April 14, 1931. H. R. PECK 1,801,020

DECORATIVE FLOOR COVERING

Filed Feb. 1, 1930

FIG. 2.

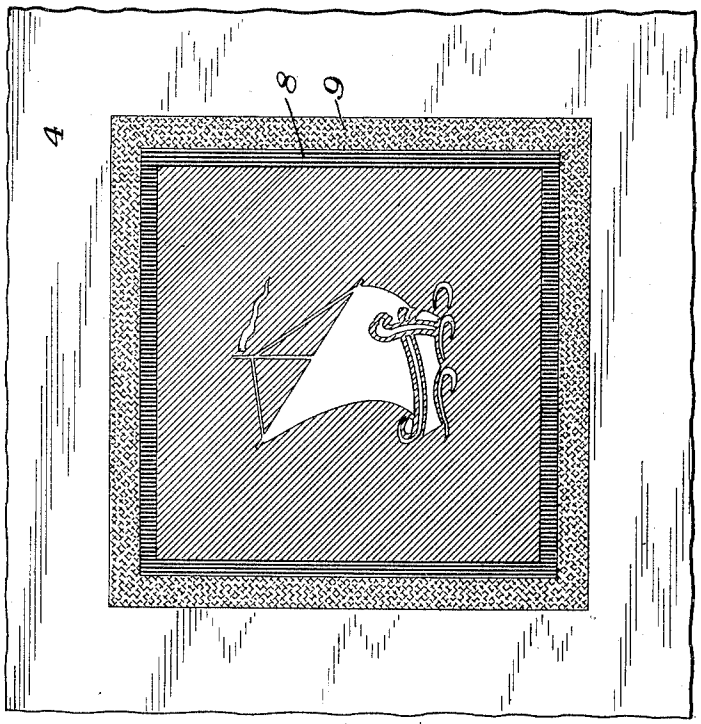


FIG. 1.

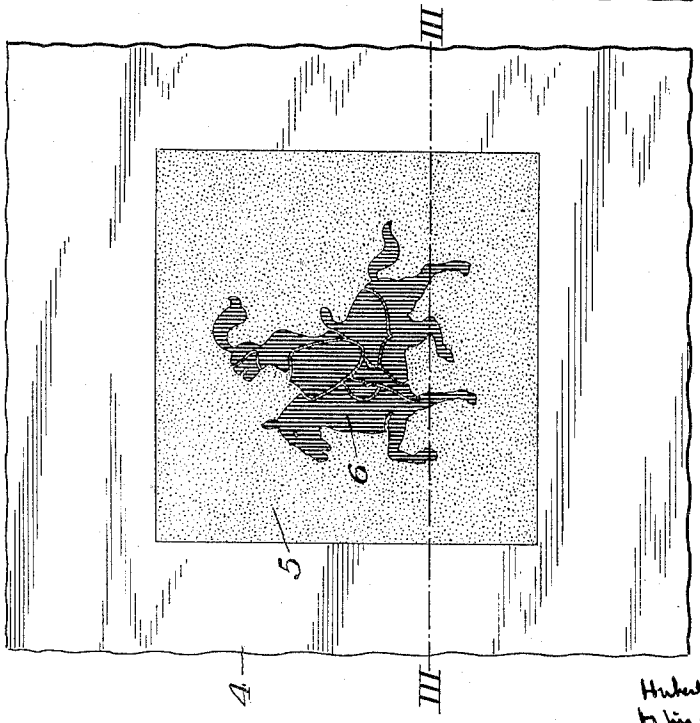
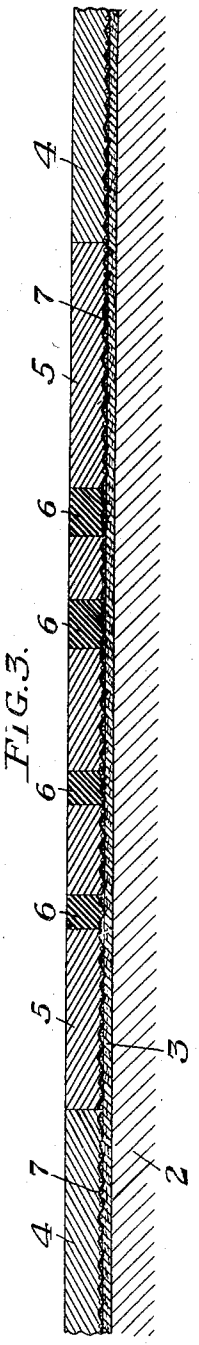


FIG. 3.



INVENTOR

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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DECORATIVE FLOOR COVERING

Application filed February 1, 1930. Serial No. 425,318.

