United States Patent

Harby

[15] **3,638,374**

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[54] WALL BASE MEMBER

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **52/100,** 52/273, 52/288, 52/717

[51] **Int. Cl.** **E04f 19/04**

[58] **Field of Search** 52/273, 287, 288, 716, 717, 52/58, 82, 98, 100, 393, 403, 254, 242, 241

[56] **References Cited**

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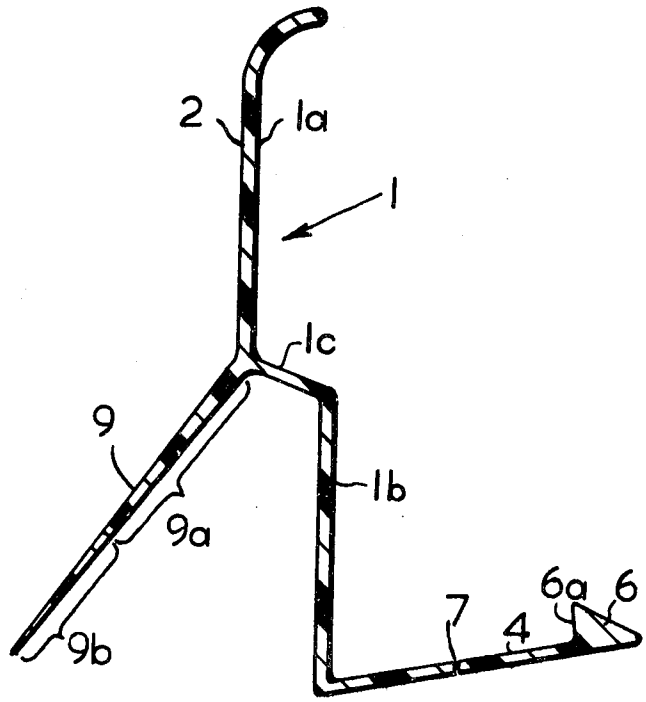
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A skirting member for fitting around the base of a wall or partition comprising an elongated plastic molding having a vertical forwardly facing decorative flange, a rearwardly extending base flange and a flexible flap for concealing the cut edges of flooring material, this flap being in effect a continuation of the decorative flange. The base flange may either be attached to a floor by rivets or screws, or may be held in place by being inserted into the gap under a partition.

