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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: **D06N** 7/00, 3/06, **B29B** 17/00

A3 (11) International Publication Number:

WO 99/40250

(43) International Publication Date:

12 August 1999 (12.08.99)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US99/02182

(22) International Filing Date:

3 February 1999 (03.02.99)

(30) Priority Data:

60/073,718

4 February 1998 (04.02.98) US

(71) Applicant: MANNINGTON MILLS, INC. [US/US]; Mannington Mills Road, P.O. Box 30, Salem, NJ 08079 (US).

(72) Inventors: CHEN, Hao, A.; 40 Blue Stone Drive, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 (US). DESAI, Peter; 15 Ardmore Circle, Cartersville, GA 30120 (US). ZEREBECKI, Nicholas; 202 Teal Road, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062 (US).

(74) Agent: KILYK, Luke, A.; Armstrong, Westerman, Hattori, McLeland & Naughton, Suite 1000, 1725 K. Street, N.W., Washington, Dc 20006 (US).

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

4 November 1999 (04.11.99)

(54) Title: SURFACE COVERINGS CONTAINING FUSED RECYCLED MATERIAL AND PROCESSES OF MAKING THE SAME

(57) Abstract

A backing or an intermediate layer for a surface covering is described which comprises a fused recycled material, wherein the material comprises a thermoplastic material, for instance, a vinyl material from a vinyl backed carpet or vinyl backed carpet manufacturing waste or both. Surface coverings containing the backing or intermediate layer of the present invention are also described as well as methods of making the backing or intermediate layer and methods of making the surface coverings containing the backing or intermediate layer of the present invention.

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inter onal Application No

PCT/US 99/02182 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 D06N7/00 D06 D06N3/06 B29B17/00 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) IPC 6 D06N B29B 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 practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° 1-6,10, PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN X 17-22,25 vol. 095, no. 005, 30 June 1995 (1995-06-30) & JP 07 032520 A (SHINKO KASEI KK), 3 February 1995 (1995-02-03) 23 Y abstract 1-4,6, Χ PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 12,13, vol. 010, no. 230 (C-365) 15,19, 9 August 1986 (1986-08-09) & JP 61 063783 A (KOTOBUKIYA FURONTE KK), 20,22, 24-26, 1 April 1986 (1986-04-01) 29-31,34 abstract -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X l Xi Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or nents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. "P" document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 23. D9. 1999

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inational application No.

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Box Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see Further Information PCT/ISA/210
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. X No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-4, 6-15, 17-20, 22-45
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-4,6-15,17-20,22-45

Carpet comprising a backing containing fused recycled thermoplastic material and method for making it corresponding to claims 1-4,6-15,17-20 and 22-45.

2. Claims: 5,16,21,51,52

surface covering comprising a backing containing the thermoplastic recycled material and a thermoplastic wear layer corresponding to claims 5,16,21,51 and 52.

3. Claims: 46-50

Surface covering comprising a backing of at least two layers of fused thermoplastic material and method for making it corresponding to claims 46-50.

...formation on patent family members

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