

B.H. Shedaker.

Floor.

N^o 19,174.

Patented Jan. 19, 1858.

Fig 1.

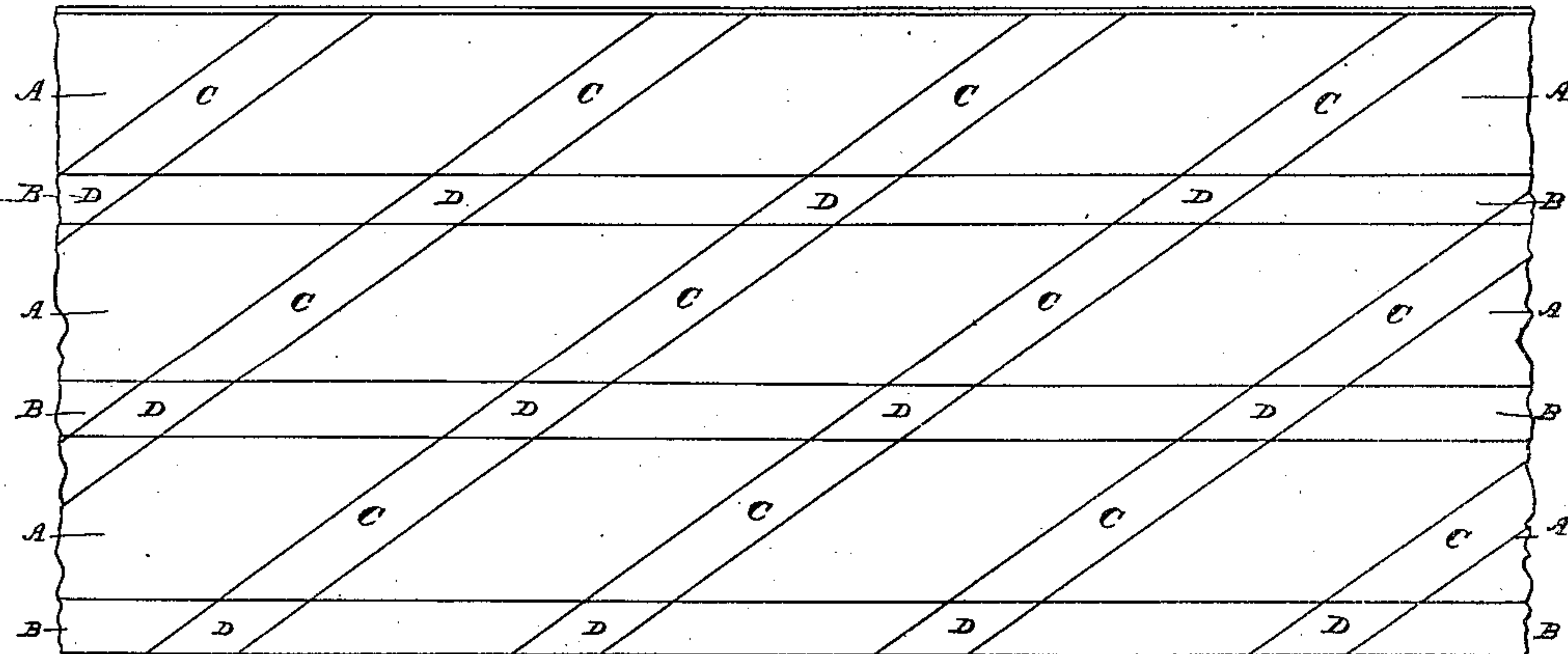


Fig 2.

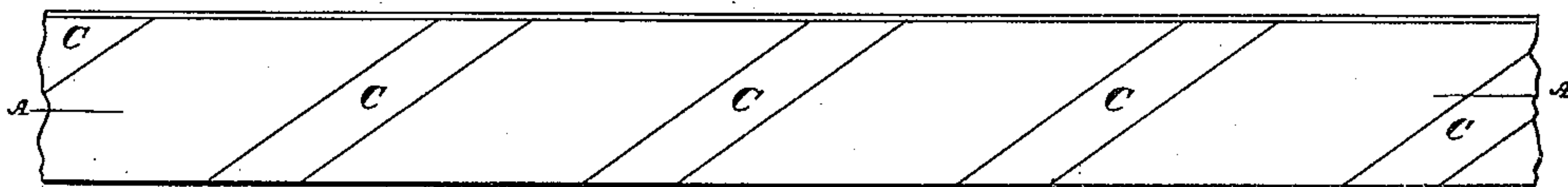


Fig 3.



Fig 4.

