Sept. 7, 1943. N. C. KERN 2,328,651

FLOOR MOLDING

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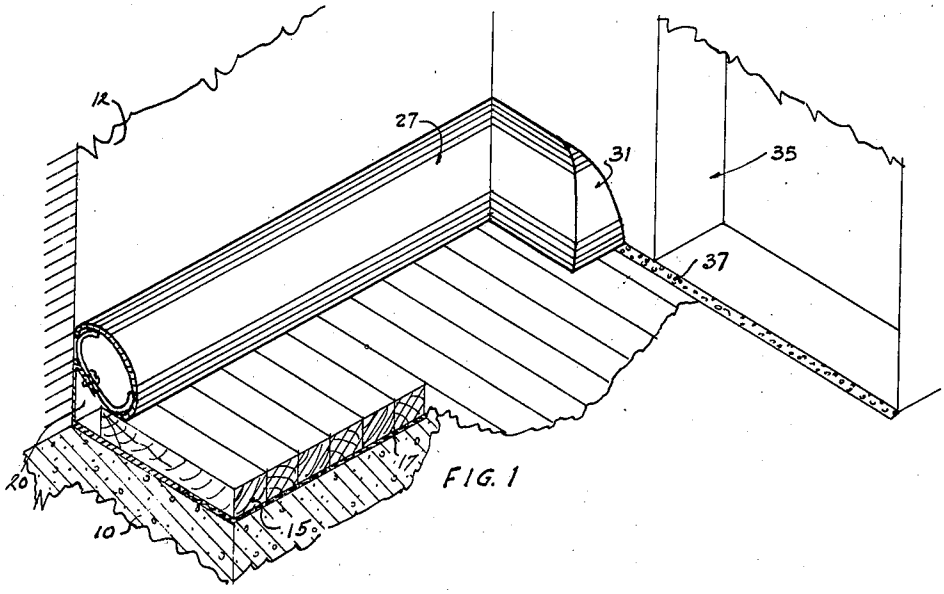


FIG. 1

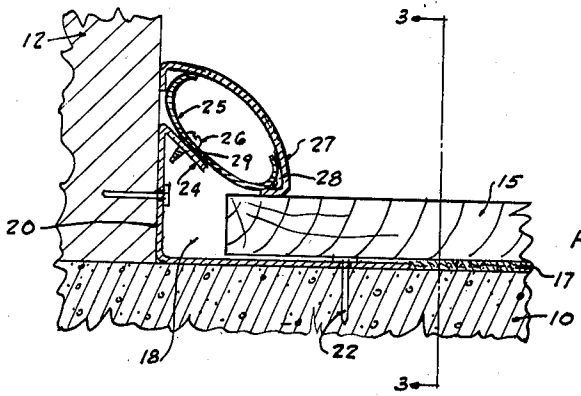


FIG. 2

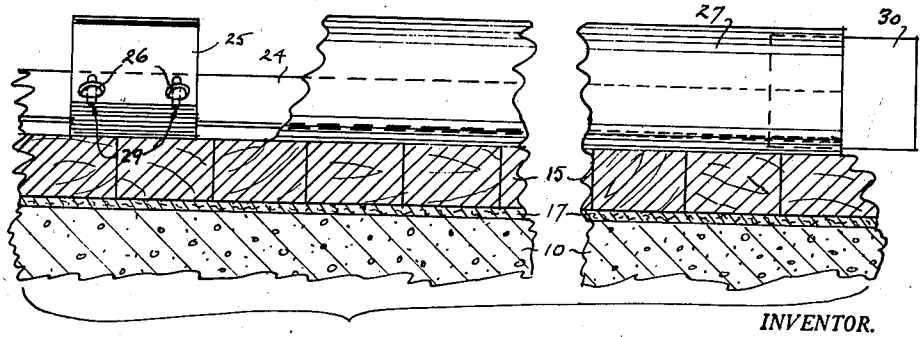


FIG. 3

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FLOOR MOLDING

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3 Claims. (Cl. 20—6)

This invention relates to floor moldings, and particularly to so-called "shoe" moldings, of that class which are used at the junctures of the floors and walls, in building construction.

An important object of the invention is to provide a resilient metallic shoe molding of inexpensive character and neat appearance, which may be very easily and quickly installed and which, when installed, is firmly held in position, but can easily be removed and reinstalled whenever this may be desirable or necessary.

Another object of the invention is to provide such a metallic shoe molding which is adjustable to compensate for differences in floor levels and thicknesses.

