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(54) Articles with tongue and groove joint and method of making such a joint

(57) Disclosed is laminate flooring (10) and other articles with tongues (26) and grooves (16) for joining sections of the flooring or articles and a method of making the tongue and groove joints. The lower surfaces (28,18) of the tongues (26) and grooves (16) are indexing surfaces for aligning the wear surfaces (12) of the flooring sections. The tongues (26) and grooves (16) are made such that when the tongue (26) is fully inserted into the groove (16), a continuous space is formed between the upper surface (27,17) of the tongue

(26) and groove (16). The grooved edges (25,15) are cut at an acute angle to the surface (12). This provides a space between the upper surfaces (27,17) of the tongue (26) and groove (16) and between the edge surfaces (25,15) above the tongues (26) and grooves (16) toward the wear surfaces (12) of the flooring sections. Glue in the joint, upon curing, resists penetration of moisture and increases the strength of the joint.

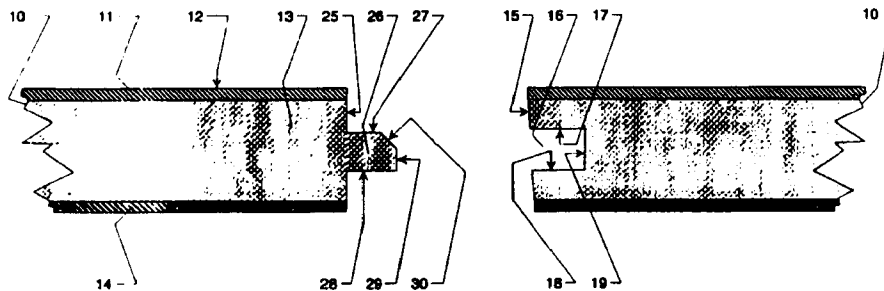


FIGURE - 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 11 7421

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	DE 44 29 205 A (EBERT CLAUS) 22 February 1996	1,9,12	E04F15/04
A	* the whole document * ---	6,7,10	
Y	GB 2 243 381 A (STRUCTURAL PANELS INC) 30 October 1991	1,9,12	
A	* page 7, line 10 - page 15, line 4; figures 1-15 * ---	2-7	
A	US 4 123 885 A (SCOTT HARLEY D) 7 November 1978 * column 1, line 63 - column 3, line 16; figures 1-3,6 * ---	1-7,9	
A	US 5 448 865 A (PALMERSTEN MICHAEL J) 12 September 1995 * column 4, line 22 - column 7, line 38; figures 1-17 * -----	1,6,7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		5 August 1998	Ayiter, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
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