

No. 706,874.

**Patented Aug. 12, 1902.**

F. ALCAN.

**MEANS FOR SETTING MOSAICS.**

(Application filed Apr. 5, 1902.)

(No Model.)

**Fig. 1.**

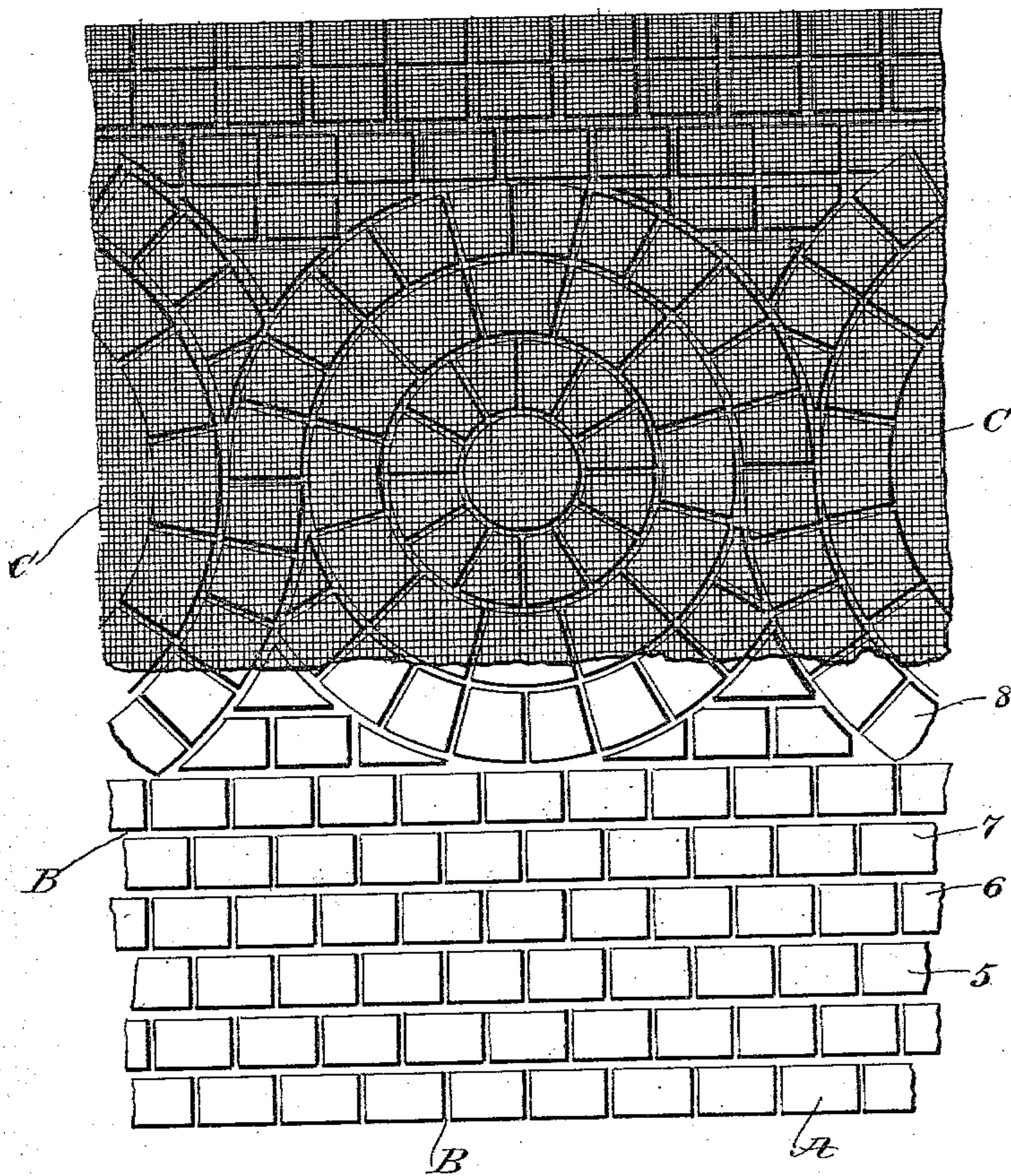
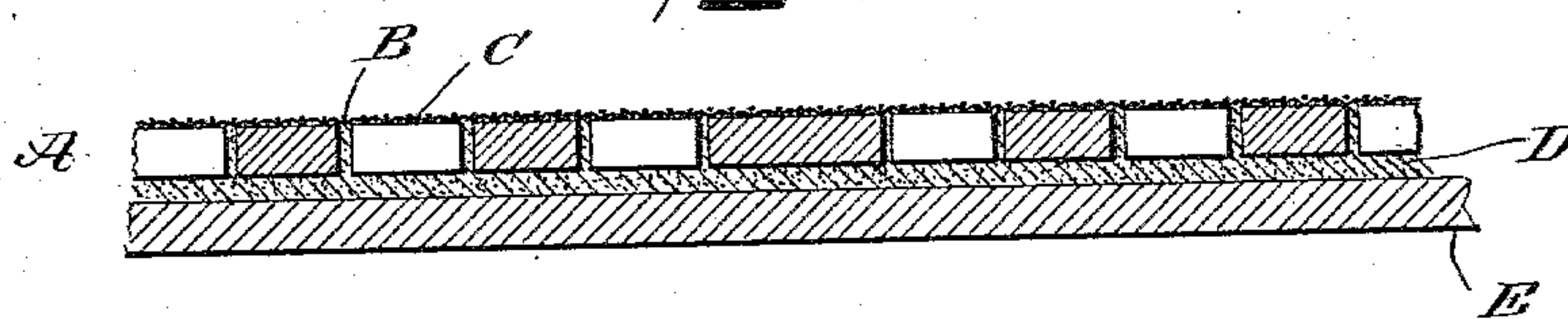


