No. 814,934. PATENTED MAR. 13, 1906.

J. J. BLACKMAN.

SURFACE FINISHING FOR FLOORS, CEILINGS, &c.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 14, 1901.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

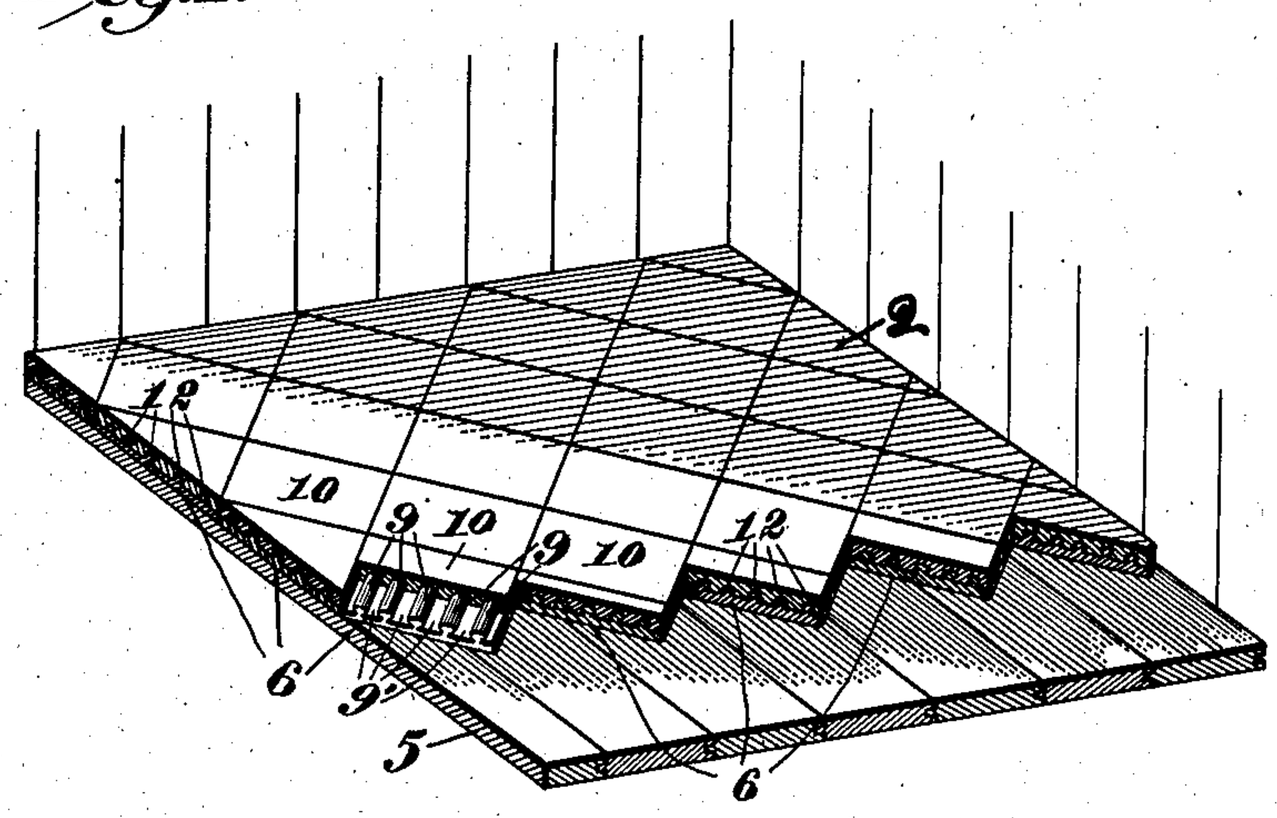


Fig. 2.