This invention relates to decorative floor coverings and by its use unique and highly desirable effects may be obtained without any loss or diminution of quality from the standpoint of life and ability to withstand the effects of wear and washing.

The invention has particular value in installations wherein the principal floor covering is of linoleum or the like secured to the base. Various types of linoleum are on the market and many designs are incorporated therein. Unfortunately, however, existing processes of manufacture are such that any design must repeat at relatively short intervals, and where special figures are desired, these must ordinarily repeat at such intervals. Obviously, this makes it impossible to incorporate in standard linoleum pattern figures of sufficient size to have a commanding appearance in the floor, since figures of such size, if repeated at the intervals imposed by the limitations of manufacturing processes now in use, would ordinarily destroy the effect which it is desired to obtain.

There are many installations where it is desirable to insert one or more special design figures, but this has been heretofore impossible. While it is common practice for linoleum layers to cut and patch linoleum in laying, or to lay different colors side by side, as, for example, a main pattern and a border, such practice has required only the simplest kind of cutting and is obviously not applicable if complex designs are desired. By complex designs I mean designs embodying curved lines, re-entrant angles, or features not encountered in common geometrical configurations such as squares, rectangles, or circles. It is important from the standpoint of appearance that the inset figure shall fit exactly in the space prepared for it, and it is also highly important because of the fact that dirt or water tends to get into any cracks in the floor and loosen the linoleum from the base. This tendency is particularly bad where strong soaps are employed, and if the design is of a complex character, requiring the use of relatively small design elements, the danger of these small elements becoming displaced is particularly marked.

I have found that all of these difficulties can be overcome and a highly desirable decorative floor may be obtained by providing an opening in the principal floor covering of a common geometrical configuration, and placing within this opening a separate inset piece of linoleum or the like, which inset piece is perforated in a complex decorative pattern and has its perforations filled with a decorative element or elements of linoleum or the like. Such decorative element will preferably be in a color other than the color of the inset piece and will be so manufactured as to closely fit in the perforation.

In practice I have successfully made the inset and its decorative element by placing two sheets of linoleum, one on top of the other, one piece being of the desired color for the inset piece, and the other being of the desired color for the decorative element, and simultaneously punching out of the two pieces a shape corresponding to the complex decorative pattern. The decorative element thus formed is set into the correspondingly formed perforation and they fit so closely that it is unnecessary to secure them together in any way, as they form a very close joint, and, as shown in practice, will adhere indefinitely to the base floor without any tendency to come loose under the action of traffic or of cleaning if properly laid.

In the manufacturing process, savings may be effected by having both of the pieces which are punched of a size corresponding to a desired inset piece. For example, it may be desired to have an inset piece of black linoleum with a gray decorative element therein. By the above described process this will be formed by simultaneously punching a gray sheet and a black sheet. If both pieces are of the same size, the punched out portion of the black sheet may be placed in the opening formed in the gray sheet, thus giving an identical design but forming an inset gray piece with a black complex design therein.

If desired, the inset piece may be of the same color as the surrounding principal floor covering. Since the only problem of the layer is to form an opening in the principal

floor covering corresponding to a common geometrical configuration and without reentrant angles, he is able to readily fit the inset piece in position and obtain close fitting all around, a result not obtainable if he were to attempt to cut an opening complex in character. In some cases it will be desirable to place a decorative strip or strips of another color or colors around the inset piece, in which case it is necessary, of course, to make the opening in the principal floor covering of a size sufficiently larger than the size of the inset piece to accommodate the strips. However, the opening will preferably be of the same shape, as this permits of using strips of uniform width. Such strips may be cut in the mill and made with great accuracy so that no loss in the quality of the floor is entailed.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the present preferred embodiments of the invention,

Figure 1 is a plan view of a decorative floor;

Figure 2 is a similar view, but showing decorative strips around the inset piece; and

Figure 3 is a section to enlarged scale on the line III—III of Figure 1.

The floor shown in Figures 1 and 3 comprises a base 2 which may be an ordinary wood floor, cement tile or the like, having a layer 3 of felt cemented thereon. A principal floor covering 4 of linoleum or the like is cemented to the felt 3 and there is an opening formed in this principal floor covering to accommodate an inset piece 5. The inset piece 5 is in the form of a square and has a complex design, in this case a mounted knight, formed therein. The inset piece 5 is perforated all the way through to form the design, and the perforation is filled with a decorative element 6 executed in a color other than the color of the inset piece. As above stated, the inset piece 5 with its closely fitting decorative element is formed in the mill so that an extremely close fit is insured.

Each of the several pieces of linoleum making up the floor is shown as having a backing 7 of burlap or the like, and it will be noted that each piece has a separate backing. The cementing of the linoleum to the felt 3 is relied on to hold the piece in position. An extremely close fit is obtained and the top surfaces of the several pieces are all flush as shown in Figure 3. It is found in practice that once properly laid, the pieces tend to remain in position indefinitely and, of course, the designs persists regardless of the amount of wear to which the linoleum is subjected.