Fig. 2.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## MEANS FOR SETTING MOSAICS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 706,874, dated August 12, 1902.

Application filed April 5, 1902. Serial No. 101,473. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FELIX ALCAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Means for Setting Mosaics, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to means for setting mosaics in beds or layers of cementitious material, which will be hereinafter fully described and the actual scope of which will be defined by the claim.

In the practical operation of setting mosaics in cement it is customary to prepare a pattern at a factory or other place by arranging the pieces of ceramic ware, stone, or other material which may have the desired shape and be of different contrasting colors, such pattern being attached by adhesive material to a backing of an opaque pliable material. In placing the mosaic in the cement bed the workman or mosaic-setter turns the pattern over, so that the mosaic is placed face downward and with the opaque backing uppermost. This is objectionable for three reasons: First, tiles or mosaics of the wrong color are frequently placed in improper positions in the pattern. Thus a red mosaic is placed where a blue or yellow one should be; but this fact cannot be detected by the workman, because the opaque backing prevents the colors of the mosaics from being seen while setting them. Secondly, considerable time and labor is required to remove the improperly-placed mosaic from the bed after hardening of the cement; and, thirdly, the opaque backing must be moistened and the paper thoroughly soaked in order to remove the backing from the set mosaic, which requires considerable time. I aim to overcome these objections by providing means which permit the workman to readily detect a wrongly-placed piece of mosaic when setting the pattern in the bed, so that the mistake can be easily corrected before the cement becomes set and hard, and also to facilitate the stripping of the backing from the set mosaic, thereby effecting a material saving of time and labor in the setting of mosaics.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a mosaic pattern having a transparent backing for holding the pieces of mosaic in proper order, and Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation through the mosaic pattern after the same shall have been laid or inserted in the cementitious bed and before the removal of the transparent backing.

