S. H. Pearce,

Mosaic Floor Covering.

No. 91,364. Patented June 15, 1869

Fig. 1.

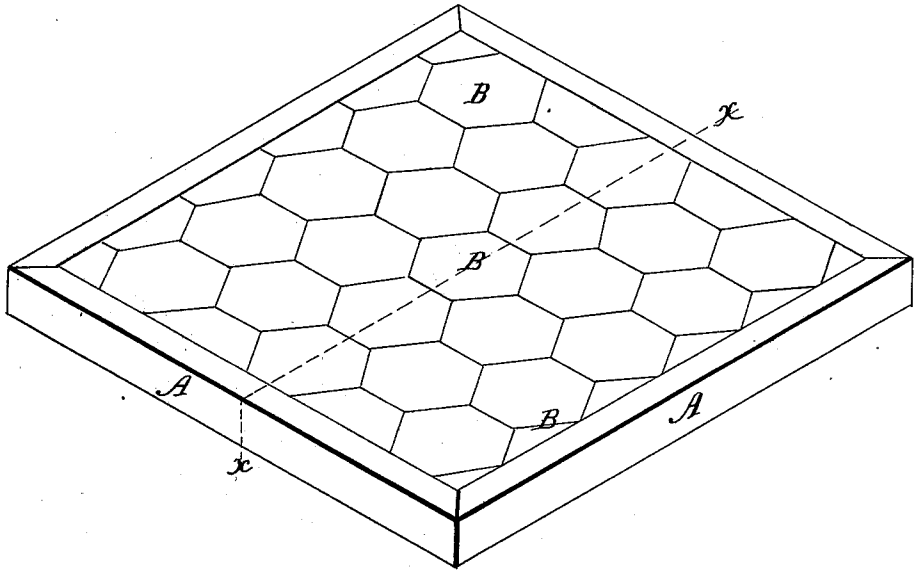


Fig. 2.

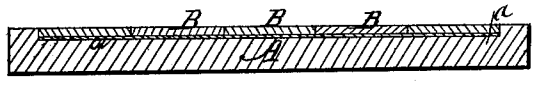


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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SHADRACH H. PEARCE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Letters Patent No. 91,364, *dated June* 15, 1869.

IMPROVED MOSAIC COVERING FOR FLOORS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SHADRACH H. PEARCE, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Mosaic Coverings for Floors, &c., of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved mosaic covering applied to a floor.

Figure 2 is a section on the line *x x* of fig. 1.

Figure 3, a perspective view of one of the pieces or sections of which my improved mosaic covering is composed.

Mosaic floors have heretofore been composed of sectional blocks, or tiles of clay, stone, glass, or wood, of various sizes, forms, and colors, laid in hydraulic cement, or otherwise, to produce the pattern desired.

A mosaic floor thus formed, especially when laid upon wooden foundations, is objectionable, for the following reasons, viz:

It is inelastic, and does not yield to the expansion and contraction of the wooden foundation caused by atmospheric dryness or moisture; considerable noise proceeds therefrom when walked upon, and the materials of which it is composed are cold to the feet, being poor conductors and retainers of heat, and much skill is required in their construction, which is attended with considerable expense.

Oil-cloth, or canvas carpetings, upon which designs are painted, are also objectionable, on account of their inelasticity and harshness, which cause much noise when walked upon, their incapacity for imparting warmth to the feet, and chiefly because the painted designs are easily defaced by wear, and the texture or cloth destroyed when the painted enamel is worn off.

To remedy the above-mentioned objections and defects, and to furnish a mosaic covering, warm to the feet, and adapted to any, and especially to wooden floors in lieu of carpeting, is the purpose of my invention, which consists in a series of elastic sections, blocks, or tiles of various sizes, forms, and colors, composed of India rubber, gutta-percha, felt, or compounds of these, or any other suitable elastic materials, each block or section bearing its respective color or colors throughout its entire substance, in contradistinction to one having its surface only colored, by which construction I am enabled, with or without the use of cement, to furnish a warm, noiseless, elastic mosaic covering for floors, &c., the design of which, formed by the various colors, is comparatively imperishable, and will remain permanently undefaced by use, and is easily repaired, by replacing with new any injured sections, its cost being less than that of an ordinary mosaic floor, while, from its elastic nature, it is easily adjusted to inequalities of surface which may exist, or occur from the expansion, contraction, or warping of the groundwork upon which it is intended to be laid.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A represents a wooden flooring, or foundation, ove which is smoothly spread a thin layer of cement, *a*, upon which (snugly fitted together) is placed a series of small hexagonal blocks, or sections, B, composed of India rubber, gutta-percha, felt, or compounds of these or any other suitable elastic materials, each block bearing its respective color throughout its entire thickness or substance, so that when worn from constant use, the original design will remain uneffaced upon the surface of the material covering the floor.

I prefer to employ for this purpose a material known as "kamtulicon," (which is composed of rubber and cork, ground and incorporated together,) on account of its elasticity, durability, and moderate cost.

The blocks, or sections B are cut from strips of the elastic material employed, or they may be moulded in the desired form, the color being incorporated with the material during the process of manufacture.

It is evident that the form, size, and color of the blocks B may be varied, to produce any configuration of design required, and that my improved mosaic covering, besides being used for floors, may also be applied to tables, and other articles where an ornamental and elastic surface is required.

Claim.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A covering for floors, &c., composed of a series of elastic blocks, sections, or tiles, substantially as described.

S. H. PEARCE.

Witnesses:

P. E. TESCHEMACHER,

N. W. STEARNS.