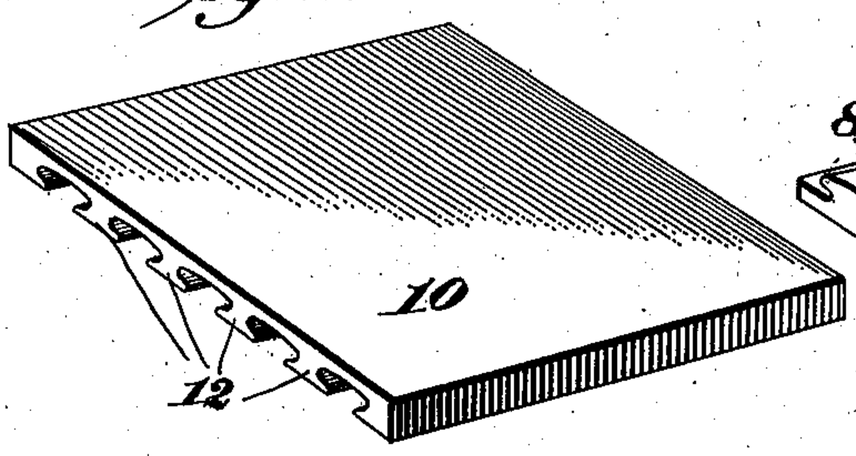


Fig. 3.

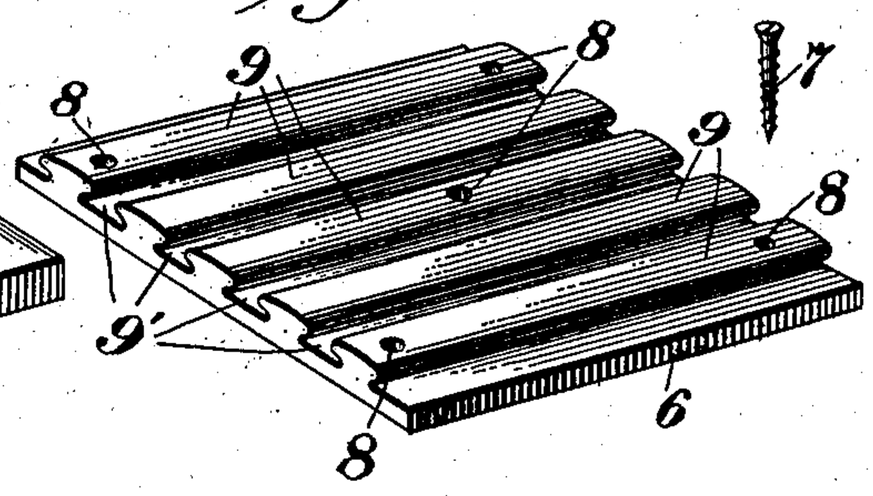
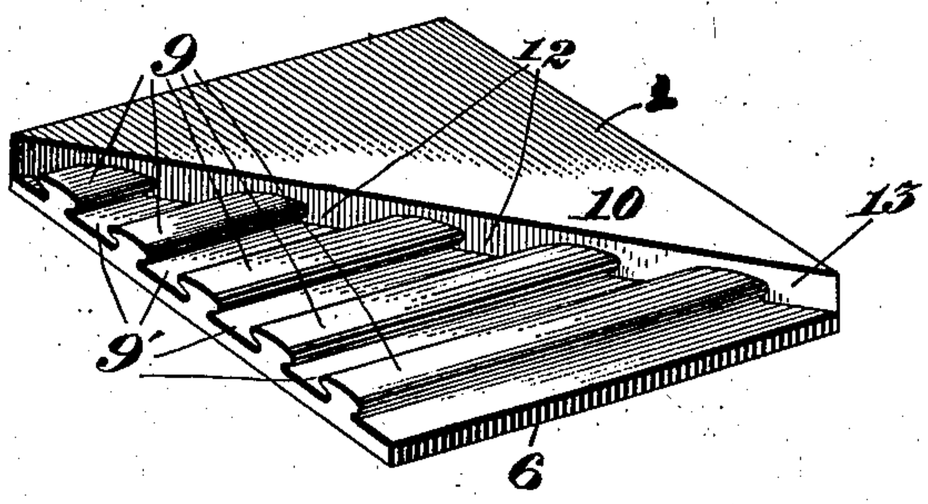


Fig. 4.



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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 5.

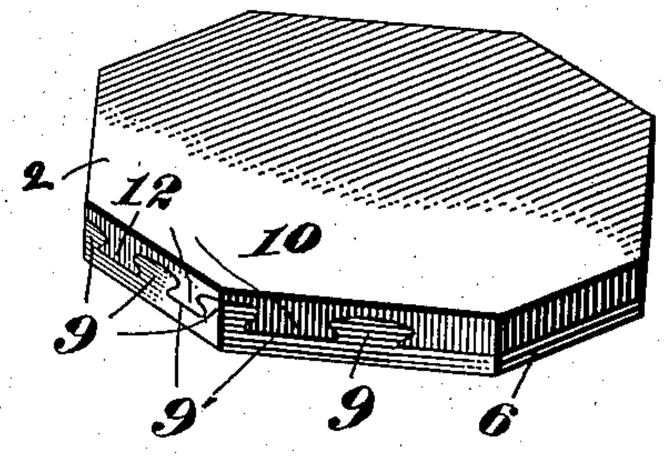


Fig. 6.