The mosaic pattern shown by Fig. 1 of the drawings may consist of pieces of mosaic A of any desired color, shape, and arrangement, and these pieces of mosaic may be either of ceramic ware, stone, or any other material. In the mosaic pattern shown by Fig. 1 the first three rows from the bottom may consist of pieces 5 of one color—as, for instance, black; the next row 6 may be of another color—as, for instance, red; the next row 7 may be of white pieces, while the circular or curved portion 8 may be of a dark-brown color. This arrangement of the pieces of mosaic may be infinitely varied and any desired contrasting colors may be employed in the formation of the pattern.

It is customary in the art to make up the pattern A at a factory or other convenient place and to apply the backing to the pieces of mosaic forming the pattern, such mosaic pieces being disposed in the spaced relation shown by Fig. 1 in order to leave surrounding channels B around each piece of the mosaic. These channels between the mosaic members or pieces provide for the introduction of cement or other binding material into the said mosaic pieces, and the pliable backing is employed to maintain the members of the pattern in the spaced relation.

The distinguishing and important feature of the present invention resides in the employment of a transparent backing C, this backing being applied to the active or wearing surfaces of the pieces comprising the pattern A. As shown by the drawings, the backing is made of a fibrous material of coarse mesh, such material being of an absorbent nature and adapted to be cemented securely to the active or wearing faces of the mosaic



pieces. The transparent backing layer of coarse-mesh fabric is laid or pressed smoothly over the wearing-surface of the mosaics, and this pattern and the backing are united together by the use of any suitable adhesive or cementitious matter. The backing serves to maintain the pieces of mosaic in their proper relation, and the important advantage secured by the backing resides in the adaptability of the workman or mosaic-setter to see the pieces of mosaic with sufficient clearness and distinctness to enable him to detect whether or not pieces of the wrong color are placed improperly in the pattern.

In using my invention the pattern is first prepared with the transparent fibrous backing cemented thereto, and in this condition the pattern may be carried from the factory or any place of storage to the place where the pattern is to be set in the cement bed. The cement D having been spread over a suitable foundation E, as indicated in Fig. 2, the workman takes the pattern and places it face downward into the cement layer D, the transparent backing C being uppermost. The workman presses the pattern into place, so that the cement will be thus forced upwardly into the channels B, surrounding the pieces of mosaic, and thus the pattern will be embedded in the cement bed, so that the mosaic pieces will be individually held immovably in place after the cement shall have hardened and become set.

In setting the mosaic pattern the workman is expected to inspect the pieces of mosaic by observing them through the transparent backing C, and in case he detects a piece of mosaic of the wrong color in the pattern such improper mosaic is removed from the set pattern before the cement shall have had an opportunity to become hardened and set, thereby saving considerable time and labor in prying out an improperly-placed piece of mosaic and resetting the same by a mosaic of proper color.

Another advantage secured by the employ-

ment of the transparent fibrous backing C is that it can be readily moistened in order to strip it from the wearing-surface of the mosaic pattern. This backing being composed of a fibrous fabric it will readily absorb moisture, and thereby dissolve or render soluble the cement which unites the backing to the mosaic pattern; and after the pattern shall have been moistened for a short time the workman can easily remove or strip the backing from the set mosaic.

It will be observed that my invention essentially contemplates the application of a transparent fibrous backing to the active or wearing faces of a mosaic pattern, whereby the backing is adapted to remain uppermost in the operation of setting the pattern in a cementitious bed, and said backing is adapted to be subsequently stripped from the mosaic pattern after it shall have been fixed in place by the hardening of the cement layer or bed.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A mosaic pattern comprising an open-mesh absorbent backing made of fibrous woven material, and pieces of suitably-colored tile arranged in the desired order on the backing with open or unfilled spaces intervening the same, each piece of tile being firmly united to the backing by soluble cement; said backing material having its meshes so arranged as to make the color of the tiles plainly visible through the backing; the entire pattern adapted to be placed face downward in a bed of cementitious material and the backing being saturated with moisture and stripped from the active wearing-faces of the tiles.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FELIX ALCAN

Witnesses:

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