its edges reinforced by narrow strong strips of fabric such as muslin, and intermediate strips as desired, constituting tacking portions, and which strips may preferably be in the nature of tape having selvage edges to prevent raveling and distortion. Also a carpet comprising juxtaposed strips having marginal reinforced portions, the latter being arranged to underlie the juncture between the adjoining edges of strips to serve as an effectual barrier against the entrance of dust or gritty substances beneath the carpet between the same and the floor.

All of the foregoing and other features of my present invention will be apparent from the specific description hereof hereinafter contained when read in connection with the accompanying drawings forming part hereof and wherein several preferred and convenient embodiments of the invention are illustrated.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a plan view of what I may term a wide strip of paper carpet made in accordance with the invention, Fig. 2 is a view of the under side of the same, Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 1—1 of Fig. 1, Fig. 4 is a similar view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 2, Fig. 5 is an elevation showing the wide strip of Fig. 2 severed longitudinally along the dotted line indicated in Fig. 2 to constitute relatively nar-

row or what are known as the ordinary width strips, Fig. 6 is a plan view of still another embodiment of the invention. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of several strips, like shown in Fig. 1, in assembled condition, and tacked to the floor.

Referring more specifically to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts in the several views, and first with reference to the first four figures of the drawing, A represents a strip of carpet, in this instance of double width, the same being formed of substantial thickness and density capable in itself of withstanding the wear to which the same is subjected, the under side of which may be left plain or printed if desired to represent cloth or burlap. The upper or exposed surface of the paper is printed in keeping with the use for which the carpet is designed, such printing being preferably in bright fancy colors of any suitable material, not oily in its nature, presenting a durable tough surface overlying and protecting the fiber of the paper, subsequently varnished, and finally buffed down to subdue or modify the luster of the resultant product. One or both margins of the strip A and the ends thereof are provided with an underlying reinforcing narrow strip of fabric such as muslin, preferably in the nature of selvage-edged tape B, secured in any desired manner to the under surface of the paper, as by pasting, and projecting for about half of its width beyond the edge of the paper to underlie an adjoining strip of carpet as will be obvious. This selvage edge tape assists in preserving the paper strip in proper condition for service, while preventing undue warping or curling of the edges thereof, and also acts as a tacking strip through which the tacks may be passed and prevented thereby from pulling through the paper and freeing the paper as would be the case were the tacks passed through the paper alone. The tape is of thin or inconsequential thickness, tough and strong, capable of performing its stated function of enabling secure fastening of the carpet to the floor. By utilizing the selvage edge I obtain the additional advantage that ravelings inherent in raw-edged fabric such as muslin referred to, cannot escape upwardly through the space intermediate adjoining strips and render the carpet as a whole unsightly in that particular.

The protruding portions of the tape may be provided with a gummed upper surface, if desired, for the purpose of adhering to the meeting edge of an adjoining strip.

As distinguished from underlying an adjoining carpet strip, the projecting portions of the tape may be folded over the top of the strip to which the same is attached constituting a binding which might be found desirable, for instance where the edge of the strip in question immediately adjoins the wall.

Wherever found expedient, intermediate fabric strips or tape may be secured to the under surface of the paper body in such arrangement found practical, but herein I have illustrated but one of these intermediate strips D utilized in connection with the double width strip of Fig. 1 running longitudinally thereof at the center of the strip A and of suitable width to constitute a reinforced tack line when the strip is used as ~~a unit,~~ or to be severed along the dotted line *x*—*x* to constitute the two narrow strips (Fig. 5), each marginally reinforced for tacking purposes, etc. This intermediate strip D, or in fact all of the reinforcing strips if necessary may be transversely slitted, as at *g* to enable the structure to accommodate itself to any relative differential shrinkage or expansion of the paper and muslin strip or tape.

A characteristic feature of advantage presented by the intermediate strip D is that the same being in itself of narrow width and at the center of the paper strip or body A may constitute a sufficient guide for properly severing the double strip into the narrower strips as above defined, so that the purchaser may at will use the double strip either as a unit or in the severed condition, while the manufacturer is enabled to economically produce the product in the relatively large or sheet formation.

If desired, several thicknesses of the muslin reinforcing strips may be utilized to prevent stretching and maintaining the shape of the carpet and to enable the carpet to withstand the pulling action on the securing tacks, while throughout the entire marginal edges of the carpet such edges will be preserved against any fracture or breakage which might be incident to a tripping or kicking action of the foot. The tape will also serve to hold the painted surface of the carpet out of contact for a considerable extent when rolled for shipping, storage or compactness.

I have illustrated in perspective in Fig. 7 one manner of applying the carpet strip of Fig. 1 to a floor. Here A represents the separate parallel paper strips; B the tapes underlying the meeting edges of adjacent strips through which the tacks E passing through said edges are engaged; and D are the intermediate strips through which the central line of tacks F are passed.

In Fig. 6 I have illustrated a form of strip wherein the projecting portion of the tape is coated with an adhering substance G adapted to be engaged by the moistened edge of an adjacent strip to stick the two together. The end tapes C are adapted to protect the ends of the strips the same as

the marginal strips B B′ and may be there terminated flush with the end of the paper body or may project outwardly to underlie the end of the adjoining strip, as indicated in Fig. 1.

While I have herein disclosed several embodiments of my invention it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the invention is capable of embodiment in still other forms and arrangements without departing from the underlying spirit of the invention.

I claim:—

1. A carpet consisting of a dense body strip formed wholly of paper of substantial thickness to render the same durable, the same being decorated on its obverse surface, and a narrow reinforcing stiffening strip of suitable fabric at the edge of the body constituting with said edge a rigid abutting margin of substantial strength, the reinforcing stiffening strip projecting outwardly beyond the edge of the body, and the major portion of the paper body strip throughout the extent thereof being devoid of supplemental stiffening material to permit relatively free and uniform expansion and contraction thereof.

2. A carpet consisting of a dense body strip formed wholly of paper of substantial thickness to render the same durable, said strip being of double width and decorated on its obverse surface, a narrow reinforcing stiffening strip of suitable fabric at the edge of the body constituting with said edge a rigid abutting margin of substantial strength, and an additional reinforcing stiffening strip arranged intermediate of the edges of the paper body strip adapted to be severed longitudinally with the paper body strip, and constituting a guide for the severing operation, to constitute two strips of usual width from the double strip, the intermediate portions of the paper body strip throughout the extent thereof being devoid of supplemental stiffening material to permit relatively free and uniform expansion and contraction thereof.

3. A carpet consisting of a dense body strip formed wholly of paper of substantial thickness to render the same durable, and a narrow reinforcing stiffening strip of suitable fabric secured to the body to give the same added rigidity and strength along the line of the stiffening strip, said stiffening strip being transversely slitted to enable the structure to accommodate itself to any relative differential shrinkage or expansion of the paper and fabric reinforcing strip, and the major portion of the paper body strip throughout the extent thereof being devoid of supplemental stiffening material to permit relatively free and uniform expansion and contraction thereof.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE H. DAVIS.

Witnesses:

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LEONARD G. WEYMOUTH.