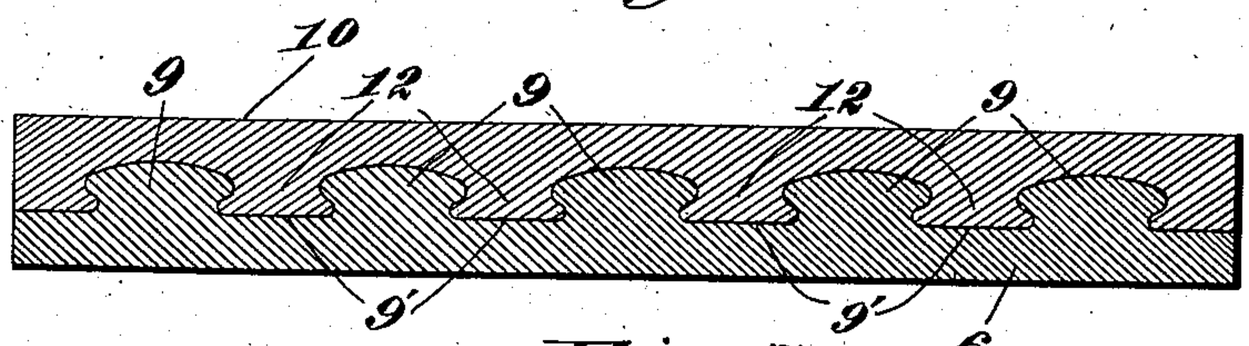


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

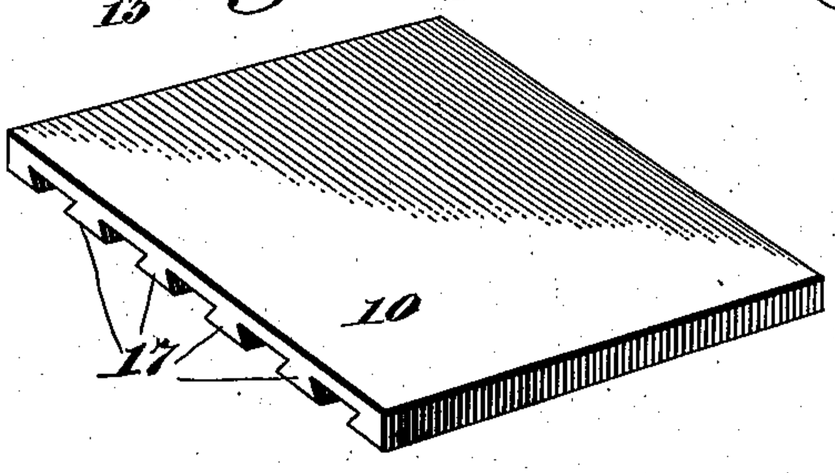


Fig. 9.

