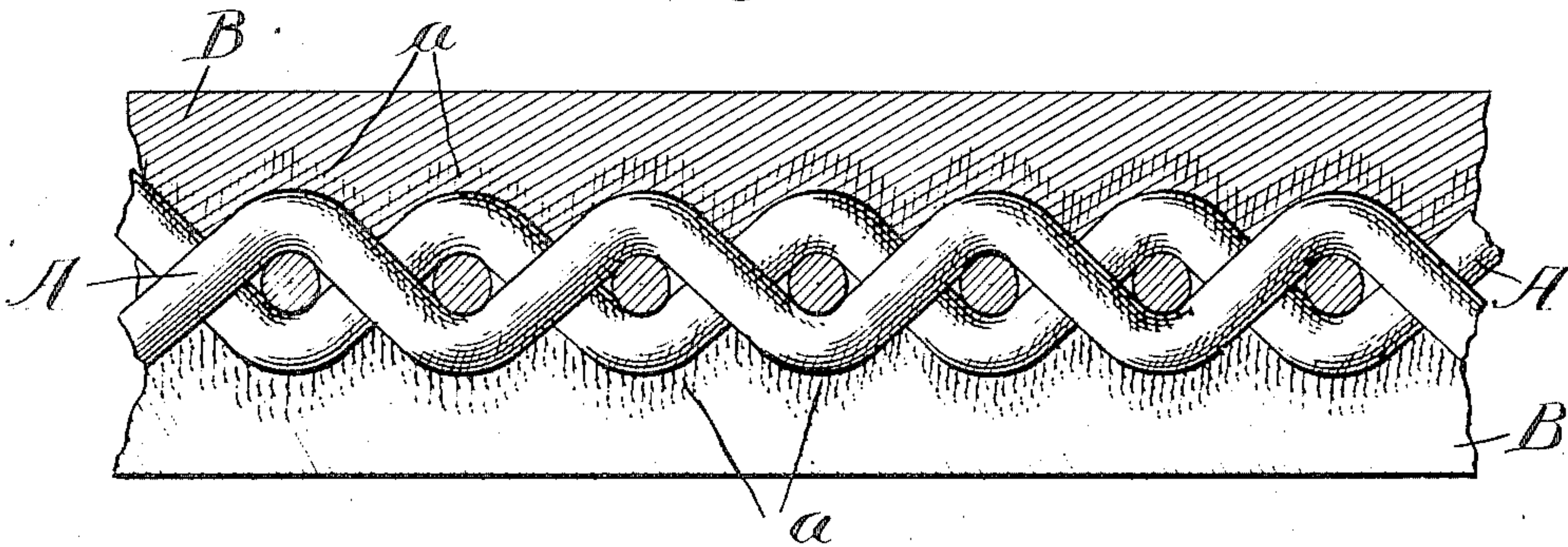


M. PIANKO.  
IMITATION LEATHER.  
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 27, 1907.

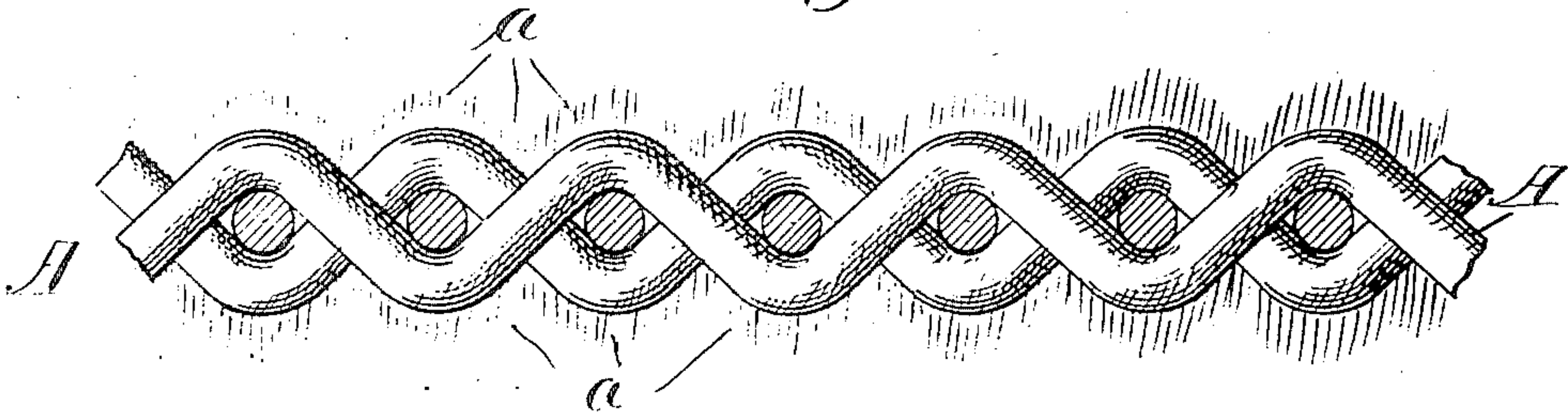
915,882.

