Dec. 16, 1930.

R. W. HARDIE

1,785,028

DIVIDING STRIP

Filed April 17, 1930

Fig. 1

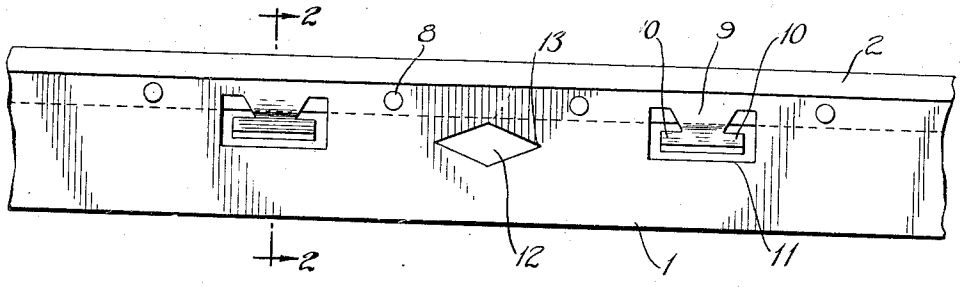
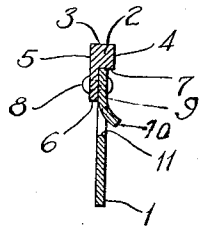



Fig. 2




INVENTOR.

Robert W. Hardie

Patented Dec. 16, 1930 1,785,028

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ROBERT W. HARDIE, OF FANWOOD, NEW JERSEY

## DIVIDING STRIP

Application filed April 17, 1930. Serial No. 445,025.

The invention has for its main object to provide means for securing a dividing strip in the material forming a flooring, so as to prevent vertical displacement of the strip when in use, and also to prevent lateral displacement of the strip when a crack occurs in a flooring.

It is also one of the objects of the invention to provide means for setting dividing strips exactly in an underbed, so that the upper edge of the strips when set in the underbed will define the level of the surface of the top layer of a flooring.

The foregoing and other objects of the invention are accomplished by the means hereinafter described, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which similar reference numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

It is to be understood, however, that changes, modifications and alterations may be made therein without departing from the invention.

In the drawings, which illustrate the invention in its preferred form—

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a dividing strip embodying the invention, and

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross section taken on the line 2—2 of the strip shown in Fig. 1.

As illustrated in the drawings, the invention comprises a base strip 1, and a top strip 2. The base strip consists of a thin strip of brass or other metal having similar capabilities, and is provided with parallel upper and lower longitudinal edges.

The top strip 2 may be made any thickness desired independently of the thickness of the base strip 1, and is of special importance in enabling strips of unnecessary thickness for dividing purposes to be dispensed with, and the cost of producing the strips reduced thereby.

The upper surface 3 of the top strip is designed to lie in the plane of the finished surface of a flooring, and the strip may be readily bent to form patterns and designs in the flooring.

The top strip 2 has substantially flat parallel sides 4 and 5; the side 5 being extended downward at its lower portion to form a marginal reenforcing flange 6 extending below the bottom 7 of the body of the top strip and greater in width than the vertical thickness of the top strip, as shown in Fig. 2.

The bottom 7 of the top strip is preferably of a width greater than one half the width of the upper surface 3 of the top strip, and the flange 6 is preferably of a thickness less than one half the width of the upper surface of the top strip.

The width of the bottom surface 7 of the top strip enables the top strip to be used with base strips of various thickness when desired, thereby reducing the cost of construction of the strip.

The inner surface of the flange 6 is flat, and when applied to the base strip 1 bears evenly against one side of the upper margin of the base strip, and is secured to the base strip by means of studs or rivets 8 or other similar means, as shown in Fig. 2, with the upper edge of the base strip preferably bearing against the bottom 7 of the body of the top strip and with the side 4 of the top strip extending beyond one side of the base strip 1 if so desired.

The flange 6 reinforces the upper portion of the base strip, thereby enabling base strips of the narrowest gauge possible to be used, and also enabling strips of less expensive metal to be used in place of brass, such as zinc, that would not otherwise be strong and firm enough to be satisfactorily used for the purpose described herein.

The strip is provided with anchor segment 9 inclined transversely of the body of the strip from base lines located between one of the outer longitudinal edges and the central longitudinal line of the strip, and provided with ends 10 offset horizontally from the body of the segments.

By cutting and pressing the anchor segments outwardly from the body of the base strip, an inner longitudinal edge 11 is provided which of itself constitutes an anchor element.

Dividing strips of the class herein described are applied to the underbed of a terrazzo flooring before the material forming the underbed has firmly set.

The lower edge of the strips is pressed into the underbed until the portion of the strip remaining above the surface of the underbed equals the thickness desired for the top layer.

After the underbed has sufficiently set, the material forming the top layer is applied in a semi-liquid condition to the upper surface of the underbed, and that material flows into the openings in the base strip made by cutting and pressing out the anchor segments, and covers the longitudinal inner edge 11.

When the top layer is hardened and ground and in use, the inner edge 11 and the anchor segments hold the strips firmly in place and prevent vertical displacement of the strip.

One of the functions of dividing strips used in terrazzo floorings is to localize cracks when they occur and cause the cracks to form along the side of the strips as the path of least resistance.

While cracks generally form along the side of the strips the same crack will often form partly on one side and partly on the other side of a strip, and a torsional strain is exerted on the strips and the strips become distorted at their upper edge and present a very objectionable appearance.

The anchor segments shown and described herein prevent such undesirable results.

They not only prevent vertical displacement of the strip, but also lateral displacement by means of the offset ends 10 which bind the strip laterally against the side of the section of the flooring in which they are embedded, and prevent the upper edge of the strip from becoming bent laterally or distorted.

Dividing strips of the class described are generally inserted in an underbed by means of long setting bars having a slit or groove that receives the upper edge of the strip.

The setting bars have one side or a gauge that is designed to come in contact with the upper surface of the underbed and limit the penetration of the lower portion of the strip in the underbed, and leave above the surface of the underbed a portion of the strip equal in width to the thickness desired for the top layer.

In laying terrazzo floorings short pieces are required to be used as cross pieces, too small to be conveniently set by the long gauges which in such cases are frequently discarded by the workmen and the strips inaccurately set.

Long strips are also frequently set by the workmen in that manner.

In order to enable dividing strips to be accurately set without the use of a setting bar, sight gauges are provided in the strip shown herein, consisting in cutting out portions of the material of the strip as shown by the opening 12 of Fig. 1 of the drawings, having inclined edges meeting at a point 13 which is arranged on a line at a distance from the upper edge of the strip corresponding with the desired thickness of the top layer. The lower half of the strip is pressed or tamped into the underbed until the points 13 of the sight gauge register with the upper surface of the underbed.

In the construction shown herein the anchor segments are arranged as single elements, and only on the upper half of the strip.

The anchor segments may also be formed on the lower half of the strip or on both the upper half and the lower half if so desired.

What I claim is:

1. A dividing strip for use in terrazzo and similar floorings, having a longitudinal series of anchor segments inclined transversely of the body of the strip from bases located between an outer edge and the central longitudinal line of the strip forming an inner retaining edge opposite the free ends of the anchor segments and provided with ends offset laterally from the body of the segments.

2. A dividing strip for terrazzo and similar floorings having parts cut away from the body of the strip to form openings having a longitudinally extending retaining edge and anchor segments within the boundary of the openings inclined transversely of the body of the strip from bases located between an outer edge and the central longitudinal line of the strip, and provided with ends offset laterally from the body of the segments.

ROBERT W. HARDIE.