

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
22 August 2002 (22.08.2002)

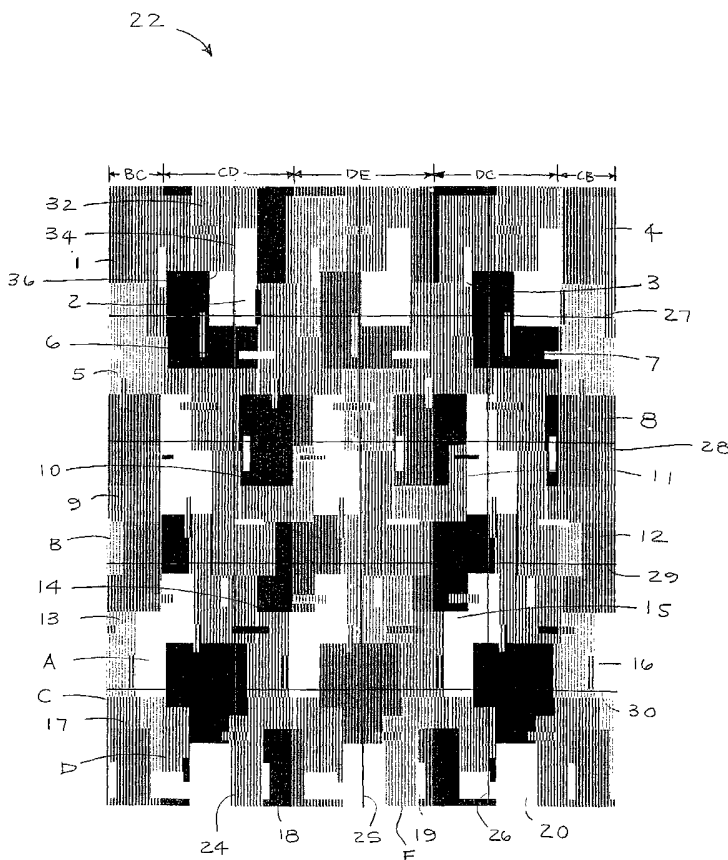
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/064879 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: D06N 7/00, B44F 3/00
- (74) Agents: PRATT, John, S. et al.; Kilpatrick Stockton LLP, Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309-4530 (US).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/01939
- (22) International Filing Date: 23 January 2002 (23.01.2002)
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 09/783,354 14 February 2001 (14.02.2001) US
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent
- (71) Applicant: INTERFACE, INC. [US/US]; Suite 2000, 2859 Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30339 (US).
- (72) Inventors: DANIEL, Sydney, D.; 702 Piney Woods Drive, LaGrange, GA 30240 (US). OAKLEY, David, D.; 868 Piney Woods Drive, LaGrange, GA 30240 (US).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ORTHOGONALLY AMBIGUOUS CARPET TILE



(57) Abstract: Carpet tiles having patterns and color schemes that obviate the need to orient the tiles relative to each other. The tiles exhibit orthogonal ambiguity, meaning that they may be laid in any side-by-side orientation with respect to adjacent tiles without looking out of place to the ordinary viewer and thereby still achieving an appearance of continuity like broadloom carpet. Each tile has patterns of shapes having some straight sides and that appear to be randomly positioned but oriented with some straight sides parallel to carpet tile sides. The shapes are formed from a color or combination of colors so that adjacent shapes on each tile have at least one color in common. Furthermore, each tile has at least one color in common with every other tile, so that when the tiles are laid, the colors on adjacent tiles coordinate. All of the colors have similar intensities so that no one color will significantly stand out from the other colors. Moreover, because the pattern on each tile appears random, placement of the tiles on the floor in any side-by-side orientation simply creates a larger, apparently random pattern, rendering it impossible for any tile to look out of place.



WO 02/064879 A3



(BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
28 November 2002

**Published:**

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 ational Application No  
 PCT/US 02/01939

 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
 IPC 7 D06N7/00 B44F3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 IPC 7 D06N B44F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	BE 890 436 A (POORTERE ETS SA LOUIS) 18 January 1982 (1982-01-18) the whole document	1-4, 21
X	EP 0 698 863 A (NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE) 28 February 1996 (1996-02-28) column 1, line 1 - line 50; figures	1-4, 21
X	US 3 875 716 A (EUSEMANN STEPHAN) 8 April 1975 (1975-04-08) the whole document	1-4, 21
X	GB 1 537 727 A (CHAMPION INT CORP) 4 January 1979 (1979-01-04) the whole document	1-4, 21

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

 Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 September 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/10/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Pamies Olle, S

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International Application No  
PCT/US 02/01939

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
BE 890436	A	18-01-1982	BE 890436 A1	18-01-1982
EP 0698863	A	28-02-1996	EP 1115090 A2	11-07-2001
			EP 0698863 A2	28-02-1996
			JP 3254659 B2	12-02-2002
			JP 8115349 A	07-05-1996
			JP 2002149743 A	24-05-2002
			US 5751293 A	12-05-1998
			US 5959632 A	28-09-1999
US 3875716	A	08-04-1975	DE 2144350 A1	08-03-1973
			BE 788124 A1	18-12-1972
			CH 557461 A	31-12-1974
			FR 2152075 A5	20-04-1973
			GB 1404337 A	28-08-1975
			IT 958522 B	30-10-1973
			NL 7207976 A	06-03-1973
GB 1537727	A	04-01-1979	DE 2710016 A1	06-10-1977