

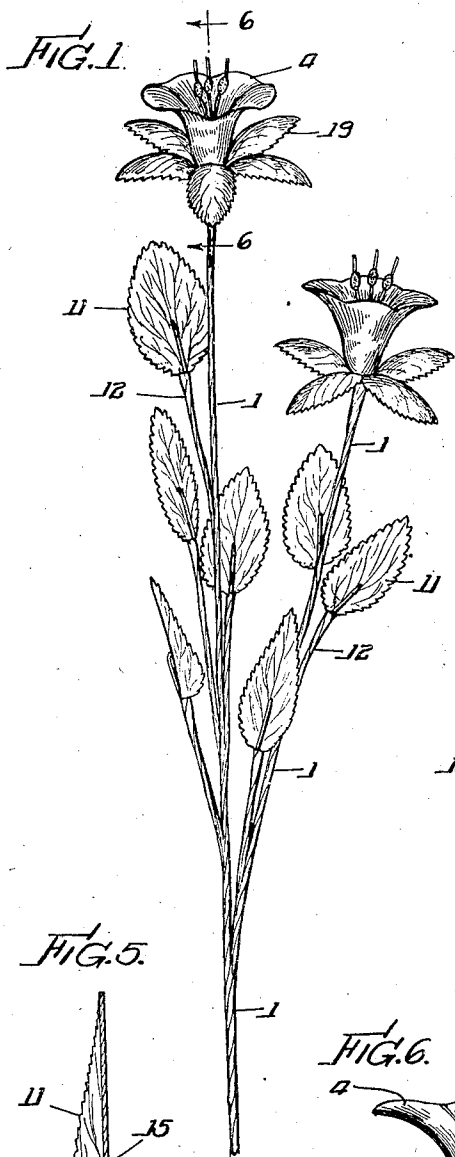
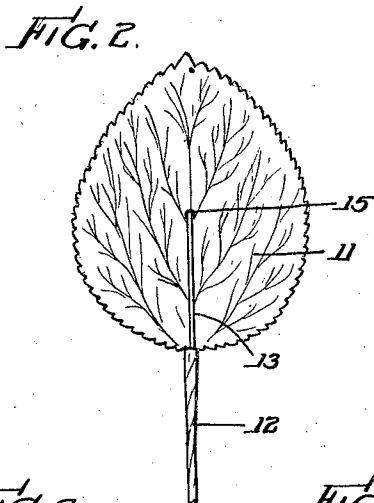
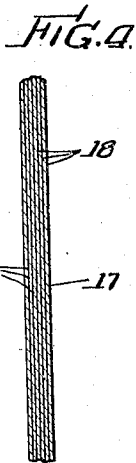
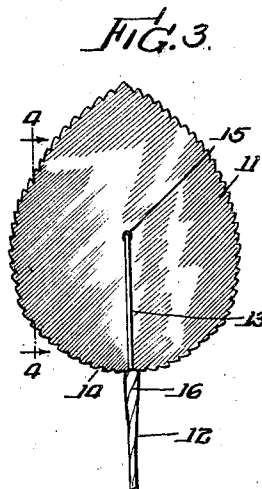
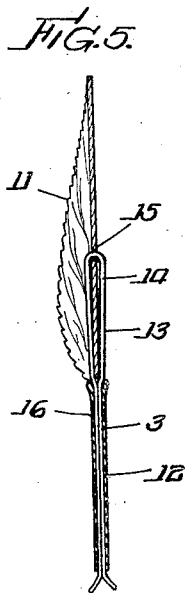
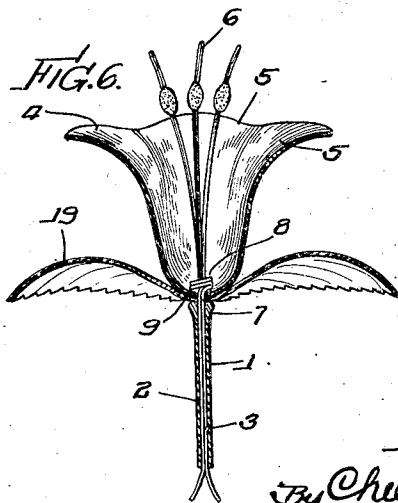
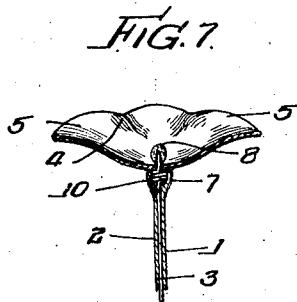
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ARTIFICIAL FLOWER

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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ARTIFICIAL FLOWER

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4 Claims. (Cl. 41-13)

This invention relates to ornamental articles.