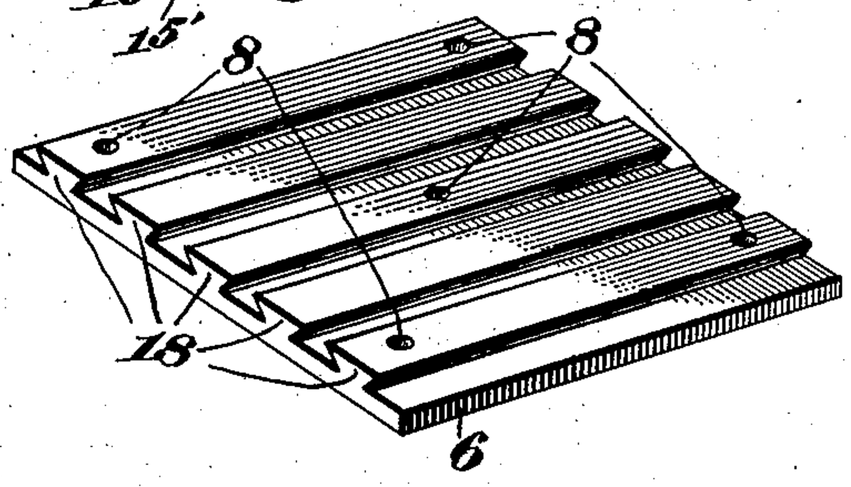
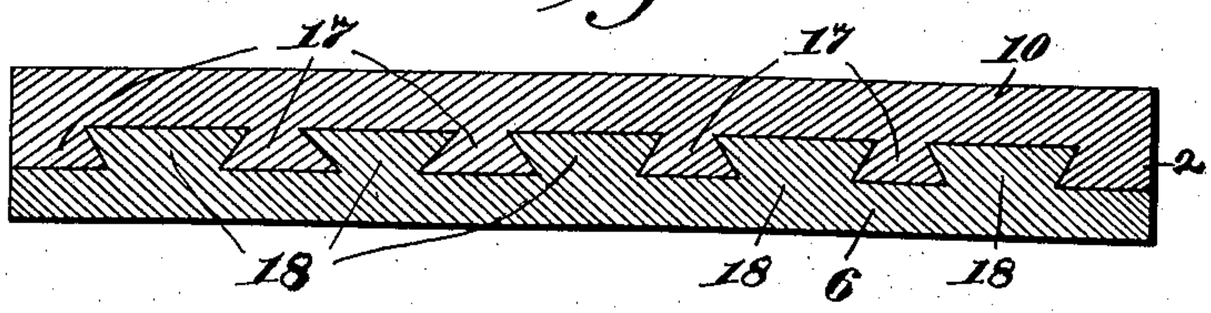


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN J. BLACKMAN, OF NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO GEORGE P. BRADSTREET, OF THOMASTON, CONNECTICUT.

SURFACE-FINISHING FOR FLOORS, CEILINGS, &c.

No. 814,934. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 13, 1906.

Application filed January 14, 1901. Serial No. 43,141.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. BLACKMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing in New Britain, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Surface-Finishing for Floors, Ceilings, &c., of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved flooring-block for hard-wood or parquet floors.

The object of the invention is the provision of an improved surface or finish for floors made up of blocks, each of which blocks in the present improvement comprises two registering parts of substantially the same dimensions interlocked by sliding one upon the other, one part constituting a complete base for the facing member and adapted to be first secured by suitable fastening devices in position to the underflooring or retaining structure and the other constituting a complete facing-plate for the base, fully facing said base and adapted to be subsequently applied to such base, the two parts or plates comprising a single complete block, the upper flat part of which constitutes the surface finish of the floor or structure to which the block is applied.

A further object of the invention is the provision of an improved wood flooring-block comprising two members or plates, one a base and the other a surface finish or top interlocked with each other by a series of tongues and grooves or dovetails, the top fully facing the base and the two parts or members forming a single, complete, and independent block with the grain of the top crossing the grain of the base, so that the top is held in position without liability of warping or dislocation, the construction being such that an inexpensive wood may be used for the base, while the top may be of oak, mahogany, or other expensive wood.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a single complete block or section comprising a base and a surface finish or top united with each other by tongues or grooves of zigzag or stepped formation.

In the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of the present improvement, showing it applied to a floor to which it is particularly well adapted. Figs. 2 and 3 are respectively perspective views of one form of the top and base members or plates of the block or section detached. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the block or section with the top severed on a diagonal line to illustrate the manner in which the dovetails secure the parts together. Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing the block cut to have a hexagonal shape. Fig. 6 is a section of two of the members or plates, illustrating the form of dovetails shown in Figs. 1 to 5. Fig. 7 is a section showing a different form of dovetail. Figs. 8 and 9 are respectively perspective views of the top and base members or plates, showing another form in which dovetails are employed for uniting the members; and Fig. 10 is a section of said top and bottom united by the form of dovetail shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the different figures of the drawings.