It has been very difficult, in the past, to provide a satisfactory finish flooring of wood or other material of similar character over a subfloor of concrete, or the like. No permanent and practicable fastening means has been developed for securing the finish flooring to the concrete subfloor in a manner which will prevent the wood flooring from moving with respect to the sub-floor under the strains created by expansion and contraction due to humidity changes, and in some cases, as where the flooring is used in factory buildings and the like, under the effects of vibration, movement of heavy loads over the floor, etc. Since very powerful lateral forces are involved in these movements, buckling and heaving of the floor has frequently occurred. The present invention aims to provide an improved method and means whereby wood finish flooring or the like may be laid over concrete or equivalent subflooring without thereby creating the difficulties above alluded to which have heretofore been incident to the laying of floors of this class.

Other objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description, wherein reference is made to the accompanying drawing illustrating a preferred embodiment of my invention and wherein similar reference numerals designate similar parts throughout the several views.

In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is an isometric perspective view, partly in section, showing a preferred form of my improved shoe molding, as installed, also illustrating a floor laid in accordance with the principles of this invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view through such an installation as is illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional elevational view taken substantially on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawing, reference character 10 designates a concrete slab sub-floor. The numeral 12 denominates an appurtenant wall portion. The finish flooring, 15, of wood, may be laid over the subfloor in any of the usual or desired ways, as for example, by being bedded upon an interposed mastic layer 17. A substantial marginal gap 18 is left between the finish flooring and the walls entirely around the edges of the wood flooring. The several sections or boards which compose finish flooring may be nailed or otherwise secured together, but need not be mechanically attached to the subfloor.

The shoe mold assembly, the construction of which is best shown cross sectionally in Fig. 2, projects inwardly from the wall far enough, and at such height, as to overlie the finish flooring by a substantial margin, and to snugly engage the same.

The shoe mold assembly is supported by an angular sheet metal securing strip 20, shown as extending continuously along the line of juncture of the wall and subfloor, and secured to both, as by nails 22. It will be recognized that the securing strip portions might be formed in discontinuous sections. The bottom flange of the securing strip means underlies the margins of the finish flooring. The upper edge of the strip 20 is provided with an inwardly and downwardly bent angular flange 24, to which, at suitable intervals, spring clips 25 are attached. The clips are provided with upwardly curved arms, proportioned to snap into and frictionally retain the channel-shaped molding element 27, the latter being preferably of quarter-round section and provided with inbent flanges 28 arranged to be engaged behind and retained by the arms of the spring clips 25. The spring clips are shown as secured to the flanged portion 24 by self-tapping screws 26, these being projected through slots, 29, in the spring clips. The slots extend vertically, and permit adjustment of the spring clips in such manner that they may be mounted in proper position to insure snug engagement between the molding 27 and the floor and wall.

Where ends of the molding are exposed, integral or welded-on closed end or return portions 31 are provided.

The molding may be made in standard sections, and it will be recognized that corners and other special configurations may also be prefabricated. To enable convenient assembly of abutting molding sections, or of molding sections with corners, and the like, telescoping coupling plates 30 are provided, arranged to extend across the gap and to be frictionally retained within the end abutting

sections in such manner as to prevent disalignment thereof, as will be readily apparent from Fig. 4.

Where, as at door openings and the like, it is necessary to break the continuity of the molding, the space between the margin of the floor and of the wall or threshold may be filled with a resilient substance, such as cork, as indicated at **37**, or alternatively, if desired, a threshold may be employed arranged to overlap the flooring.

It will be noted that in event the floor tends to expand or creep laterally, it may move freely under the molding assembly, by virtue of the gap **18**. The lateral forces are thus completely relieved, and no blocking of lateral movement, such as causes the lateral forces to be resolved into buckling and warping forces, in flooring of this class as ordinarily laid, can occur. The angular flange **24** is preferably arranged at such height as to permit the finish flooring to travel therebeneath if the movement becomes sufficiently extensive. Due to the resilience of the spring clips **25**, the molding may be pried off and replaced at will.

I am aware that the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and I therefore desire the present embodiment to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive; reference being had to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. In combination with the walls and fixed sub-floor of a room and a movable finish floor of less area than such sub-floor centrally disposed upon such sub-floor whereby a gap is formed between the margins of the finish floor and such walls, a finish shoe mold comprising a bottom portion and an upright portion secured respectively to the sub-floor and walls adjacent the junctions thereof, said upright portion extending above the finish floor and terminating in a flexible flange inclined inwardly and downwardly toward the finish floor, spring clips secured at intervals to said flexible flange, and a hollow molding fitted over and frictionally retained by said spring clips, said molding overlying the said gap and extending to substantial juncture with both the finish floor and said walls.

2. A shoe mold construction as recited in claim 1 wherein the flexible flange is slotted at intervals and the spring clips are adjustably secured to the flexible flange by members passing through such slots.

3. A shoe mold construction as recited in claim 1 wherein the bottom portion thereof is arranged to extend beneath the margins of the finish floor and the hollow molding is arranged to extend into frictional engagement with the upper surface of the finish floor.

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