The primary object of the invention is to provide new and improved ornamental articles, such as artificial flowers and the like, and a new and improved method for making such articles.

Another object of the invention is to provide ornamental articles, such as artificial flowers, foliage, and the like, which are made from composite sheets of material and which are dyed various colors to resemble natural flowers.

Another object is to provide an ornamental article, such as an artificial flower, which is made from relatively clear, transparent material of the type which is commonly known as regenerated cellulose, the regenerated cellulose being compressed to make a composite sheet from which the articles are made.

A further object is to provide ornamental articles which are made from a composite sheet composed of several individual sheets which are treated, dyed, and cut to the desired shape to make an ornamental and attractive article.

Numerous other objects and advantages will be apparent throughout the progress of the following specification.

The accompanying drawing illustrates a selected embodiment of the invention and the views therein are as follows:

Fig. 1 is a detail perspective view of one of the ornamental articles which, in the present instance, represents a blooming plant.

Fig. 2 is a detail plan view of one of the leaves showing the manner in which various parts constituting the ornamental article are formed to represent the original article.

Fig. 3 is a detail plan view of one of the leaves showing the manner in which the stem may be attached to the leaf and also showing the brightness, glossiness, or shininess of the leaf.

Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view on the line 4-4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view showing the manner in which the stems are attached to the leaves.

Fig. 6 is a detail sectional view on the line 6-6 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 is a detail sectional view of a different kind of a flower showing the manner in which the blossom is connected to the stem.

The ornamental article which, in the embodiment shown, is an artificial flower, comprises a stem 1 made up of an outer tubular section 2 into which inner reinforcing members or wires 3 are arranged. The outer portion 2 is preferably a wrapping of suitable paper, cloth, or other mate-

rial wound around the supporting stays or wires 3, Fig. 6. The flowers or blossoms 4 comprise a plurality of petals 5 and the pistils 6. Each blossom 4 is fixed to the stem 1 by providing an enlargement underneath the blossom as indicated at 7 and an upper bead 8, the blossom being fixed between the enlargement or lower bead 7 and the enlargement or upper bead 8. In Fig. 6 the retaining wire 3 is wound around as indicated at 9 and extends above the base of the blossom, while in Fig. 7 a bead is fixed to the end of the wire 3 and the wire is wound around the bottom of the blossom, as indicated at 10.

Leaves 11 are fastened to auxiliary stems 12 which are fastened to the main stem 1. The stems 12 comprise a wire 13 which may be covered with wound silk as indicated at 14, Fig. 5, the free end of the wire passing through a hole 15 in the leaf and then returning on the opposite side of the leaf. Suitable material 16 is wound around the stems 12 where the free end of the wire joins, as clearly shown in Fig. 5.

The petals 5 and the leaves 11 are made from a composite sheet 17 as indicated in Fig. 4. The composite sheet comprises a plurality of separate sheets 18 which are fastened together in a manner to be later explained. In the present embodiment shown, the composite sheet 17 comprises six separate and independent layers of material 18. The sheets or layers 18 are preferably made of clear, transparent material which is commercially known as regenerated cellulose. In making a composite sheet, six layers of regenerated cellulose 18 are held together and immersed in a dye solution which solution is preferably at a temperature of 110° to 120°. The six sheets are held in overlapping or stacked formation and all of them dipped in the solution for a period ranging from two to five minutes. The six sheets, after they are removed from the dye solution, are wrung out like a rag, then shaken out and hung up to remove the wrinkles therefrom. After the six stacked sheets are sufficiently dried, they are then dampened and flattened out at which time they will be ready to cut. In the cutting operation the composite sheet, comprising the six stacked individual sheets, is put in a die and cut to the desired form and configuration depending upon the article being made. The composite sheet, which is composed of six stacked sheets, when cut, will form a single homogeneous highly colored shiny article. The phenomena caused by the above described operation provides leaves, petals, or other ornamental articles which contain a particular

brightness, shininess, and particular color combination. While the colorings of the dye vary for making different articles, there will be present a sort of a mother-of-pearl hue. In other words, if pink flowers are made, the predominating color will be pink but there will be a clear, shiny mother-of-pearl cast on the petals. Also, in making the leaves, which leaves are generally colored green, the predominating color is green but there is a transparency to the leaves and the mother-of-pearl cast is present. In practice, articles, such as leaves and petals, have been made from a single sheet of material, such as regenerated cellulose, but it has been found that the resultant article will be too clear, will not color correctly, and will not cut properly in the die. While it is desirable that the article be translucent or even relatively transparent, it is more desirable that the articles have a particular color to imitate the natural article but with a particular cast or hue. The particular cast or hue of the articles is striking particularly when an artificial light shines upon them.