4 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures



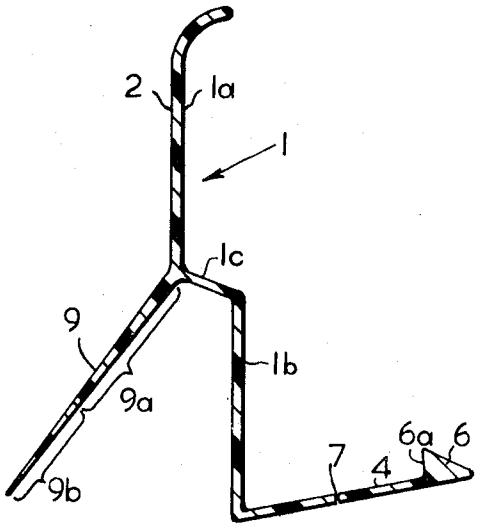


FIG. 1

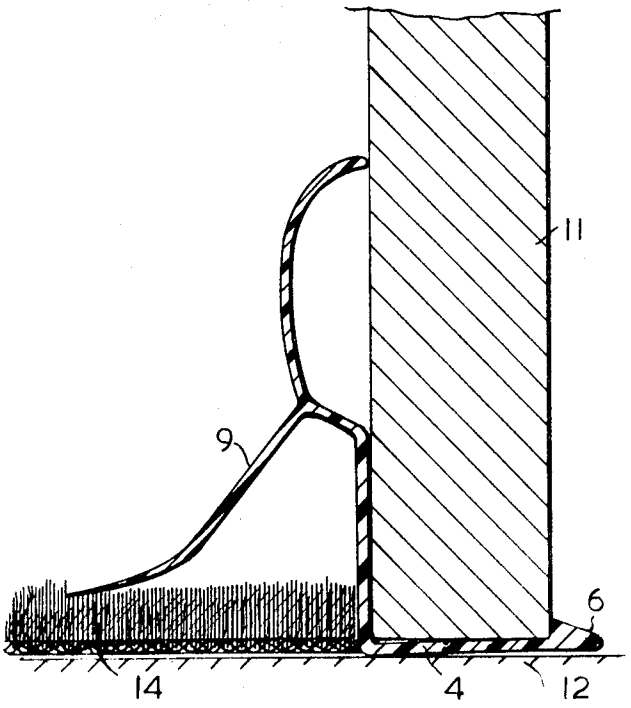


FIG. 2

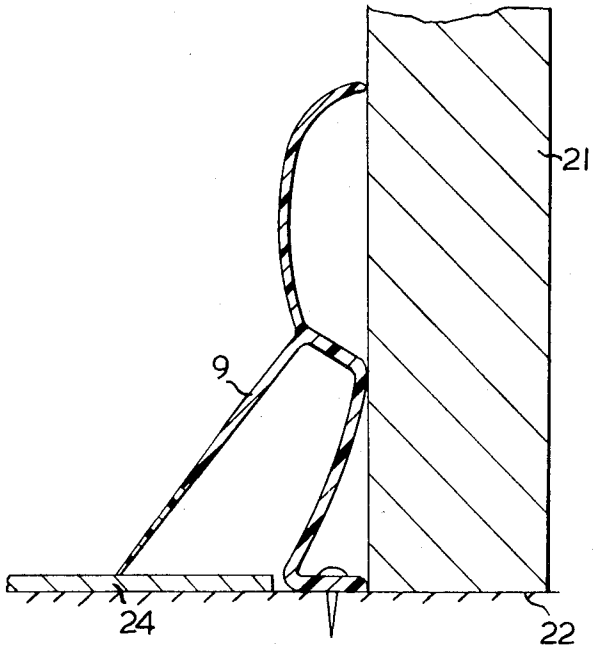


FIG. 3

WALL BASE MEMBER

The present invention relates to a skirting member for fitting around the base of a wall or partition, to provide a decorative exposed vertical surface and to conceal the cut edges of the carpet or other flooring material. Such other flooring material may be either resilient or hard material, and may for example be in the form of tiles.

In accordance with the present invention, a skirting member for fitting around the base of a wall or partition comprises an elongated angled moulding of plastics material having a normally vertical flange, an upper portion of which flange has an exposed decorative front face, a base flange extending substantially horizontally and rearwardly from the lower edge of said vertical flange, and a flexible flap for concealing the edges of flooring material and sloping forwardly and downwardly from the lower edge of said upper portion of the vertical flange.

The term "decorative" is used in this context in a broad sense as meaning an exposed surface of pleasing appearance and not necessarily meaning that the skirting member is provided with any special decoration. In fact, the front face of the upper portion of the vertical flange may have the normal smooth surface as produced by extruding the moulding, and may be of the same or similar appearance to the remainder of the moulding.

Also, it will be understood that the term "moulding" is used herein to mean a more or less decorative strip rather than an article which has been moulded.

Where a gap exists between the floor and the bottom edge of a partition or wall, the base flange may be inserted in this gap. In this case, the base flange preferably has a width sufficient that its outer edge projects from beneath the far side of the partition or wall. This outer edge is preferably provided with an upstanding rib which registers with the far side of the partition or wall to hold the moulding in place.

If no such gap exists, the base flange is preferably made relatively narrow, and is rivetted, nailed or screwed directly to the floor. For this purpose the base flange may be drilled, but is preferably made of a material which is penetrable by rivets or nails.

A preferred embodiment of the moulding has a wide base flange suitable for insertion under a partition or wall, and the flange also has a longitudinally extending notch near to its center, allowing the outer edge of this flange to be broken away when there is no gap into which the flange can be inserted.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 shows the moulding in the unstressed condition as sold,

FIG. 2 shows the moulding in use in association with a partition and a carpet,

FIG. 3 shows the moulding in use as associated with a wall and tiled flooring.

As shown in FIG. 1, the skirting member is an elongated extruded moulding of plastics material, for example polyvinyl chloride, having the cross section as shown in the drawings. This cross section includes a generally vertical flange 1 having an upper portion 1*a* and a lower portion 1*b* connected together by an angled intermediate portion 1*c*. The front face 2 of portion 1*a* is exposed in use and has a smooth finish so as to be of pleasing or at least acceptable appearance. Also the top of portion 1*a* curves over rearwardly away from the face 2.

A base flange 4 extends substantially horizontally from the lower edge of the vertical flange 1, rearwardly with respect to the face 2. This base flange 4 forms the lowermost portion of the wall base member and so is contactable with a horizontal floor on which the member rests. As shown, the angle between the base flange 4 and the wall engaging parts of the vertical flange, which are the lower portion 1*b* and the top edge of the vertical flange, is slightly less than a right angle so that if flange 4 is pressed onto a horizontal floor then the top of the vertical flange is forced rearwardly. At the outer edge of the flange 4 is

provided an upstanding rib 6 having a substantially perpendicular rear face 6*a*. The face 6*a* is separated from the vertical flange portion 1*b* by a distance slightly wider than partitions or walls against which the skirting member is to be used, so that the surface 6*a* can locate against the far side of this partition or wall. The base flange 4 is also provided with a longitudinal notch 7 running approximately along the center of the flange and this allows the flange to be severed readily along this notch for the purpose to be described.

