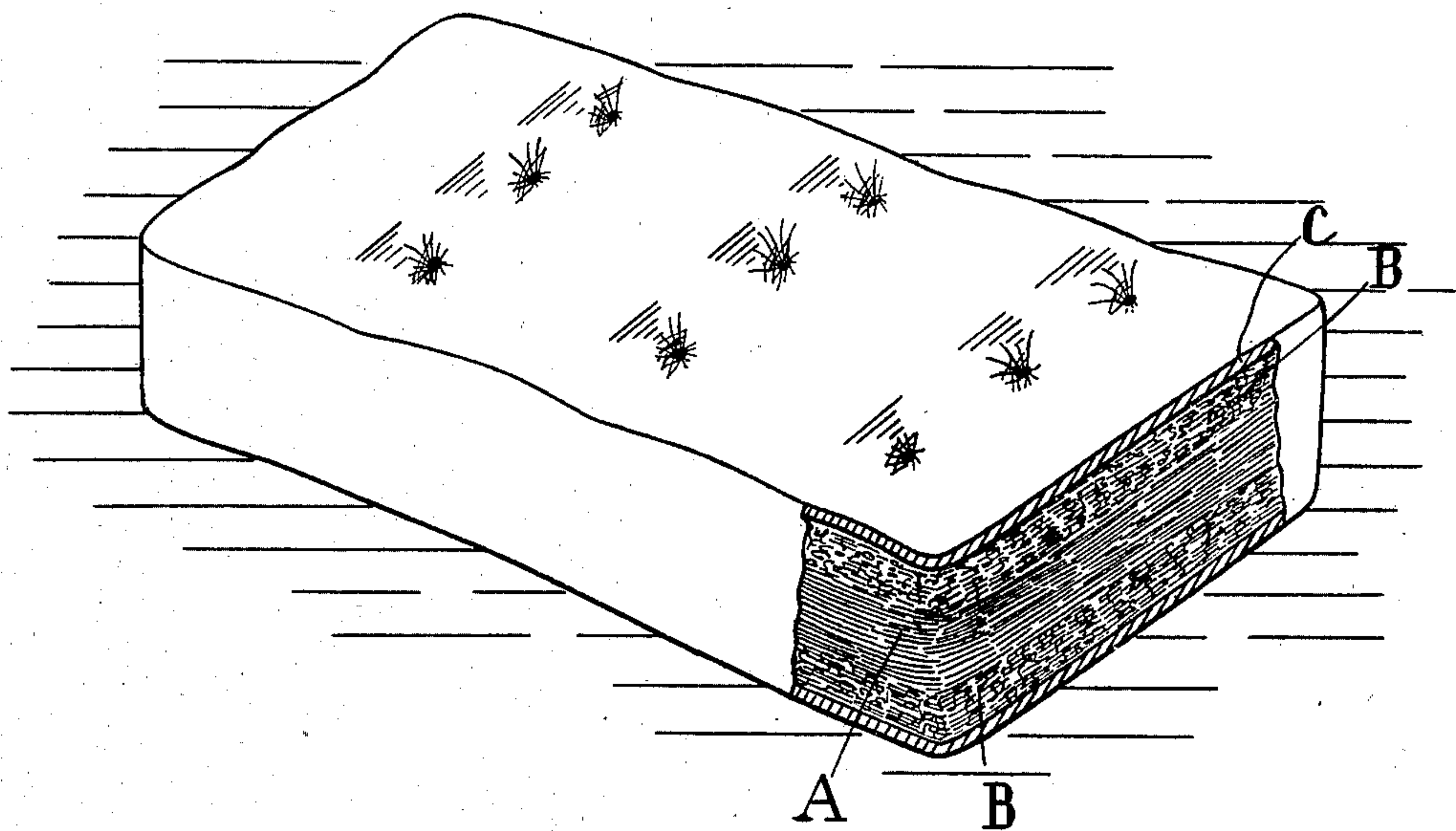


No. 731,777.

PATENTED JUNE 23, 1903.

J. HOEY.
BED OR COUCH MATTRESS.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 12, 1903.

NO MODEL.



WITNESSES:

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JOHN HOEY, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

BED OR COUCH MATTRESS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 731,777, dated June 23, 1903.

Application filed March 12, 1903. Serial No. 147,398. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN HOEY, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented an Improvement in Bed or Couch Mattresses; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in mattresses such as are used for beds, couches, or the like and which may be used for similar purposes.

It consists in the formation of the mattress with a central body of laminated cotton or cotton felt and inclosing layers of silk floss at top and bottom, the structure being afterward stitched and tufted.

Referring to the accompanying drawing, the figure is an illustration of my invention.

In the manufacture of mattresses various mixtures of materials have been employed to stuff into the outer casing which forms the mattress-cover. It has also been common to make the mattress of single layers of various materials.

My invention is designed to produce a mattress of greater softness and durability and to prevent the slipping and matting of one of the materials which is very suitable for mattresses with the exception that it is not ordinarily possible to keep it in position. The material to which I allude is a silk floss of short fiber, known as "kapok," which is produced in Java, Samarang, and other localities near. This fiber forms a very soft and desirable bed, as it is clean, light, fluffy, and very difficult to compress, and it never becomes packed or hard by long use. The objection to this material for mattress purposes lies in the fact that by reason of its short fiber it is easy to separate and slip upon itself. Consequently it rolls up into small lumps, and any mattress constructed solely of this material will soon become irregular, with thin and thick places, and must be made over. I have found by experiment that when this material in layers is alternated with layers of cotton felt or other similar elastic material the contact of the silk floss with the surface of the felt fixes the silk floss in place by a sort of interlacing of the fibers of the floss and the felt, so that the immobility of the felt is communicated to the floss and the latter is retained in position and prevented from bunching or slipping

away from its proper position. A mattress thus made is much more valuable because I am able to combine the permanence of the felt with the elastic and non-compressible character of the silk floss.

In the construction of my mattress a central body or sheet of felt A is located between the two exterior bodies B, which are formed of the kapok or silk floss previously described. These layers of silk floss are packed to any desired thickness upon each side of the central body and the whole is then secured together by stitching and tufting and located within the outer inclosing case C, which forms the mattress. The short fiber of the silk floss appears to become interlaced with the less movable and longer fiber of the cotton felt, and this union is such as to prevent the silk floss from slipping and moving out of position or becoming bunched. I am thus enabled to provide the outer surface of the desirable elastic and comparatively incompressible floss and to maintain these portions constantly in position by their union and interlacing with the inner body, which is not subject to the above-named objections. A mattress made in this manner will not require making over and will last for many years, it being necessary to use a minimum of material, and a mattress thus constructed is very light.

Having thus described my invention, I do not claim, broadly, the mixture of various materials to form a mattress-stuffing; but

What I do claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As an improved article of manufacture, a mattress or the like consisting of a central layer of substantially inseparable, immobile material and exterior layers of mobile material such as the short-fiber floss termed "kapok" said immobile and mobile materials having their fibrous surfaces in direct contact whereby the short fiber of the mobile material will interlace with the less movable and longer fiber of the immobile material, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOHN HOEY.

Witnesses:

W. R. PEASE,
CHARLES F. HOEY.