By making the article in the composite form, a certain clearness exists, a particular hue or cast is obtainable, and the imitative characteristics of the article are purely representative of the real article which it is intended to reproduce artificially. When it is desired to have relatively clear green transparent articles or leaves, the dye is omitted from the bath, in other words, no coloring is inserted in the solution in which the composite sheet is dipped.

The dye solution can be practically any liquid dye, the strength of which is varied depending upon the amount of coloring matter desired in the finished article. However, it is preferable that the liquid solution be at a temperature ranging somewhere between 110° to 120° and that the time of immersion be anywhere from two to five minutes. In cases where it is desired to have the articles, such as petals and leaves, left transparent, the stacked sheets forming the composite sheet, are dipped into hot water the temperature of which is the same as the dye solution ranging from 110° to 120°. It has been found that the stacked sheets, forming a composite sheet, will form a practically homogeneous article, which homogeneous article, when cut, fails to reveal the laminations. However, if the dies permit, several composite sheets may be cut at the same time. In actual practice ten of these composite sheets have been cut at the same time and the ten composite sheets were easily and readily separable but the individual sheets composing the laminated sheets would not separate.

In dipping the six sheets to form a composite sheet, the sheets are held in position just like a stack of six ordinary sheets of paper would be held. Evidently the sticking or adhering qualities of the individual regenerated cellulose sheets are such that the dipping and drying action causes them to adhere tightly together. While it is herein mentioned that six sheets have been used to form the composite or laminated sheet, it is understood that the sheets may vary from two to more than six.

It is known that regenerated cellulose will burn but by putting a small quantity of salt in the dye solution or the hot water depending on whether or not the articles are to be colored, it is found that the composite sheet will not burn, at any rate it will not burn nearly as fast as it would if the salt were eliminated.

As shown in the drawing and particularly in Figs. 1 and 6, a plurality of leaves or petals 19 are arranged in rosette formation beneath the blossom 4, and this rosette arrangement is held between the bottom of the blossom and the bead 7 as clearly shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

The invention provides an attractive and highly ornamental article, such as an artificial flower and other like or similar article, which has a particular coloring or cast which was heretofore unknown. Furthermore, the manner in which the leaves are attached to the stem and the manner in which the blossom petals are fastened to the stem provides an article which, while not only highly attractive and ornamental, manages to sustain its original shape, appearance and beauty regardless of variations in temperature.

Changes may be made in the form, construction, and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of its advantages, and the right is hereby reserved to make all such changes as fairly fall within the scope of the following claims.

The invention is hereby claimed as follows:

1. An artificial flower comprising a stem, a blossom made of laminated regenerated cellulose and connected to said stem, a second stem connected to the first stem, a leaf made of laminated regenerated cellulose and having a hole therein, said second stem passing through said hole for holding the leaf to the second stem.

2. An artificial flower comprising a stem, a blossom having its petals made of laminated sheets of relatively clear regenerated cellulose and connected to said stem, a second stem connected to the first stem, a leaf made of laminated sheets of relatively clear regenerated cellulose and having a hole therein, said second stem passing through said hole for holding the leaf to the second stem, and means arranged above and below the blossom and impinging the blossom therebetween for holding the blossom to the stem.

3. An article of manufacture artificially representing a flower or foliage including a unit of laminated regenerated cellulose marginally configured in accordance with the outline of the flower or foliage to be represented, the laminated structure imparting a mother-of-pearl appearance to the surface of the article.

4. An article of manufacture artificially representing a flower or foliage including a unit of tinted laminated regenerated cellulose marginally configured in accordance with the outline of the flower or foliage to be represented, the laminated structure having a tint corresponding with the flower or foliage to be represented and imparting a mother-of-pearl appearance to the surface of the article.

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