June 2, 1936. A. J. CARTER 2,042,503

TUFTED RUG

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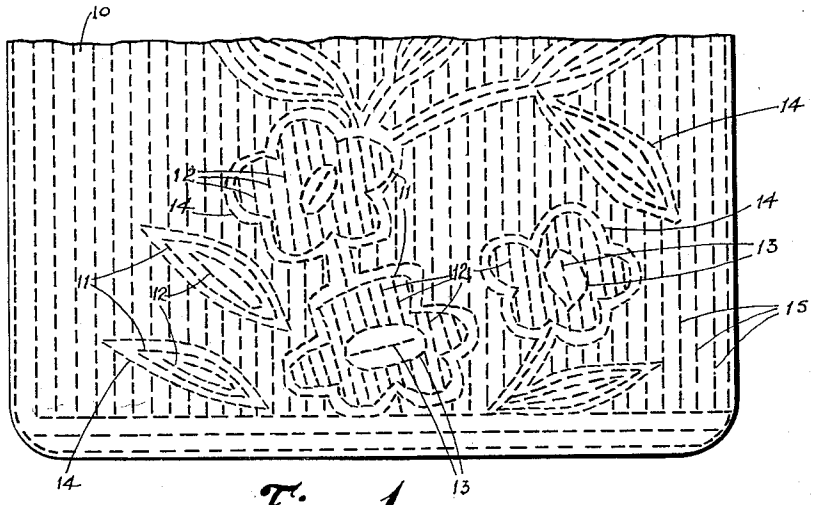


Fig. 1.

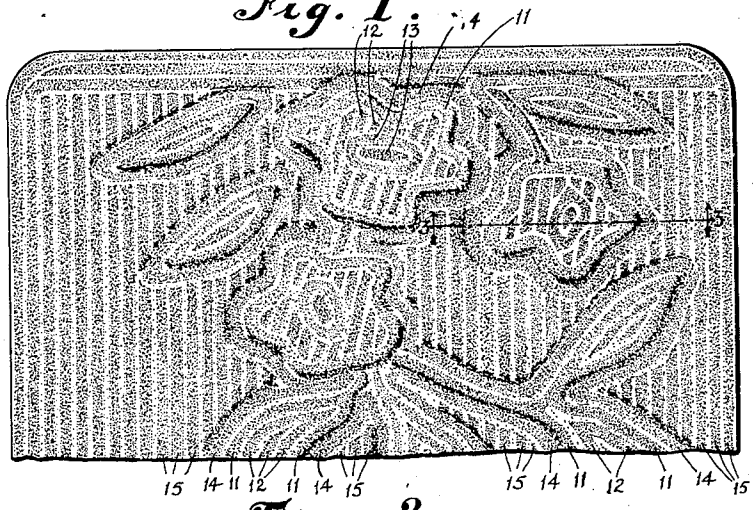


Fig. 2.

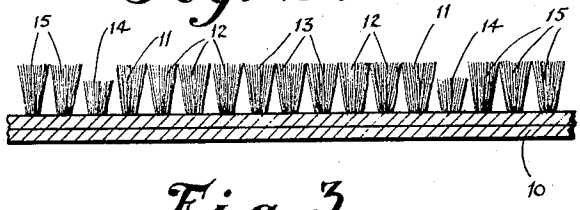


Fig. 3.

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TUFTED RUG

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5 Claims. (Cl. 2—278)

This invention relates to a tufted article of the type described in the Carter Patent No. 1,485,213 and the Carter et al. Patent No. 1,936,347, and more particularly to an improvement in the construction of such an article having a design on its surface.

In the construction of such an article, it has been the practice to sew the tufts along the outline of the design and to fill in the design with a suitable color. The background was then tufted in rows with a yarn of contrasting color, each row ending a short distance from the outline of the design. With such a construction, however, the line between the background and the design was not clear cut and the design would appear to run into the background.

It is an object of the present invention to avoid this difficulty and to provide an improved construction of such an article, and a method for producing the same, whereby the design may be set off more clearly and distinctly. It is also an object to provide an article in which the design will cast a shadow and stand out from the background in relief. Other objects will become apparent.

The invention will be described as applied to the manufacture of a rug although it is not intended to thereby limit it to such an article since it may also be applied to other articles of a similar type. For example, to bath mats, stool and lid covers, bedspreads, etc.

In describing the invention reference will be made to the drawing in which Figure 1 is a fractional plan view of the back of a portion of a rug embodying the invention. Figure 2 is a fractional plan view of the front of the portion of the rug shown in Figure 1. Figure 3 is an enlarged vertical section taken on the line 3—3 of Figure 2.

