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MAT, MATTING, AND COVERING

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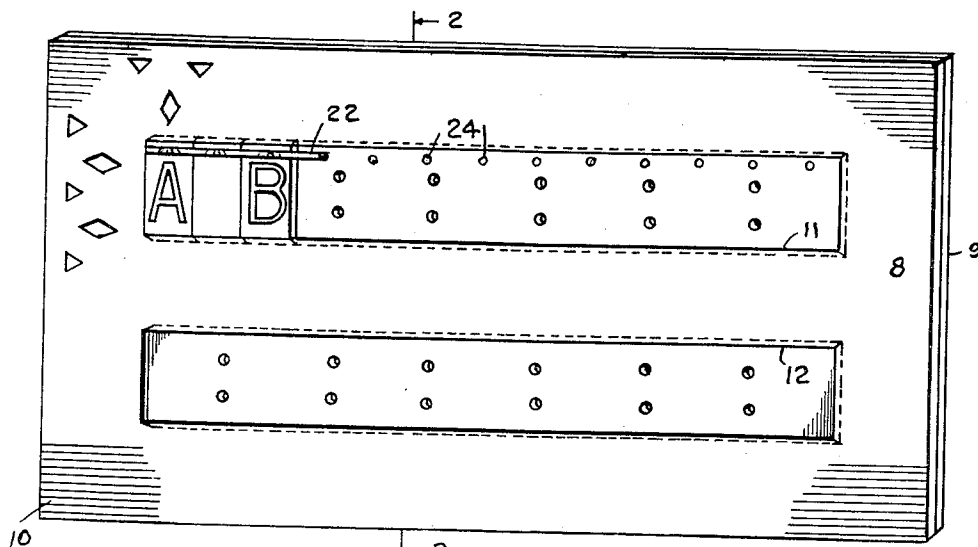


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

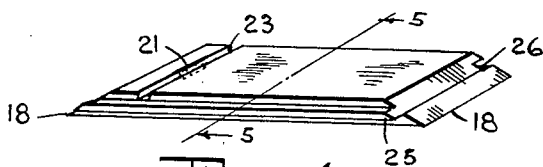


Fig. 4

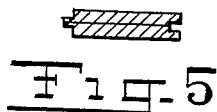


Fig. 5



Fig. 7

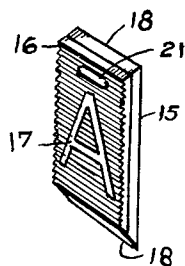


Fig. 3

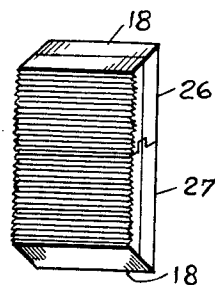


Fig. 6

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MAT, MATTING, AND COVERING

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11 Claims. (Cl. 40—140)

My invention relates to improvements in mat-
ting or floor covering, and is especially adapted
for use in lobbies of theatres, and for use on the
side-walk beneath the canopy in front of the
theatre entrance. The invention has for its pri-
mary object a suitable form of mat in which let-
ters and designs may be removably secured and
interchangeable, such as for advertising purposes,
announcement of different shows, pictures, hotel
data, etc.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, Fig. 1
illustrates in perspective, parts being broken
away, a suitable form of mat embodying an ap-
plication of my invention. Fig. 2 is a cross section
on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a perspective
view of interchangeable letter, such as might be
used in a mat similar to that shown in Fig. 1.
Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modified form of
letter for design. Fig. 5 is a cross section on the
line 5—5 of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 illustrates another
modified form of unit, letter or design, and Fig. 7
illustrates a suitable form of lock bar in perspec-
tive, part broken away, for holding the letters in
position after being arranged in the mat.

The mat is preferably a multiple mat, that is
to say it is preferably formed of several thick-
nesses, such as upper portion 8 and the lower
portion 9, said portions being vulcanized together
in the usual manner, the upper portion may also
be corrugated, as indicated at 10, and is prefer-
ably provided with openings therethrough, as
indicated at 11 and 12. These openings, instead
of being straight walled where cut, are beveled,
being wider at the bottom than at the top, as
indicated in Fig. 2 at 11' and 12', and the lower
layer 9 of the mat is preferably perforated, as
indicated at 13 and 14 to allow for the escape of
water, melting snow or the like, especially where
the mat is used out-doors. The letters or designs
are also preferably laminated or double ply and
comprising a lower portion 15 and upper portion
16 as shown, the upper portion 16 being prefer-
ably corrugated to correspond with the corruga-
tions in the upper portion 8 of the body portion
of the mat. Suitable letters, such as 17, or other
characters or designs, are formed in the upper
portion 16. This may consist of suitably molded
or cut-out letters of rubber, or other suitable ma-
terial, which may be vulcanized into the upper
portion 16 of the unit, or otherwise suitably se-
cured therein, and the units and the mat as a
whole may be of rubber, though, of course, it
will be readily understood that various other suit-
able materials, such as compositions, may be em-
ployed. The inlaid letters or designs 17 are, of

course, preferably of a color contrasting with the
upper portion 16 of the mat, such as white rubber
letters vulcanized into a substantially black cor-
rugated upper portion 16, the upper portion 16
corresponding in color with the upper portion 8
of the mat.