A flexible flap 9 for concealing the edges of a flooring material slopes forwardly and downwardly from the lower edge of the vertical flange portion 1*a*. The upper portion 9*a* of this flap is of the same material as that forming the remainder of the moulding, although tapered for flexibility. The outer portion of the flap 9, shown at 9*b*, is of softer material, however, for example a synthetic rubber or polyvinyl chloride with a large amount of plasticer, this outer portion being extruded integrally with the remainder of the moulding.

Suitable dimensions for the moulding are a height of 2–3 inches for the vertical flange, and a width of say 1 inch for the base flange, although the latter dimension will be suited to the width of partition or walls. Clearly, the dimensions are also to some extent dependent on the thickness of the flooring material to be engaged by the flap 9, and the overall height of the flap is preferably several times greater than the thickness of the flooring material.

FIG. 2 shows the skirting member in use with a partition 11 having a gap between its lower edge and the floor 12. The base flange 4 is inserted into this gap, and the rib 6, which passes resiliently through the gap, engages with its forwards face 6*a* on the far side of the wall and so holds the skirting member in place. With the base flange 4 held in this way, the moulding is distorted slightly from the unstressed condition shown in FIG. 1 so that the wall engaging parts, i.e., the lower flange 1*b* and the upper edge of the vertical flange are held tightly against the wall. After the skirting member has been fitted as shown, the edge of the carpet 14 is inserted under the flexible flap 9.

Fig. 3 shows the skirting member in use with a wall 21 which is contiguous with the floor 22. In this case, since there is no gap for insertion of the horizontal flange 4, the outer portion of this flange is cut off along the longitudinal notch 7, and the narrow inner portion of the base flange is rivetted, nailed, or screwed onto the floor. For this purpose, the base flange is positioned as required, and the vertical flange is then bent away from the wall, the base flange being ,hen secured to the floor either by means of screws applied with a power-driven screwdriver, or rivets applied from a rivet gap, or with nails.

From FIGS. 2 and 3, it will be evident that the use of the flexible flap 9 as shown, which slopes downwardly and forwardly at an angle of about 45° to the horizontal and which in the relaxed state has its lower edge adjacent the plane of the base flange, allows the edges of widely varying thicknesses of flooring material to be concealed between the flap and the floor on which the base flange rests. Thus, the flooring material may be very thin, as in FIG. 3, or several times thicker than this, as in FIG. 2, and in each case the flap 9 presents a curved surface between the flooring material and the decorative face of the flange 1. The expression "widely varying thickness" as used herein will be understood as meaning thicknesses varying by a ratio of at least 2:1.

I claim:

1. A wall base member for fitting along the base of a partition or wall and for concealing the edges of a flooring material, comprising an elongated angle moulding of plastics material having a normally vertical flange, said vertical flange having an upper portion and a lower portion, said upper portion of said flange having an exposed decorative front face, a base flange extending rearwardly from the lower edge of said vertical flange, said base flange lying in a substantially horizontal plane and forming the lowermost portion of the wall base member so as to be contactable with a horizontal floor on which the member rests, and a flexible flap for concealing the edges of flooring material, said flap being joined at its upper

edge to the lower edge of said upper portion of the vertical flange and sloping forwardly and downwardly from said upper portion, the lower edge of said flexible flap being adjacent the plane of said base flange when in relaxed condition and said flap being flexible to accommodate widely varying thicknesses of flooring material above said plane.

2. A wall base member according to claim 1, wherein the outer edge of the base flange extends behind the rearmost extremity of the vertical flange and is provided with an upstanding rib.

3. A wall base member according to claim 2, wherein the base flange is made of material penetrable by rivets or nails, and wherein said base flange has a longitudinal notch near the center thereof, whereby an outer longitudinal portion of the base flange including said rib may be broken away and whereby the wall base member may be used either with the said upstanding rib engaging the side of a wall or partition remote from that at which said member is situated, or may be used with said outer portion broken away and with the remainder attached to a floor by rivets or nails.

4. A skirting member according to claim 1, wherein at least the outer portion of said flexible flap is formed of a material softer than that of the remainder of the moulding.

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