

(No Model.)

H. C. TUNIS.
FLOORING, WAINSCOTING, &c.

No. 304,584.

Patented Sept. 2, 1884.

Fig. 1.

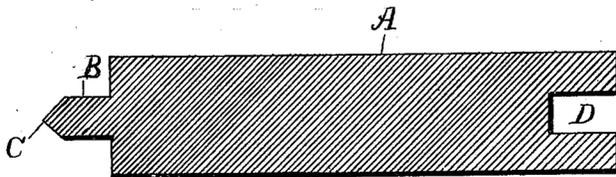
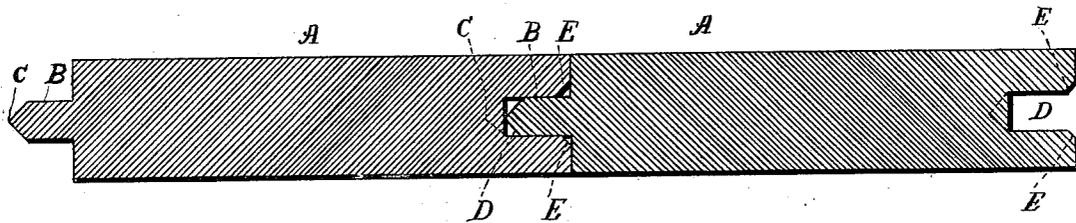


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY CLAY TUNIS, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

FLOORING, WAINSCOTING, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 304,584, dated September 2, 1884.

Application filed June 10, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, HENRY CLAY TUNIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flooring, Wainscoting, &c., of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in manufactured lumber for flooring, ceiling, wainscoting, and the like. As heretofore made the boards have been provided with tongues whose edges in cross-section form the arc of a circle, thereby presenting a blunt termination, while the thickness of the tongues is substantially the same across their entire width. These boards are also provided with a groove on the opposite edge to that on which the tongue is formed, the groove, however, generally being of rectangular form in cross-section. As thus constructed, it has been ascertained by actual trial that difficulty is frequently experienced in getting such tongue to readily enter the groove of the adjacent board, which is due, primarily, to the blunt shape of the tongue, and, secondly, to the inequality in the seasoning of the different strips. By my improved lumber, however, the difficulty thus arising is practically obviated, for the reasons which will more fully hereinafter appear.

My invention has for its objects, first, to provide the lumber with a tongue of such shape or configuration that it will more readily enter the groove of the adjacent strip in the act of laying flooring, wainscoting, ceiling, &c.; and, second, to provide such lumber with a tongue on one edge of such shape or configuration that it will more readily enter the groove of the adjacent strip, and on the other edge with a groove having a flaring mouth or entrance, whereby the operation of uniting such material may be more readily effected in laying flooring, wainscoting, ceiling, and the like.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and on which like letters of reference indicate the same or corresponding features, Figure 1 represents a transverse sectional view of a strip of lumber formed into a board having my improved

tongue; and Fig. 2, a like view of two boards, showing the same united and provided with my improved tongue and groove.

The letter A designates a strip of lumber formed or fashioned into a board for flooring, wainscoting, or ceiling purposes. On one edge this board is provided in its manufacture with a tongue, B, having its outer edges or corners cut away, so as to converge and meet or nearly meet each other at or about the center of the tongue. As a consequence of this beveling or cutting away the edges of the tongue, the latter is given a tapering configuration in cross-section, the angle or degree of the said inclination being such as may be found best in practice. The preferred angle, however, is that of forty-five degrees.

The letter D designates the groove, which in some instances I also form on the opposite edge of the board to that occupied by the tongue. This groove, as represented at E, has its outer corners or edges beveled correspondingly or approximately correspondingly to the tongue. The inner wall or termination of the groove may, if desired, be formed so as to correspond in shape with the outer edge of the tongue, as seen in dotted lines. This beveling of the edges of the groove and cutting away of the inner wall thereof may, however, be omitted, and the groove in cross-section allowed to retain its usual parallelogrammatic form, since I have ascertained by actual trial that my improved tongue can be used with great advantage with such usual form of groove.

It is to be observed that in consequence of the tapering configuration of the tongue it will more readily and easily enter the groove of a board in the act of laying the several structures in which tongue-and-groove boards are used.

It sometimes happens that in consequence of the roughness on the inner wall of the groove or the outer edge of the tongue as ordinarily made it is difficult to make one board drive up close to the next, so as to make a tight joint. With my improved form of tongue such difficulty is obviated, if met with, by battering or indenting the sharp edge of the tongue, which, owing to its shape, is easily done.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, the here-
in-described board, having on one edge thereof
a tongue constructed with parallel sides and
beveled off on the corners to form a point, and
5 on the other edge thereof a groove with par-
allel walls.

2. As a new article of manufacture, the here-
in-described board, having a groove in one
edge thereof constructed with parallel walls,
10 and having its outer corners beveled or cut
away.

3. As a new article of manufacture, the here-

in-described board, having a tongue with par-
allel sides and beveled off on the corners to
form a point, and a groove constructed with 15
parallel walls, and having its outer corners
beveled or cut away.

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

HENRY CLAY TUNIS.

Witnesses:

EDWIN L. BRADFORD,
JAMES M. DURANT.