F. W. MOORE.

FLOOR, WALL, OR LIKE COVERING.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 21, 1915.

1,304,083.

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Fig. 1.

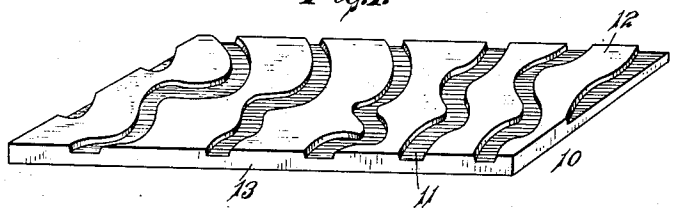


Fig. 2.

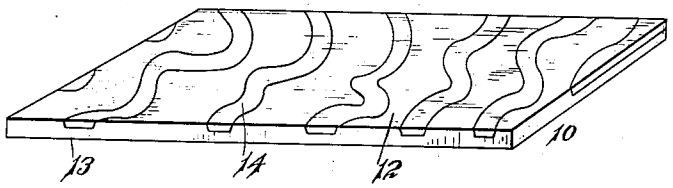


Fig. 3.

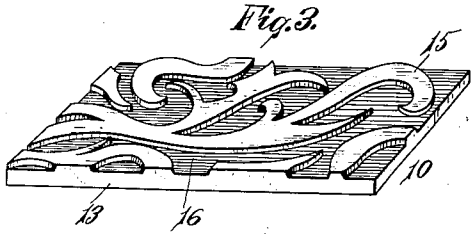


Fig. 4.

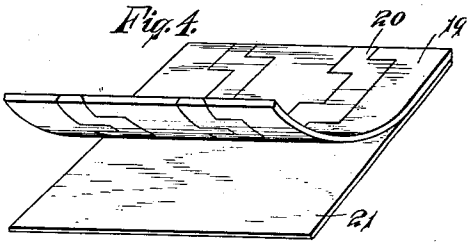


Fig. 5.

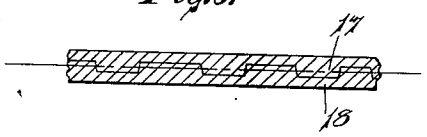
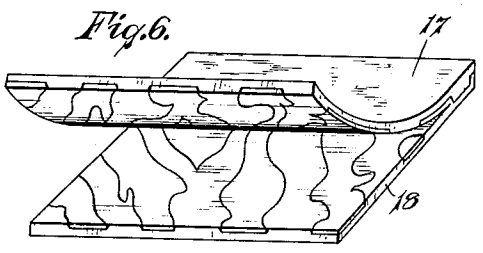


Fig. 6.



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FLOOR, WALL, OR LIKE COVERING.

1,304,083. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 20, 1919.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK W. MOORE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Floor, Wall, or like Coverings, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to floor, wall or like coverings having patterns, figures or similar ornamentations inlaid upon their surfaces, and an object of my invention, among others, is to produce a covering of this character that shall comprise a practically homogeneous sheet of material having the ornamentation displayed in different colors; and a further object of my invention is to so construct such a sheet as to permit of a new order of designs that do not spread one into the other irregularly, and that shall preserve the homogeneous and ornamental characteristics throughout extended wear.

A covering embodying my invention, and in the construction and use of which the objects herein set out, as well as others, may be attained, is illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a sheet of material partially formed to embody my invention.

Fig. 2 is a like view showing the sheet in completed form.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing a somewhat different configuration, with wide depressions.

Fig. 4 is a view similar to the others, but showing ornamentations depicted by inlay appearing on both surfaces of the sheet, one surface of which is supplied with a backing.

Fig. 5 is a view in section through a sheet showing in dotted line the plane of separation to display ornamentation on the surface of both pieces.

Fig. 6 is a view showing the ornamented surface of both pieces of said sheet.

My invention contemplates such treatment and manipulation of sheets of material to comprise floor, wall or like coverings as will produce novel configurations and designs of permanent character, the invention also enabling extremely intricate and fine lined designs to be produced and inlaid in a simple and efficient manner, and without spreading irregularly into one another. My invention is not limited in its application to coverings having any special characteristics, but a clear understanding of its nature and character will appear from the statement that it readily adapts itself to coverings composed of layers or sheets of linoleum, ground cork, pulp and similar material.

In carrying out the idea involving my invention I construct these sheets 10 with depressions or intaglio portions 11 and elevations or portions in relief 12. These depressions and elevations will be made in such shapes and configurations as it shall be desired to have the finished sheet ornamented with, and also in a manner compressed to preserve the original characteristics of the sheet as to density. The portion of the sheet just described I term the foundation portion, in that it receives and supports the filling to be hereinafter described, the other portion of the sheet constituting the base 13, from which the elevations rise and which underlies the depressions, these two portions of the sheet forming an integral, inseparable whole. The sheet having the formation above described may be made in various ways but it is preferably formed by me when in a pliable and flexible condition, such as sheets of linoleum or similar material have at one time in the process of making, it being possible for me to secure better results when the sheets are in this condition.

After a sheet is formed as above described a filling material 14 of contrasting color is placed within the formed depressions to fill them, this material being of such consistency that it will adhere to and form an inseparable part of the original sheet. The materials comprising the original sheet and the filling may have the same, or substantially the same characteristics, so long as they are such as to form an intimate and inseparable combination or union, and it will be understood that the one material will be in such condition when placed together with the other and subsequently compressed to readily and thoroughly unite or amalgamate at the meeting edges without disturbing the outline of the foundation sheet. After the filling has been placed in the depressions the sheet is then, by preference, compressed and the surface is then smoothed off in any suitable manner to clearly and distinctly bring out the configuration or ornamentation on the right side of the sheet, that is, that surface having at a preliminary step in the operation the elevations and depressions.