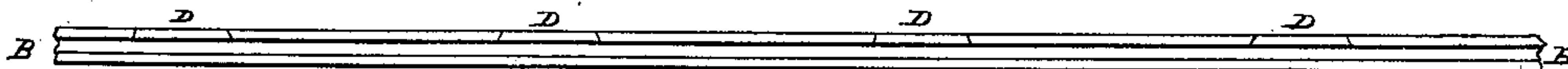


Fig 5.



Witnesses:
Benjamin
Morgan

Inventor:

B.H. Shedaker

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN H. SHEDAKER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO EDWIN BENDER, OF SAME PLACE.

CONSTRUCTION OF MARQUETRY-FLOORS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 19,174, dated January 19, 1858.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN H. SHEDAKER, of the city of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Construction of Marquetry-Floors for Buildings, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a plan view of the flooring as combined together and nailed down; Figs. 2, and 3, like views of two (a wider and a narrower) of the boards shown in Fig. 1, previously to their being combined together as a floor; Fig. 4, a view of the grooved edge of one of these boards; and Fig. 5, an end view of the floor shown in Fig. 1, like letters in the different figures indicating the same parts.

The nature of my invention consists in constructing marquetry floors by first inlaying, or inserting the required differently colored pieces of wood, or other material, across in the upper sides of the flooring boards proper, (whether these are of like or different colors), so that the said boards may afterward be laid down and nailed directly to the joist in the usual manner, and so produce a marquetry floor of any surface pattern or design which may be adapted to such mode of construction, without the use of the sub-floor required by other modes.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction, more fully and accurately.

For the light-colored parts of a floor of this kind, I generally use ash-wood boards, or planks of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness; and for the dark parts, walnut wood, where a light and a dark color only are required to produce the design. The said boards, or planks, after being brought to the required width to suit the design, are tongued and grooved precisely as heretofore for floors. Then, by means of machinery adapted to the purpose, I cut dovetailed or other grooves, about half an inch deep, across in the upper side of each, at regular distances apart, and then fill these grooves by driving into each a strip of wood, or other material, of the opposite color, which has been previously prepared to fit the groove accurately and

tightly. The ends of these inserted pieces being made flush with the edges of the boards, they are ready for laying. This is done in the manner usually practised in laying floor boards by "concealed" nailing, with the additional care only of so laying them as to produce the design of marquetry required.

The drawings represent a design combining the rhomb and rhomboid—A—A, being the light-colored, or ash-wood boards; B—B, the dark, or walnut-wood boards; C—C, the walnut-wood strips dovetailed into and across the upper sides of the ash-boards; D—D, the ash-wood strips dovetailed into and across the upper sides of the walnut-wood boards. These inlaid ash and walnut boards are tongued and grooved together successively so as to produce the design seen in Fig. 1, but it is obvious that a variety of designs can be produced by this mode of inlaying strips of wood in a flooring board of a different color.

The superiority of this mode of producing marquetry floors arises principally from the fact that the flooring boards proper (A—A and B—B) are retained of their full length, and therefore produce a stiffer and more substantial floor for buildings, cars, ships-cabins, &c., than if cut up into short pieces or blocks, as heretofore, for producing marquetry.

Another point of superiority arises from the fact that this marquetry flooring does not require a sub-floor for its support, and may therefore be laid directly upon the usual joist. It is consequently cheaper, as being more durable, and requiring less work in putting down, or laying; it affords a fair profit to the manufacturer, at three and a half dollars per square yard of one and a half inches thick, laid, and finished by oiling, waxing, or varnishing, as may be preferred.

I am aware that marquetry floors have been produced by uniting thin blocks of differently colored woods together by tongues and grooves, and nailing them down upon a common floor; but such mode of construction is difficult, expensive, and very liable to "give way" in using; whereas, in my invention the marquetry is inlaid so as constitute a part of the flooring boards before they are laid, and so that when laid, they rest directly upon the joists;

the sub floor, heretofore required for all other marquetry floors, being entirely dispensed with: thus saving greatly in the original cost, and at the same time producing a better, because a more solid and durable floor.

I therefore do not claim the application of marquetry to floors; nor the securing of one piece of wood in and across the one side of another by means of a dovetail, half dowel, or otherwise; but

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Constructing marquetry floors substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth and described: viz, I claim constructing marquetry floors by first inlaying, or inserting the required differently col-

ored pieces of wood, or other material, across in the upper sides of the proper flooring boards (whether these are of like or different colors) prepared with tongues and grooves in the usual manner required for common flooring, so that the said boards so prepared, as set forth, may afterward be laid down and secured directly upon the joists in the usual manner and so produce a marquetry floor, of any surface pattern or design which may be adapted to such mode of construction, without the use of the sub-floor required by other modes.

B. H. SHEDAKER.

Witnesses:

BENJ. MORRISON,
JNO. B. KENNEY.