This improved flooring-block 2 comprises a top or top plate 10 and a base or bottom plate 6, the two forming a complete independent block or section, which is secured to an under floor or other retaining structure. The base-plate 6 may be rectangular or of any other desired form, the top corresponding in shape thereto, and is first securely fastened to the under floor or other supporting structure in any desired way, preferably by means of screws 7, passing through perforations 8 in ribs or tongues 9, Figs. 3 to 6, or 15, Fig. 7, or 18, Figs. 9 and 10, of the said base-plate. These ribs or tongues may be of various forms—as, for instance, of ogee formation—as illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6. This form is more particularly described and claimed in my divisional patent, No. 683,009, dated September 17, 1901, or they may be of zigzag or stepped formation, as illustrated in Fig. 7, or just a plain dovetail, as illustrated in Figs. 8, 9, and 10. The ribs or tongues may be readily produced by machinery. Intervening each pair of tongues or ribs is a groove 9′ for the reception of a correspondingly-shaped rib of the companion member of the block.

The top or facing member or plate 10 of the section or block is shown corresponding

in dimensions with the base-plate, so as to fully face the same, and is likewise provided with a series of ribs or tongues 12, Figs. 1, 2, 4, to 6, or 14, Fig. 7, or 17, Figs. 8 and 10, and which ribs or tongues correspond to the form of the ribs or tongues of the base-plate, and therefore fit and interlock therewith.

Preferably the base-plate 6 is provided with a series of ribs, five being shown, and the top plate 10 with a similar number of grooves, or vice versa, since by this construction the top plate may be severed on a diagonal line, as indicated at 13, Fig. 4, or both members may be thus severed to cause them to fit into corners or other places (see Fig. 1) without liability of detaching one plate from the other plate, as might be the case were but one or two ribs or projections employed. The dovetails are shown of the same width from end to end, this being the preferable construction, since the top can then be slipped on from either side during the laying of the floor.

In Fig. 7 the top or surface member or plate 10 of the block is shown provided with a series of separated ribs or projections 14 and the base or bottom plate with a similar series of ribs 15, each rib being of a stepped or zigzag form, as indicated at 14′ and 15′, respectively, at its sides to form an interlock when the two plates or members are united.

In Figs. 8, 9, and 10, as hereinbefore stated, the top and bottom members are each provided with a series of plain dovetails 17 18, respectively, for interlocking the two parts together.

In the use of all the forms of my present improvement the base-plate 6 is first firmly secured to the under floor or other retaining-surface, then the dovetails of the top or surface plate 10 are inserted into the grooves of the base, whereupon the top can be readily slid into position flush at its sides and ends with the side and end walls of said base-plate. Thus the top member or plate fully faces the bottom member or plate, the two members forming a single complete block and when laid with other companion blocks of similar formation forms the complete floor.

The present improvement, it will be seen from the foregoing, comprises a finished complete block, one flat part of which constitutes the surface finish of the structure to which it is applied and which block is composed of two independently-formed readily-separable registering parts of the same dimensions, dovetailed interlocked by sliding one upon the other, one constituting a complete and independent base adapted to be first secured in place to the retaining structure or underflooring by screws or similar fastening means and the other forming a complete and independent facing-plate, fully facing said base and to be subsequently secured to the base by sliding it on such base, so that the blocks can be readily secured in place by a carpenter without the use of cement or other material of a like nature.

The base or under plate could be a metal block if a fire-proof lining were desired, while the upper plate was of wood, the ribs or projections of such metal plate being formed integral therewith by either casting or shaping them up from the body of the plate. The improvement is, however, particularly designed as a surface finishing in which both the face and base plates are formed of wood and is especially organized as a surface finish for floors.

The blocks made up and attached in the manner indicated could be used to give the same appearance as a parquet-floor to various things—as, for instance, the ceiling of a room, &c., or as a table-top, &c.

When both plates are constructed of wood, the lower plate will have its grain crossing the grain of the upper plate, so that the two plates when interlocked in proper position for use will operate one to retain the other against warping or buckling.

I claim as my invention—

1. Surface-finishing comprising a base-block provided with a series of separated tongues or ribs having overhanging sides and adapted to be securely fastened to a support, and an upper block of the same dimensions as the base-block, and provided with a series of tongues or ribs adapted to interlock with the tongues or ribs of the base-block when said upper block is slid to position upon the base-block.

2. The combination, with a support, of a base-block having a series of separated tongues or ribs with overhanging side edges extending entirely across said base-plate; means passing through perforations in ribs of the base-block for securing said base-block to the support; and a top block having a series of separated tongues or ribs with overhanging sides extending entirely across said top block and located on its under surface, said tongues or ribs of the top block being fitted and interlocked in sliding engagement with the tongues or ribs of the base-block.