Patented Mar. 23, 1909.

*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses  
C. W. Dennis  
E. M. Lundy.

Inventor  
Mendel Pianko.  
by Frank D. Thompson  
Att'y



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MENDEL PIANKO, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO ROBERT A. NEILSON AND WILLIAM F. NEILSON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## IMITATION LEATHER.

No. 915,882.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 23, 1909.

Application filed June 27, 1907. Serial No. 381,110.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MENDEL PIANKO, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Imitation Leather, of which the following is a clear, full, and exact description.

Heretofore it has been customary to make imitation leather by using a textile fabric, such as drilling or canvas, and applying thereto boiled oil, or a mixture of pyroxylin and oil, reduced to such a thickness, that, when applied, it permeates the weave of the fabric and acts as a filler for the same. The objection to the product thus made and particularly to imitation leather for book covers, etc. was that, when finished, it lacked the necessary flexibility, and superficial softness and became, owing to the capillary action of the fiber of the textile fabric, dry and hard, and, unless made with extreme care and the best of materials, would crack and wear away, so that the weave of the supporting fabric would become exposed and present a very unattractive appearance.

The object of my invention is to produce an imitation leather made of the above mentioned materials or their equivalents, which will be just as easy and economical to manufacture; will possess a cushion under the layer and between it and the fabric which will give it greater flexibility, durability, softness to the touch, will receive an impression which will be enduring, and will be very pleasing and natural in appearance: substantially as hereinafter fully described, and as particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 shows a section, on an enlarged scale, of a fragment of my improved imitation leather. Fig. 2 is a detail view, on an enlarged scale, showing a section of the textile body fabric employed in the construction of the same.

In the drawings A represents a suitable textile fabric, such as drilling, canvas or equivalent material, the surfaces *a, a*, of which are provided with a nap or fuzz, as for example like the soft side of canton flannel, either during the process of weaving, by the intermingling of a suitable material with the interwoven threads of the fabric, or by subjecting the surface of the fabric to the action of abrading or roughening devices or mechanism, or otherwise. I apply to one or both

sides of this fabric a layer of hard boiled oil or a mixture of pyroxylin and other oils, that has been reduced to the thickness of gum, and spread the same upon the fabric so that the nap or fuzz or loose fibers of the surface or surfaces thereof will enter the said layer and be knit into the same, only to a limited extent so that there will remain a minute space between the roots of the nap and the inner surface of said layer within which the fibers or nap form a cushion that holds the coagulum out from the fabric and protects the latter while permitting the former to receive and retain an impression or embossment that will be indestructible, and not so that the said surface layers B will enter and permeate the interwoven wool and weft of the fabric, to the extent that heretofore was intentionally done. Some of the material of the surface layers, B, may sift into the interstices of the interwoven threads of the fabric A and some of its constituent ingredients may be absorbed by said threads, but this is an accident of construction and it is an object of my invention to avoid this result to as great an extent as possible. When thus made the surface layers B, B, of the material will be cushioned, as it were, against the surface or surfaces of the fabric A, and will be soft, because retaining more of its constituent ingredients than it did when heretofore employed in the making of imitation leather, and because of the space between it and the weft and wool of the fabric. The fabric, A, itself, will be more flexible, while at the same time the surface layers B, B, will be thoroughly knit and secured to the same.

In view of the thickness of the surface layers B my improved imitation leather will receive and retain superficial embossment or impression better than it has heretofore been possible to do, and will last much longer, and this is due largely to the fact that the layers B only receive and are affected by the exterior impression while the body fabric is not. As a covering for furniture or books it remains fresh and does not show wear as does other imitation leather of this kind now in use.

I do not wish to be confined to the use of a textile body fabric as hereinbefore set forth, because it is obvious that any kind of a flexible body fabric having fibers or fuzz or nap projecting from its surface could be used and, to a certain extent, prove satisfactory. All



such changes I desire to be understood as considering within the scope of my invention.

What I claim as new is:—

As an article of manufacture an imitation  
5 leather consisting of a flexible textile body  
fabric the surface of which is provided with  
projecting fibers or nap, a surface layer of  
suitable material cushioned upon and se-  
cured superficially to said body fabric by said  
10 nap or fibers, and a minute space between  
said fabric and layer extending substantially

over the entire area thereof sufficient to per-  
mit of a slight independent movement of  
each relative to the other.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set 15  
my hand and seal this 13th day of June,  
A. D. 1907.

MENDEL PIANKO. [l. s.]

Witnesses:

FRANK D. THOMASON,  
E. K. LUNDY.