

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADOLPH WILCKE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

PROCESS OF ORNAMENTING WOOD SURFACES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 566,046, dated August 18, 1896.

Application filed June 9, 1896. Serial No. 594,879. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ADOLPH WILCKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Processes of Ornamenting Finished Wood Surfaces; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to a novel process of ornamenting finished wood surfaces, the object being to provide a means for ornamenting the surface of a piece of wood after it has been completely finished in imitation of inlaid work; and it consists in the various steps hereinafter described and claimed.

Heretofore it has been the custom to ornament the panels of a piano or other fine furniture by engraving, inlaying, carving, or scroll-sawing. This class of work is very expensive and tedious, and when such design is cut in bas-relief the background cannot be smoothly and evenly finished, owing to the difficulty in obtaining a perfectly smooth wood surface where the same is cut away.

My process consists in first producing a stencil in thin sheet metal, in which the design, which it is desired shall appear upon the surface of the wood, remains, so that when laid upon the finished surface of the wood the design in the stencil will cover the surface which is to remain in relief in the panel. This stencil is covered upon its inner face with sticky substance, such as shoemakers' wax or the like, which will never dry, but has sufficient adhesiveness to hold the stencil firmly to the wood. The whole surface of the stencil must be evenly and completely covered with such non-drying adhesive substance, and is then applied to the finished surface of the panel under pressure. In this manner no free space is left between the stencil and the surface underneath the same. An acid mixture, which will eat away the varnish, is then applied to

the entire surface of the panel, thus eating away the portions unprotected by the stencil. The adhesive substance between the panel and the stencil prevents any of the acid mixture from reaching the finished surface underneath the stencil, thus insuring a clear-cut design corresponding exactly with the stencil. The acid mixture eats away the varnish to the surface of the wood, upon which it has no effect, and as the surface of the wood is perfectly smooth before varnish is applied, a perfectly smooth background for the design is assured. This background is thoroughly cleaned and coloring-matter applied thereto according to the background desired for the design. When this coloring-matter is perfectly dry, the stencil is removed. Any adhesive substance clinging to the surface of the panel is then carefully removed without injury to the high polish thereof. In this manner I am enabled to obtain a very beautiful and clear-cut design at smaller expense than the most ordinary hand-cut design can now be produced, and am also enabled to make any number of exact duplicates. My process is designed, of course, for reproducing a certain design upon a large number of surfaces.

I claim as my invention—

The process of ornamenting finished wood surfaces, which consists in first applying a stencil to such surface by means of a non-drying adhesive substance, applying an acid mixture to the portions of the surface unprotected by the stencil, cleaning such unprotected portion of the surface, applying coloring-matter thereto and then removing the stencil and the adhesive substance from the remaining finished surface of the wood.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ADOLPH WILCKE.

Witnesses:

RUDOLPH WM. LOTZ,
WM. B. SNOWHOOK.