3. The combination, with a support, of a base-block secured to said support and having a series of separated tongues or ribs extending across the same and provided with stepped or zigzag sides; and a top block also having a series of separated tongues or ribs extending across said top block and having stepped or zigzag sides, said top block being held in sliding engagement with the base-block by interlocking the tongues or ribs of both said blocks, and both blocks being of the same dimensions.

4. The combination, with a support, of a base-block having an odd number of tongues or ribs formed with overhanging sides and extending across said base-block; means for

securing the base-block to the support; and a top block of the same dimensions as the base-block and also having an odd number of tongues or ribs with overhanging sides on its under side, the tongues or ribs of both blocks being fitted in sliding and interlocking engagement with each other.

5. A surface-finishing comprising a base adapted to be secured to a support and a facing-plate independent of the base but corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions thereof, the upper surface of the base and the lower surface of the facing-plate being formed to interlock with each other by sliding one upon the other.

6. A wood flooring-section comprising a base adapted to be secured to the floor, and a facing-plate independent of the base but corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions thereof, the upper face of the base and the lower face of the facing-plate being formed to be interlocked with each other by sliding one upon the other.

7. As an article of maufacture, a wood flooring-block made up of two parts, a base-plate and a face-plate of the same dimensions, interlocked with each other by sliding one upon the other.

8. As an article of manufacture, a single wood flooring-block made up of two readily-separable parts, a base-plate and a face-plate of the same dimensions, interlocked with each other by dovetails of the same width from end to end and by sliding one upon the other.

9. A surface-finishing, comprising a base of wood adapted to be secured to a support, and a facing-plate also of wood independent of the base, but corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions thereof, the upper surface of the base and the lower surface of the facing-plate being formed to interlock with each other by sliding one upon the other with the grain of the facing-plate crossing the grain of the base-plate.

10. A wood flooring-block comprising a base adapted to be secured to the floor and a facing-plate independent of the base but corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions thereof, the upper face of the base and the lower face of the facing-plate being formed to be interlocked with each other by sliding one upon the other with the grain of the facing-plate crossing the grain of the base-plate.

11. A wood flooring-block comprising a single, complete block or section, one flat part of which constitutes the surface finish of the under floor to which it is applied, composed of two registering parts of the same dimensions interlocked by sliding one upon the other, one a complete and independent base to be first secured in place to the under floor, and the other a complete and independent facing-plate fully facing said base, to be subsequently secured to such base.

12. A wood flooring-block comprising a single, complete block or section of wood, one flat part of which constitutes the surface finish of the under floor to which it is applied, composed of two registering parts of the same dimensions, dovetail interlocked by sliding one upon the other, the grain of one part crossing the grain of the other, and one part constituting a complete and independent base to be first secured in place to the under floor, and the other part a complete and independent facing-plate fully facing said base, to be secured subsequently to such base.

13. A wood flooring, comprising a base adapted to be secured to a floor by means passing vertically through it, a facing-plate independent of the base but corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions of the base, and adapted to be passed over it, and tongue-and-groove connection between the base and facing-plate, substantially as described.

14. A wood flooring, comprising a base formed in its upper face with longitudinal dovetail ribs, and a facing-plate independent of but corresponding in dimensions to the base, and formed in its under face with dovetail grooves corresponding to the ribs in the base over which it is adapted to be passed after the base is secured in position, substantially as described.

15. A wood flooring-block made up of two parts, a base-plate and a face-plate of the same dimensions, interlocked with each other by zigzag dovetails.

16. A wood flooring-section comprising a base adapted to be secured to a floor, and a facing-plate independent of the base but corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions thereof, the upper face of the base and the lower face of the facing-plate having stepped or zigzag-formed tongues and grooves interlocking with each other, the grain of the facing-plate crossing the grain of the base.

17. In a hard-wood or parquet floor, the combination with an under flooring, of a series of independent blocks, each separately attached to said under floor, edge to edge and each comprising a base-plate of one wood secured to such under floor and a top plate of the same dimensions as the base-plate and fully facing the same, and of a different wood, and dovetail interlocked with said base-plate by sliding it thereupon.

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