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(54) Title: FLOATING FLOOR SYSTEM, FLOOR PANEL, AND INSTALLATION METHOD FOR THE SAME

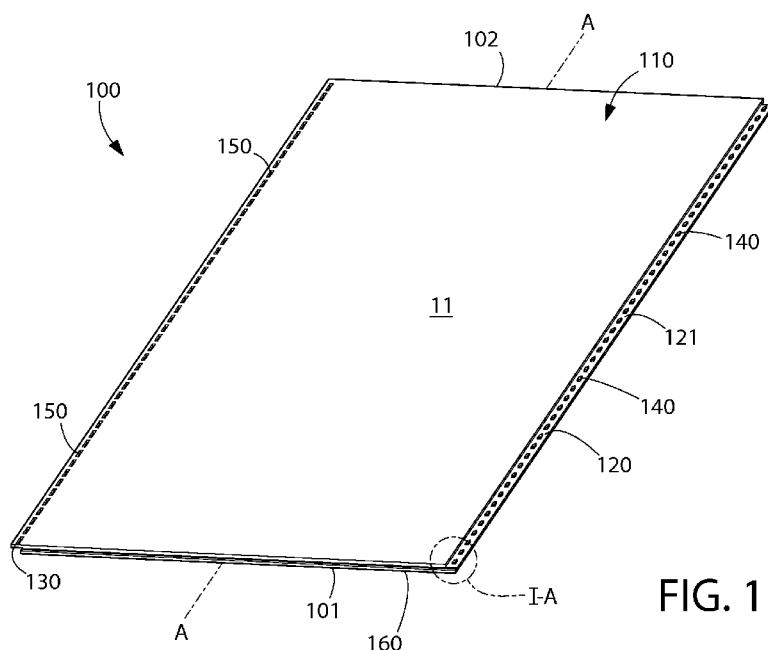


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A floating floor system and a floor panel and method for use with the same that includes an improved mechanical interlock system. The mechanical interlock system allows laterally adjacent floor panels that are mechanically interlocked to slide relative to one another a predetermined distance in a longitudinal direction, while prohibiting relative translation in the vertical and transverse directions. In one embodiment, the predetermined distance eliminates the need for precision cuts during installation, thereby making installation fast and easy. In a further embodiment, the invention optimizes the floor panels (and floating floor system,) to balance ease of installation and horizontal locking strength between laterally adjacent floor panels.



Previous Correction:

see Notice of 14 November 2013

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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 ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 E04F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DARKO PERVAN: "VA073a Zip Loc", IP.COM JOURNAL, IP.COM INC., WEST HENRIETTA, NY, US, 13 September 2011 (2011-09-13), XP013144910, ISSN: 1533-0001 page 10, line 26 - line 37; figures 2a,2b,2c	1-37
A	----- "va043 5G Linear Slide Tongue", IP.COM JOURNAL, IP.COM INC., WEST HENRIETTA, NY, US, 4 February 2009 (2009-02-04), XP013129255, ISSN: 1533-0001 the whole document -----	32-37



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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