

Oct. 11, 1927.

1,644,710

K. E. CROOKS  
PREFINISHED FLOORING  
Filed Dec. 31, 1925

FIG. 1.

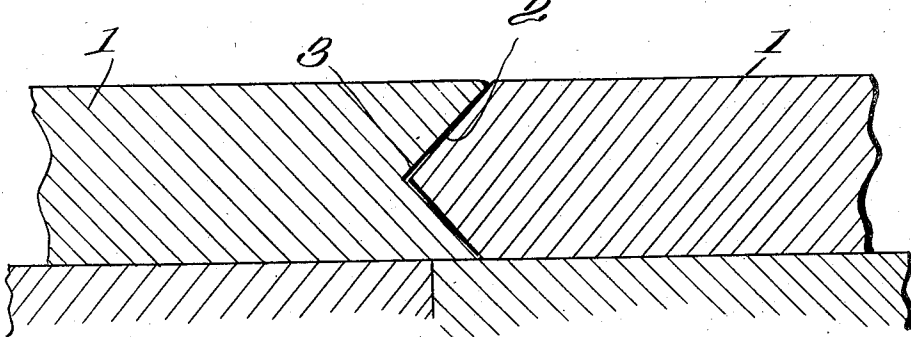


FIG. 2.

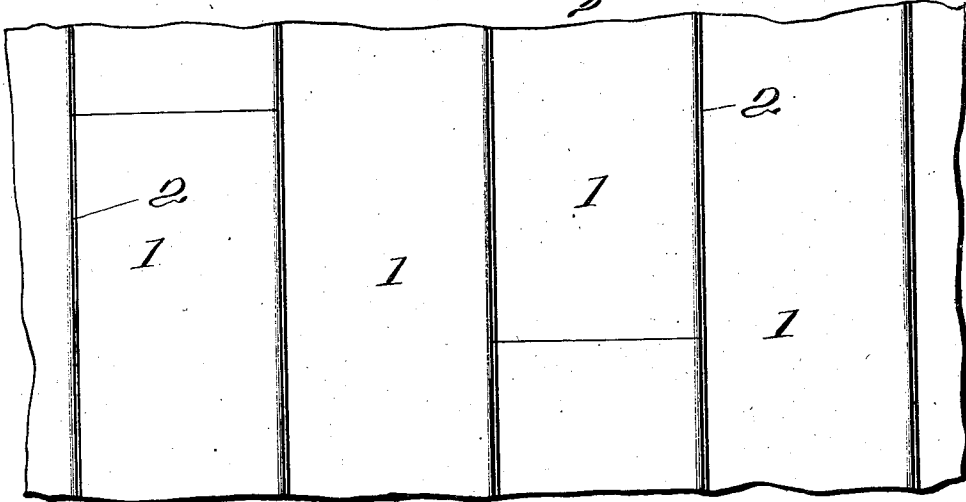
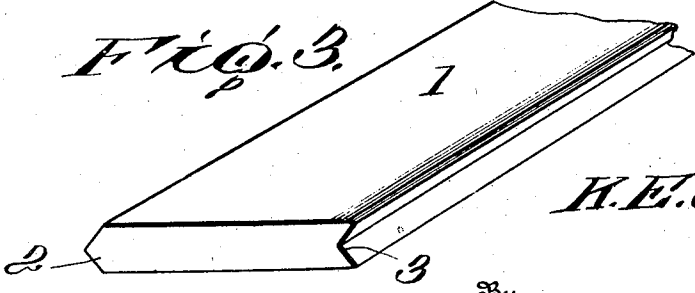


FIG. 3.



Inventor  
K. E. Crooks.

By J. P. Wright  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

KENNETH E. CROOKS, OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO THE CROMAR COMPANY, OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, A CORPORATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

## PREFINISHED FLOORING.

Application filed December 31, 1925. Serial No. 78,585.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in prefinished flooring and is an improvement upon the construction of flooring shown in the reissue patent to Elmer C. Dittmar, No. 14,660, dated June 10, 1919, the object being to provide a strip of flooring so constructed that when a number of the strips are laid, a narrow groove will be formed between the adjacent strips so as to prevent an observer from noticing or detecting any slight unevenness at the junction of the strips.

A further object of the invention is to provide a flooring strip which is preferably formed with a V-shaped tongue cut on an angle of approximately  $50^\circ$  along one edge and a V-shaped groove on the other edge at an angle of approximately  $45^\circ$  as clearly shown in my patent dated September 1, 1925, No. 1,551,544, whereby a tight joint will be formed and maintained irrespective of the roughness of the sub-floor.

Other and further objects and advantages of the invention will be hereinafter set forth and the novel features thereof defined by the appended claim.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a section through a pair of strips showing the manner of forming the tongues and grooves along the edges in accordance with my invention;

Figure 2 is a top plan view of a portion of a flooring constructed in accordance with my invention; and

Figure 3 is a detail perspective view of a portion of a flooring strip.

In the drawing 1 indicates a strip of material having along one of its longitudinal edges a substantially V-shaped tongue 2 of substantially the same thickness of the strip, the beveled faces forming the tongue being preferably cut at an angle of  $50^\circ$ . The strip on the opposite longitudinal edge is provided with a V-shaped groove 3 cut on a substantial angle of  $45^\circ$  to form beveled faces 4, the edges of the groove being rounded as shown at 5 so that when a number of strips are assembled to produce a flooring as shown in Figure 2, narrow grooves will be formed between the assembled strips.

In the reissue Patent No. 14,660, issued to

Elmer C. Dittmar, the edges of the strip are rounded so that a substantial V-shaped groove is formed having rounded upper edges and I have found that the width of the groove can be reduced by only rounding the edges of the V-shaped groove whereby a flooring strip can be produced having the same advantages as obtained in the above-referred to patents.

In manufacturing a prefinished flooring of this character, it is essential that the strips be coated and so constructed that they can be laid on a sub-floor or over an old floor and yet have a neat appearance, that is, the groove between the adjacent strips be as small as possible and I have found by experimenting that this groove can be greatly narrowed by simply rounding only the edges of the groove instead of rounding the edges of the tongue.

This not only increases the appearance of the flooring, but decreases the cost of manufacturing the same and a flooring strip is produced that when laid has a narrow substantially V-shaped groove formed between the adjacent strips which can be readily cleaned.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that I have produced a flooring strip which can be manufactured at the factory and laid so as to produce a flooring with a narrow substantially V-shaped groove between the adjacent strips.

When a prefinished flooring constructed in accordance with the Dittmar inventions is laid over a sub-floor which is the least bit uneven and the grooved edges come in contact with the tongue edges at an angle, the groove is greatly exaggerated because it shows more of the top of the tongue surface, but by eliminating the rounded edge on the tongue surface, I have overcome this condition to a great extent and the groove is made smaller and the appearance of the complete flooring is greatly improved.

What I claim is:

A flooring formed of a series of duplicate prefinished flooring strips, each flooring strip having one of its longitudinal edges formed with beveled faces to provide a tongue of substantially V-shape in cross section of a

width equal to the thickness of the strip and the other longitudinal edge grooved to form a substantially V-shaped groove of the width substantially of the thickness of the strip, the beveled faces of the tongue of each strip being cut on an angle greater than that between the beveled faces of the groove of such strip, the upper edge of the groove of each strip being rounded to produce a groove between the adjacent strips when assembled.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

**KENNETH E. CROOKS.**