The top and bottom portions of the unit, such
as shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 6, is preferably beveled,
as indicated at 18, so as to engage the beveled
upper and lower portions 11, 12 of the cut-outs
in the upper portion 8 of the mat. The mat as a
whole may be counter sunk and framed in the
side-walk to the main flush therewith, or may
be so arranged in the corridor of the theatre,
hotel, or other places where used, or it may be
laid down on the surface or floor, much the same
as any other mat, in which latter case, the mar-
gin of the entire mat would, of course, preferably
be beveled to prevent possible stubbing of the
toe when coming in contact with the edge thereof.
In order to insert the letters, or other characters,
into the face of the mat, the top and bottom por-
tions are pressed between the thumb and fore-
finger, curving the unit with a letter outward,
thereby reducing the length of the same so that
the beveled ends 18 thereof may be readily in-
serted between the upper and lower portions of
the cut-outs 11, 12, the letters being pushed right
or left so as to form, when arranged, proper
words, sentences, numbers, designs or desirable
combinations thereof. As an additional precau-
tionary measure for holding the letters down in
position as aforesaid, a suitable lock bar 19, such
as shown in Fig. 7, may be employed and from
the under side of said bar suitable pins or studs,
such as 20, may project to engage opposite sides
of the elongated hole 21, preferably formed in
each unit. This lock bar 19, of course, preferably
seats into the face of the mat and units so as to
remain flush therewith, and if desired, a half
rounded form of bar, such as 22, may be em-
ployed, the cut-out face of a unit being indicated
at 23 in Fig. 4 showing the manner in which the
same is maintained flush with the mat and units.
The studs or pins 20 also preferably pass not only
through the units or letters but down through the
holes 24, through the base portion 9 of the mat,
and if desired, any suitable form of locking or re-
taining means may be employed, or the same may
be held merely by frictional engagement, making
the holes and pins of such relative size that some
pressure is required to insert the pins within the
holes so that they will not readily come away.
When it is desired to change the lettering or de-
sign of the mat, the lock bars, such as 19, 22 are,

of course, first preferably removed after which, by slightly rolling or curving the mat on a transverse axis looking at Fig. 1, the letters will readily be released therefrom as a whole, or, if only certain letters are to be removed, the hand holes, such as 21, readily permit the curving of the individual units upon longitudinal axis, thereby releasing the same from the body of the mat.

10 In the modification shown in Fig. 4, it will be noted that tongued and grooved sides 25, 26 are provided for additionally interlocking the letters and mat, and when this arrangement is used, it may be found convenient to first interlock a complete line of letters, thereafter curving the same as a line transversely allowing the free top or bottom of the line to be introduced into the opening in the mat. In the modification shown in Fig. 6 a so-called double decked unit is illustrated, the upper portion 26' being grooved at the bottom to receive the tongue at the upper portion of the lower part 27', thus provision may be made for an upper and lower character or design in the same line of letters or figures, such as where a fraction might be indicated, or quotation marks, or the like. In fact, various modifications may be made in the construction and arrangement of parts without departing from the spirit of the invention as claimed.

30. I claim:

1. In a mat of the class described, a flexible body, a channel formed in said body having bevelled walls, and a series of flexible blocks adapted to be disposed in said channel and having bevelled end walls adapted to be interlocked with the walls of the channel.

2. In a mat of the class described, a flexible body, a channel formed in said body, and flexible blocks disposed in said channel, the cooperating walls of said channel and said blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with said body.

3. In a mat of the class described, a flexible body, a channel formed in said body, and flexible blocks disposed in said channel, the cooperating walls of said channel and said blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with said body, the remaining walls of said blocks being so formed as to cause adjacent blocks to be interlocked with one another.

4. In a mat of the class described, a flexible base section and a separate flexible superposed section secured thereto, said superposed section having openings into which characters may be removably secured, characters adapted to be secured therein, and means for interlocking said characters within said sections.

5. In a mat of the class described, a flexible base section and a separate flexible superposed section secured thereto, said superposed section having openings into which characters may be removably secured, characters adapted to be secured therein, and means for interlocking said characters within said sections, said last mentioned means comprising bevels at the opposite ends of said characters and undercuts at

the opposite ends of said openings conforming to said bevels.

6. In a flexible mat of the class described, a flexible base section and a flexible superposed section secured thereto, said superposed section having a channel, blocks embodying characters adapted to be disposed in said channel, said channel and blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with said superposed section when the same are disposed in said channel.

7. In a flexible mat of the class described, a flexible base section and a flexible superposed section secured thereto, said superposed section having a channel, blocks embodying characters adapted to be disposed in said channel, said channel and blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with said superposed section when the same are disposed in said channel, said blocks being so formed as to cause adjacent blocks to be interlocked with one another.

8. In a flexible mat of the class described, a flexible base section and a flexible superposed section secured thereto, said superposed section having a channel, flexible blocks embodying characters adapted to be disposed in said channel, said channel and blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with said superposed section when the same are disposed in said channel, said blocks being so formed as to cause adjacent blocks to be interlocked with one another.

9. In a mat of the class described, a body, a channel formed in said body, blocks adapted to be disposed in said channel, either the body or the blocks being plastic whereby to permit insertion of the blocks within the channel, the cooperating walls of said channel and blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with the body upon insertion of the blocks in the channel.

10. In a mat of the class described, a body, a channel formed in said body, blocks adapted to be disposed in said channel, either the body or the blocks being plastic whereby to permit insertion of the blocks within the channel, the cooperating walls of said channel and blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with the body upon insertion of the blocks in the channel, the remaining walls of said blocks being so formed as to cause adjacent blocks to be interlocked with one another.

11. In a mat of the class described, a body, a channel formed in said body, blocks adapted to be disposed in said channel, either the body or the blocks being plastic whereby to permit insertion of the blocks within the channel, the cooperating walls of said channel and blocks being so formed as to cause the blocks to be interlocked with the body upon insertion of the blocks in the channel, the remaining walls of said blocks being so formed as to cause adjacent blocks to be interlocked with one another, and means for additionally fixing the blocks to the body when the same are disposed in the channel.

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