In the drawing the numeral 10 designates the backing of the rug which may be of one or more layers of closely woven material. Rows of stitches (not shown) for reinforcing the edge of the rug may be applied around the edge of the backing as well as rows of stitching extending inwardly from the corners of the backing to assist in preventing buckling and curling of the corners of the rug, and rows of stitching through the center of the backing, all as more clearly described in the above mentioned Patent No. 1,936,347.

The design is then applied by sewing tufts of relatively coarse yarn through the backing material 10, as described in the above mentioned Carter patent. These tufts may include a row 11 of tufts which defines the outline of the design and rows of tufts 12 of the same color which fill in the outline. If desired an inner portion of the design may be made in a different color or shade as illustrated at 13.

The background for the design is then applied by sewing a row 14 of tufts of a contrasting color around the outline of the design and filling in the remaining surface of the backing with rows 15 of tufts of the same color.

The tufts 14 are preferably of shorter length than the tufts of the design or of the background and may be produced by changing the dimensions of the looper and other parts of the loop forming and cutting mechanism to provide shorter tufts.

With such a construction the outline of the design and the outline of the background are clearly defined. The row of short tufts between the design and the background permits the design to cast a shadow and sets it off in relief so that it appears more natural and gives the appearance of depth to the surface of the rug, the design appearing to stand out above the background.

If the tufts forming the background are sewn first and the tufts of the design are sewn afterwards and in such a manner that a portion of the piling is positioned between the backing and the work rest, the tufts of the design will be a little longer than those of the background and the design will stand out more clearly. Since the needle goes a definite distance beyond the work rest, the slight raising of the backing material by the piling between the backing and the work rest will result in this lengthening of the tufts so sewn.

It is apparent that many modifications of the invention and its application to different designs may be made. For example, the outline for the design (11) may be of tufts shorter than the tufts of the design and the background or the row of tufts of the background next to the outline for the design (14) may be shorter than the tufts of the design and the tufts of the background may gradually increase in length in the first few rows away from the design to the length of the tufts of the design. The tufts referred to above may be made up of cut or uncut loops or of combinations of cut and uncut loops.

The terms used in describing the invention have been used as terms of description and not as terms of limitation and it is intended that all equivalents thereof be considered within the scope of the appended claims. In using the term "strand portion of the tufts" in the appended claims reference is made to the portion of the tuft stitch ap-

pearing on the back of the rug, as illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawing.

I claim:

1. A tufted article having tufts of varying colors sewn through a backing material to form a design, comprising a group of tufts forming a portion of the design, a row of tufts of the same color as the said group of tufts and having the strand portion of each consecutive tuft of said row aligned to form an outline for said portion of the design, a second row of tufts of a color different from that of the first mentioned row of tufts and having the strand portion of each consecutive tuft aligned to form a line substantially paralleling the first mentioned row of tufts and additional tufts of the same color as the tufts of said second row forming an adjacent portion of said design, said additional tufts being in rows extending in directions to intersect said second row of tufts.

2. A tufted article as defined in claim 1 in which the tufts of one of said rows of tufts are shorter than the tufts of the said two adjacent portions of the design.

3. A method of producing a tufted article having tufts of varying colors sewn through a backing material to form a design, comprising sewing a group of tufts through the backing material to form a portion of the design, sewing a row of tufts of a different color from the said group of tufts to follow the outline of said portion of the design, and then sewing tufts of the same color as said row of tufts in rows extending in directions to intersect said row of tufts and forming an adjacent portion of said design.

4. A method of producing a tufted article having tufts of varying colors sewn through a backing material to form a design, comprising sewing a group of tufts through the backing material to form a portion of the design, sewing a row of tufts of the same color as the said group of tufts to form an outline for the said portion of the design, sewing a second row of tufts of a different color from the tufts of said portion of the design and substantially paralleling the tufts of said first row of tufts and then sewing tufts of the same color as said second row of tufts in rows extending in directions to intersect said second row of tufts and forming an adjacent portion of said design.

5. A method of producing a tufted article having tufts of varying colors sewn through a backing material to form a design, comprising sewing a row of tufts to form the outline for a portion of the design, sewing a second row of tufts of a different color and substantially paralleling said first mentioned row of tufts, sewing rows of tufts of the color of said first mentioned row of tufts to fill in the portion of the design outlined thereby and sewing rows of tufts of the color of said second mentioned row of tufts to fill in the adjacent portion of the design.

AUGUST J. CARTER.