While designs of the size and character obtainable by my process have not been employed, it has been common practice to form complex figures by the molded inlaid process. In this case the design extends "through to the back", but such design is not nearly as sharply defined as is the case with my invention. In the molded inlaid process the colors tend to mix and it is characteristic of molded inlaid linoleum that the various design elements are separated by a wavy or shaky line.

Figure 2 shows a floor similar to that of Figure 1, except that a different design is used and the inset piece is surrounded by two strips 8 and 9 which add to the decorative effect. These strips are formed in the mill and are exact in width, and it is therefore possible to very accurately fit the several parts together. In this case, as in the case of Figure 1, the several pieces of linoleum all present a substantially flush and highly desirable surface.

By the use of my invention it is possible to lay a floor of plain linoleum or with a running or other pattern, and then fit in special figures at the most suitable points, taking into account the entire decorative scheme. For example, in a hallway, or the like, the figure may be placed at the center, in front of a doorway or otherwise. This emphasizes another important advantage of my invention, namely, its flexibility in practice. Where figures are formed in the running goods at the mill, it is difficult or impossible to position them at a desired point in the floor without a great deal of cutting, patching and loss of material. The inset figures with their complex decorative elements may be formed at low cost and supplied to the retailer for laying in new or existing floors. A wide variety of effects may be obtained by their use, and the individual taste of customers may be met at relatively low cost and with the assurance that the floor will be of high quality and not subject to deterioration in use.

I have illustrated and described by way of example two forms of the invention. It will be understood, however, that it is not limited to such forms but may be otherwise embodied within the scope of the following claims.

I claim:—

1. A decorative floor comprising a base, a principal floor covering of linoleum secured to the base and having an opening therethrough of a common geometrical configuration, a separate inset piece of linoleum secured to the base and lying within the opening, the piece having substantially the same configuration as the opening and having its top surface substantially flush with the top surface of said principal floor covering, said inset piece being perforated in a complex decorative pattern and having its perforations filled with a separate decorative element of linoleum extending through the inset piece and secured to the base, said element being of a color other than the color of the inset piece.

2. A decorative floor comprising a base, a principal floor covering of linoleum secured to the base and having an opening therethrough of a common geometrical configuration, a separate inset piece of linoleum secured to the base and lying within the opening, the piece having substantially the same configuration as the opening, said inset piece being perforated in a complex decorative pattern and having its perforations filled with a separate decorative element of linoleum extending through the inset piece and secured to the base, said element being of a color other than the color of the inset piece.

3. A decorative floor comprising a base, a principal floor covering of linoleum secured to the base and having an opening therethrough of a common geometrical configuration without re-entrant angles, a separate inset piece of linoleum secured to the base and lying within the opening, the piece having substantially the same configuration as the opening, said inset piece being perforated in a complex decorative pattern and having its perforations filled with a separate decorative element of linoleum extending through the inset piece and secured to the base, said element being of a color other than the color of the inset piece.

4. A decorative floor comprising a base, a principal floor covering of linoleum secured to the base and having an opening therethrough defining a common geometrical configuration, a separate inset piece of linoleum secured to the base and lying within the opening but spaced from the edges thereof, and a filler strip lying in said space, said inset piece being of substantially the same configuration as the opening, and the filler strip being of substantially uniform width, the inset piece being perforated in a complex decorative pattern and having its perforations filled with a separate decorative element of linoleum extending through the inset piece and secured to the base, said decorative element being of a color other than the color of the inset piece.

5. A decorative floor comprising a base, a principal floor covering of linoleum secured to the base and having an opening therethrough defining a common geometrical configuration, a separate inset piece of linoleum secured to the base and lying within the opening but spaced from the edges thereof, and a filler strip lying in said space, said inset piece being of substantially the same configuration as the opening, and the filler strip being of substantially uniform width, the inset piece being perforated in a complex decorative pattern and having its perforations filled with a separate decorative element of linoleum extending through the inset piece and secured to the base, said decorative element being of a color other than the color of the inset piece, the top surfaces of the principal floor covering, the inset piece, the filler strip and the decorative element being all substantially flush.

6. A decorative floor comprising a base, a principal covering of linoleum secured to the base and having an opening therethrough of a typical geometrical configuration, a separate inset piece of linoleum secured to the base and lying within the opening, the base having substantially the same configuration as the opening, said inset piece being perforated in a complex decorative pattern and having its perforations filled with a separate decorative element of linoleum extending through the inset piece and secured to the base, said element presenting a visual effect different from that of the inset piece.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HUBERT R. PECK.