

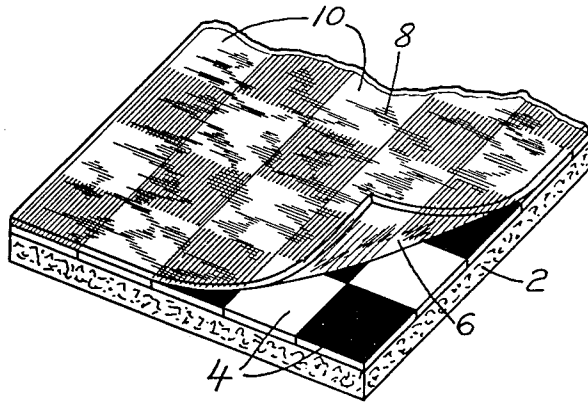
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DECORATIVE PRODUCT AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME

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DECORATIVE PRODUCT AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING THE SAME

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This invention relates to decorated products such as floor coverings and the like, and particularly to products having a sheet of semi-transparent wear resisting material possessing design modifying features and secured to a backing embodying other features of the design.

Floor coverings as heretofore produced have been provided with designs formed of pigments or other colored materials suitably arranged on the wearing surface of the product. The design therefore lies entirely in a single plane and receives all of the wear of traffic over the surface of the material.

In accordance with the present invention products having designs of a novel character are produced and all or most of the design forming material is protected from wear. This is accomplished by providing decorated floor coverings with a wear receiving surface formed of a semi-transparent sheet of resinous material which contains or embodies pigments, dyes, fillers or coloring agents for modifying or complementing the design carried by the decorated floor covering.

One of the objects of the present invention is to provide novel types of floor coverings and the like having a characteristic design or appearance.

Another object of our invention is to provide decorative products with designs located in parallel planes within the product.

A further object of our invention is to provide floor coverings and the like with semi-transparent wear resisting surface layer embodying means for modifying the appearance and design of the finished product.

These and other objects and features of the present invention will appear from the following description thereof in which reference is made to the single figure of the drawing which is a perspective of a portion of a typical product embodying our invention.

In producing products embodying the present invention it is preferred to employ sheeted polyvinyl chloride for the wear resisting layer of the material but numerous other flexible resinous materials may be used and among the materials suggested are cellulose acetate, ethyl cellulose, co-polymers of vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate (vinylite) polystyrene and the like.

These materials are readily formed into transparent flexible sheets to which pigments, dyes, fillers or coloring material may be added to produce semi-transparent sheets in which the pigments are distributed so as to produce areas

which are transparent and other areas which are opaque or translucent, or to produce a tinted semi-transparent sheet. Such sheets are secured to any preferred type of backing material, such as felt saturated with a bituminous material and provided with a decorative coat of paint, or having the surface thereof provided with a decorative layer of linoleum composition. However, the resinous sheets may be applied to any other suitable type of decorated backing to produce products embodying the present invention.

In that form of the invention illustrated in the drawing the product is provided with a layer of backing material 2 which may be asphalt saturated felt, burlap, linoleum, paper or the like. Decorative material 4, such as paint or a linoleum composition, is applied to the upper surface of the backing and arranged in a suitable design such as a tile effect.

A semi-transparent sheet of material 6, which preferably is formed of or contains polyvinyl chloride, is secured to the backing over the decorative material 4. The resinous wear resisting sheet contains a filler, pigment, dye or coloring agent which may be incorporated in the sheet in any suitable manner so that the sheet 6 will possess modifying or complementing design features. In the construction illustrated the pigment is arranged so as to provide opaque areas 8 and transparent areas 10 and the pigment is so distributed as to have a marbelized, streaked, smoky or grained appearance. The decorative material 4 carried by the backing is visible through the transparent areas 10 and the shaded or translucent areas at the margins of the opaque areas 8. In this way the design carried by the backing material is modified in appearance. Moreover, the opaque or pigmented areas 8 of the sheet 6 extend throughout the sheet and therefore lie in planes below the wearing surface of the product and parallel to the surface of the decorative material 4 carried by the backing.

