R. DWIGHT.

PROCESS OF FORMING IMITATION LEATHER UPHOLSTERY AND THE PRODUCT PRODUCED THEREBY.

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1,426,720. Patented Aug. 22, 1922.

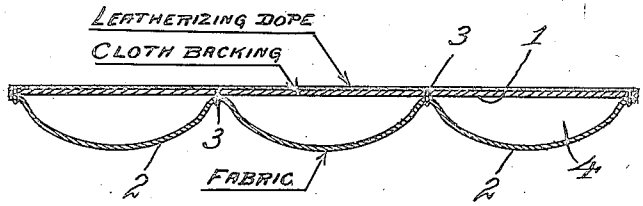


Fig. 1.

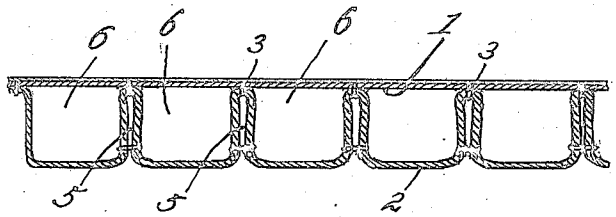


Fig. 2.

Inventor:
Russell Dwight
By Allen & Allen
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUSSELL DWIGHT, OF WYOMING, OHIO.

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1,426,720. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 22, 1922.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUSSELL DWIGHT, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Wyoming, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Process of Forming Imitation Leather Upholstery and the Product Produced Thereby, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification.

In the use of artificial leather for upholstering particularly in the upholstering of the seats in carriages, automobiles and the like, it is necessary to pack or stuff the back of the artificial leather with soft material such as cotton batting before the leather is applied to the cushions and in order to secure the pockets for holding the packing material to the artificial leather, it has been found necessary to plait the leather in order to conceal the stitches and to prevent the wear and breaking of the stitches in use. Where artificial leather is used for upholstering in the seats of automobiles these plaits necessarily gather dust, and the requirement of plaiting necessitates the employment of very much more material than would be needed should the plaits be omitted, and obviously the preparation of the goods is slow and laborious, and each plait has to be made, folded and sewed by itself.

It is to obviate these difficulties that my invention is directed, and it consists essentially in the process whereby the pockets for the padding are formed and secured to the backing to which the artificial leather composition is applied before the manufacture of the artificial leather.

In the drawing which accompanies this application,

Figure 1 is a section of one construction of the material illustrating my improved process.

Figure 2 is a section of another construction of material.

There are a number of methods for the manufacture of artificial leather, but the general plan pursued is to apply a coating of the required paste usually to any kind of cotton cloth desired. Such pastes are procurable on the market, formed of a cellulose base, and sometimes called "leatherizing dope."

In carrying out my process, before the cloth is treated with the artificial leather composition, I form pockets by sewing folds of suitable cloth on one side of the backing which is later to be coated with the artificial leather composition.

1 indicates a section of this backing, and 2 the cloth secured thereto by stitches 3 directly through the material so as to form the pockets 4. In Figure 1, as shown, the amount of material in the loops 2 may naturally vary dependent upon the desired result, even to the extent of being flat with the backing, which would still result in the formation of a pocket. The stitches will normally be in parallel lines, so as to produce a pocket into which the stuffing may be easily inserted.

Instead of forming the pockets for the packing in this way, the backing 1 can be formed with plaits 5 and these plaits sewed directly to the cloth so as to form rectangular pockets 6 and provide an even cushion for the goods.

When the two layers of cloth have been thus secured together so as to form pockets, and prior to the stuffing thereof, the top piece of cloth which is still flat is subjected to the artificial leather coating and other processes to make up the desired kind of artificial leather in the usual manner. When the artificial leather processes are completed and the required leather surface has been given to the cloth, the material is ready for the packing, and the pockets are filled or stuffed with the cotton bats or other desired filling to form the finished article. The result of stuffing the form shown in Figure 2 will be to form either a flat surface for the backing 1, or if more tightly stuffed with ridges corresponding to the pockets. The form shown in Figure 3 will normally present only a flat leatherized surface.

By thus securing the pockets for the cotton bats to the backing to which the artificial leather composition is to be applied before treatment, a great saving of time and labor results. The pockets can be sewed directly to the backing on a gang machine, and there is no need to conceal the stitches by plaits. The artificial composition effectively conceals the stitches and prevents wear and decay while the avoidance of plaits enables the manufacturer to make a very

large saving in material. The cushions are smooth and there are no folded portions to collect dust, and the goods are not subject to the wear at the edges of the folds incident to the old methods.

While I have illustrated two constructions of pockets, it will, of course, be understood that other ways will readily suggest themselves. The essential feature of my invention consists as already indicated in forming the pockets or holders for the cushions on the artificial leather backing before the leather coating is applied, and not in the particular construction of the pockets or the manner of their attachment to the material. Also another point in my invention is the treating of the backing with the leatherizing dope, prior to stuffing the pockets.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. The process of manufacturing artificial leather upholstery which consists in stitching together two pieces of cloth or other suitable material with rows of stitches, then applying artificial leather composition to one of the exposed surfaces and then filling the openings between the rows of stitches with suitable padding material.

2. The process of manufacturing artificial leather upholstery which consists in stitching together two pieces of cloth or other suitable material with parallel rows of stitches, then applying artificial leather composition to one of the exposed surfaces and then filling the openings between the rows of stitches with suitable padding material.

3. The process of manufacturing artificial leather upholstery which consists in stitching together two pieces of cloth with parallel rows of stitches, one piece forming pockets or loops with reference to the other, then applying artificial leather composition to the exposed flat fabric and then filling the pockets with suitable padding material.

RUSSELL DWIGHT.