E. GERSABECK.

METHOD OF MAKING PLATES FOR WALL COVERINGS AND SIMILAR PURPOSES.

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Fig. 1.

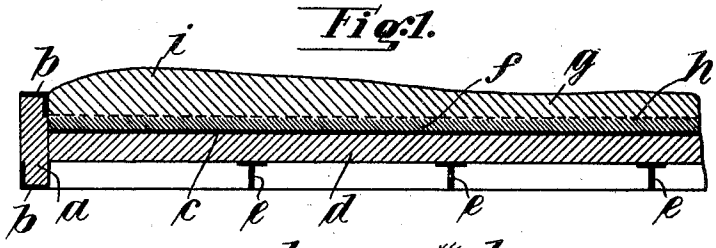
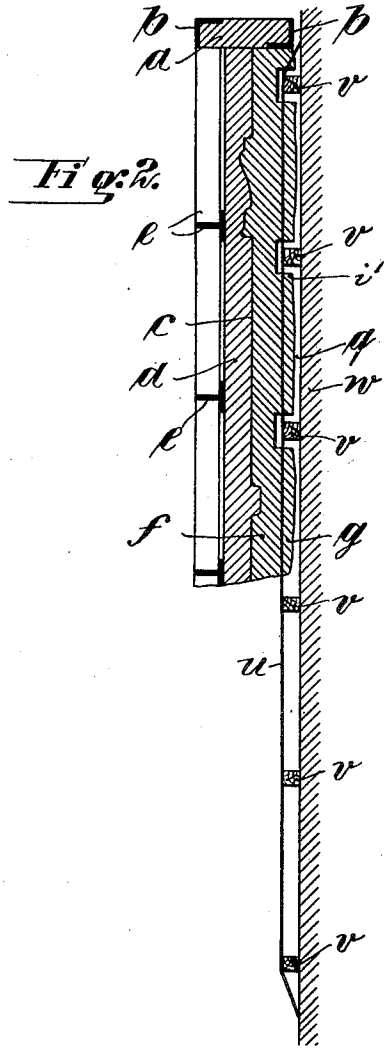


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METHOD OF MAKING PLATES FOR WALL-COVERINGS AND SIMILAR PURPOSES.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EMIL GERSABECK, a subject of the German Emperor, and a resident of Potsdam, Germany, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Methods of Making Plates for Wall-Coverings and Similar Purposes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a novel method for making plates more particularly adapted for covering walls, and ceilings, though they may also be used for other purposes. The plates are so constituted that their surfaces embody an exact and sharp reproduction, of an original pattern, showing for example the most delicate veins and grains of a natural wooden surface. Thus the plates produced in accordance with my invention cannot be readily distinguished from natural wood, while furthermore etchings and relief patterns can also be accurately reproduced. The plates may be easily secured to the wall, they being provided with a plastic back, that may be pressed into appropriate retaining means, with which the wall is provided.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a section of a mold for carrying my invention into effect, and Fig. 2, a section through the completed plate showing it applied to a wall.

Referring more particularly to Fig. 1, the mold is composed of a frame *a* which is reinforced by angle-irons *b*. The matrix or pattern *c* the surface of which is to be reproduced may consist of an inverted relief, a negative carving, or of a plate previously produced in accordance with my invention from a wooden veneer or similar article. Matrix *c* is advantageously supported within frame *a*, upon a smooth and strong base *d* which may be reinforced by lattice work *e*. To the face of plate *c* is applied a thin-flowing plastic mass or facing *f*, in which may be embedded a suitable reinforcing layer *h*. To the back of the facing *f* is then applied a second plastic mass or backing *g*, which may be bulged as at *i* to here project beyond the top of frame *a*. The plastic mass forming the facing *f* should be so constituted that it sets more slowly than the mass constituting the backing *g*. Facing *f* may be composed of plaster Paris, cement or similar material, to which may be added some sugar which serves to retard its setting. The sugar also serves to harden the surface of the set mass, and to permit any pigments to be evenly distributed. The facing is best applied to the matrix, by being squirted over the same by means of an air jet; thus preventing the formation of streaks, while furthermore the forcible throwing of the mass in a vertical direction against the matrix, will cause the mass to closely hug the contour of the latter. The backing *g* may be composed of the same material as the facing, minus the setting-retarding addition of the sugar, or the backing may be formed of different ingredients, the point being that the facing has the property of setting more slowly than the backing. Owing to this property, the backing will set prior to the setting of the facing, and will present to the latter, while the setting of the facing is going on, a rigid or unyielding resistance. Inasmuch as the facing, during the setting operation will expand, but cannot expand rearwardly, it will become tightly pressed into all of the pores, veins or other lines of the matrix, so as to form a sharp replica of the same. Thus in case the matrix is a true negative of a natural wooden surface, all the pores, veins and grains of such surface will be reproduced in such a perfect manner that the finished article is hardly distinguishable from the original.

The plates or plaques produced as described may be employed more particularly for wall plates, in supplantation of wooden panels, but they may also be used for containers, closets, doors or a variety of other articles. Fig. 2, shows the plate applied as a wall covering. Along the wall *w* is spread over spacing blocks *v* and at a distance of 1–3 cm., a wire screen *u*. The covering plate should be provided on its protuberance *i* with grooves i^1 corresponding to the blocks *v*, and, at the moment when the backing *g* of such plate, starts to set, the charged mold is righted and pressed against the screen *u*. In this way the screen becomes embedded within the protuberance *i*, while the spacers *v* are accommodated within the grooves i^1, so that the plate will become attached in an insulated manner to the wall. Thus the plate will constitute a sound-proof wall covering, while its insulation will permit the wall to properly dry out, without causing any salpetry exudations of the stones or

mortar to show upon the covering, the air space *q* effecting furthermore a rapid drying out of the wall.

I claim.

1. Method of forming an article of the character described, which consists in applying to a matrix, a first comparatively slowly setting plastic mass, and applying to the back of said first plastic mass, a second comparatively quickly setting plastic mass.

2. Method of forming an article of the character described, which consists in applying to a matrix, a first comparatively slowly setting plastic mass containing sugar, and applying to the back of said first plastic mass, a second comparatively quickly setting plastic mass.

3. Method of forming a wall covering which consists in spanning a wire screen over the wall, charging a mold containing a matrix, with a first comparatively slowly setting plastic mass, and with a second comparatively quickly setting plastic mass, forming a protuberance on said last named mass and pressing said protuberance into the wire screen.

4. Method of forming a wall covering which consists in applying to the wall spacing members, and a supporting member in front of the spacing members, charging a mold containing a matrix with a first comparatively slowly setting plastic mass and with a second comparatively quickly setting plastic mass, forming a grooved protuberance on said last named mass, and pressing said protuberance into engagement with said spacing members and supporting member.

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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."