Instead of distributing the pigment irregularly throughout the sheet 6 so as to have a marbelized effect it may be present in or on the sheet in streaks, to give jaspé characteristics to the design. When desired the pigmented areas of the sheet 6 may be confined to predetermined areas and arranged in particular forms or designs to complement or supplement the design of the decorative material 4 carried by the backing.

The exposed surface of the resinous sheet is smooth and may be waxed or polished so as to

be readily cleaned and yet the decorative material making up the design lies in different planes parallel to the surface of the finished product. The attractiveness of embossed designs are thus obtained without irregularities in the surface of the product. Moreover, the vertically displaced relation of the design and design modifying pigment give the impression of depth in the product and render it possible to obtain novel shadow effects, shading, blending and plaid designs which are not obtainable in products wherein the design is located entirely in a single plane of the product.

These new and characteristic features of products embodying our invention not only serve to improve the appearance of the resulting product but the wear resisting sheet serves to protect the decorative material 4 carried by the backing so that the main features of the design remains clear, sharp and bright for long periods of time and until the wear resisting sheet has been worn through.

The pigment, filler or coloring agent incorporated in the semi-transparent sheet 6 may be introduced into the sheet by any suitable means as by applying pigment or filler material to the composition from which the sheet 6 is formed and calendering the sheet so as to spread or distribute the pigment or filler and embody it permanently in the composition. When the wear resisting sheet is to have a uniform color throughout a dye or small amounts of pigment may be added to the composition from which the sheet 6 is produced and may be mixed or blended therewith prior to the formation of the sheet.

The sheet 6 may be secured to the backing 2 and over the decorative material 4 by any suitable means or method. When the resinous sheet is formed of or contains polyvinyl chloride it may be secured to a decorated backing by means of transparent adhesives containing a methacrylate resin activated by subjecting the product to heat and pressure.

From the foregoing description of the invention it will be apparent that very characteristic designs and effects may be produced in a great number of different types of floor covering materials and in other decorative products. In view thereof it should be understood that the embodiments of our invention illustrated in the drawing and herein described are intended to be illustrative of the invention and are not intended to limit the scope thereof.

We claim:

1. Floor covering or the like comprising a backing having decorative material applied thereto forming a definite design, and a semi-transparent

sheet of irregularly pigmented resinous material secured to and covering the decorative material on the backing, the design of the backing and the pigmentation of the semi-transparent sheet combining to produce a composite design.

2. Floor covering or the like comprising a backing material having decorative material applied thereto forming a definite design and having a wear receiving surface layer of material in the form of a sheet which is transparent in certain areas thereof and opaque or translucent in other areas thereof, said sheet of material being secured to the decorated surface of the backing material, to form a composite decorative surface embodying the motif of the design of the backing material modified by the opaque or transparent portions of the wear receiving surface.

3. Floor covering or the like comprising backing material having decorative material applied to certain areas thereof to constitute one feature of a design, and a semi-transparent sheet of wear resisting material extending over said decorative material and having pigment embodied in predetermined areas thereof to constitute complementary features of the design.

4. Floor covering or the like comprising felt base material having decorative material applied thereto in the form of a design, and a pigmented transparent sheet of flexible resinous material secured to the felt base material over the decorative material whereby the appearance of said design is modified.

5. A product adapted for use as a floor covering and comprising a backing having decorative material on one surface thereof, and a protective film secured thereto having pigmented and transparent areas incorporated therein and combining with the decorative material of the backing to produce a composite design which is a combination of design features of both said decorative material and the pigmented areas of the protective film.

6. A product adapted for use as a floor covering and comprising a backing having decorative material on one surface thereby embodying adjacent differently colored areas, and a protective film secured thereto and having irregular distributed pigmented and transparent areas incorporated therein and extending across edges of said adjacent differently colored areas of the decorative material to produce a composite design which embodies design features of both said decorative material and the pigmented areas of said protective film.

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