The invention also contemplates the cut-

ting away or smoothing off of the opposite surface 19 or base of the sheet from that above described and to such an extent as to cut into the filling 20 so that the latter will appear upon this surface of the sheet, and as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings. It will be seen that the filling will thus appear upon both surfaces of the sheet, one of which surfaces will preferably be covered with webbing or burlap 21 or other suitable material, and when the depressions are formed with tapered side walls, as above described, that portion of the filling appearing upon this side 19 of the sheet will be narrower as a consequence than that appearing on the opposite side of the sheet and present wedge-shaped bearings one to the other and advantageous to wear and service.

In some cases, in forming the depressions and elevations, the edges of the elevations are preferably tapered so that they are wider at the bottom to support them under compression, and the filling will consequently be wider at the top of the depressions than at the base of the sheet.

In the sheet illustrated in Fig. 3 of the drawings the foundation comprises elevations of much less area than the depressions, these elevations 15, as shown, representing ridges of irregular shapes and fanciful designs narrower at the top than at the bottom and extended to bound and define the depressions 16.

The invention makes possible a very thin sheet of inlay in large areas, as by depositing a filling 17 upon the surface of a foundation sheet 18 prepared with depressions and firm ridges to maintain the outlines of the depressions in ornamental or structural design. The whole of said surface can be covered and the sheet then calendered to spread the filler into a layer of a density to cover the surface of the ridges or elevations as well as fill in the depressions. The sheet can then be split and a thin veneer of inlay will be brought out on one surface of both of the pieces of the same character and of the same predetermined design as appeared upon the original sheet and as shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

While I have shown and described my invention herein as embodied in a sheet of material of a construction that produces satisfactory results, this may be departed from to a greater or lesser degree and yet be within the spirit and intent of the invention, and the latter is therefore not limited to a sheet constructed exactly as herein shown and described.

I claim—

1. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of resilient consistency having depressions extending partially through the sheet and formed by the removal of portions of the substance of said sheet without materially changing the density of the other portions of the sheet, said removed portions being replaced by substance of a contrasting color and of substantially the same resiliency and consistency intimately and inseparably united therewith, the configurations of said filling being determined by the shape and outline of the ridges of the foundation sheet and the depth of the depressions.

2. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of resilient consistency having a foundation construction of raised and intaglio formation in design supported by a level base, the latter comprising a single piece of material, having an unbroken surface, and the whole being of substantially uniform density; and a filling of different characteristics but of substantially the same density filling the intaglio formation and inseparably bound to and united with the raised portions of the foundation on the base.

3. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of resilient consistency and of substantially uniform density throughout including a bottom that presents an unbroken surface, said sheet comprising raised formations and intaglio formations, the walls of the intaglio formations being bounded by the raised formations and the latter being in a design of a different thickness from the intaglio formations to render said formations distinguishable one from the other and to sustain the configuration when subjected to pressure.

4. A compressed sheet or layer of material of resilient consistency and of substantially uniform density, having elevations and depressions, the former being narrower at the top than at the base, a level base formed integral with the raised formations and joining them at the bottom thereof, and a filling placed in said depressions and inseparably united to the walls thereof, said filling being of different characteristics from the elevations to form a distinguishable design on one surface of the sheet.

5. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of one solid substantially uniform density and consistency and including an unbroken base having raised portions to form a design of a different material thickness from the base, said raised portions forming depressions of configurative shape in design and constituting the thin portions of said sheet, the thin and thick portions being of substantially the same density to retain the configuration of the respective portions under pressure and wear.

6. A sheet or layer formed of material of substantially uniform density cut away at the surface and comprising a foundation consisting of elevations and depressions, the latter having walls tapering to a narrower dimension at the bottom, and a compressed filling of a contrasting color in said depressions inseparably bound and united to it, said filling being cut-away to level it

with the surface of the ridges and bring out the designs formed thereby.

7. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of substantially uniform density cut away at the surface and comprising a foundation having an unbroken bottom and consisting of elevations and depressions, and a compressed filling of substantially the same density as that of said sheet and of a contrasting color or substance in said depressions inseparably bound and united to it, said filling being cut away to level it with the surface of said ridges and bring out the design formed in the foundation sheet defined in regular and predetermined outline from the filling.

8. A sheet or layer of material of resilient consistency having depressions formed to a substantial depth therein, said depressions having tapered walls making the depressions wider at one part than at another, and a substance of a contrasting color of substantially the same consistency inseparably united with said sheet, said sheet and filling being cut away to provide a smooth surface.

9. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of resilient consistency and comprising a bottom of smooth, unbroken surface and an upper surface having depressions formed therein with the under portion of the sheet including the parts between said depressions and those underlying the depressions having substantially the same density, and a filling material located in said depressions and of substantially the same density as that portion of the sheet on the sides of the depressions.

10. A sheet or layer formed of plastic material of resilient consistency and comprising a bottom of smooth, unbroken surface and an upper surface having depressions, the entire body of the sheet including the portions between and also portions underlying said depressions being of substantially uniform density, and a material filled in said deprssions to level the sheets and of substantially the same uniform density as said sheet, the whole being compressed to produce a homogeneous sheet of substantially uniform density throughout its entire body.

FREDERICK W. MOORE.