

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PLASTIC COMPOSITION.

No. 930,777.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. MILLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond, Wayne county, Indiana, have invented a certain new and useful Plastic Composition, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists in the production of a new and useful plastic composition designed for various uses in the ornamenting and embellishing of objects or surfaces as a substitute for wooden carvings and the like and, while the same is more particularly designed for use by me for the purpose of ornamenting and embellishing shells of caskets, yet it will be understood that my invention is not limited to such particular character of use.

One of the principal objects of my invention is to produce a composition which shall not only be plastic and therefore capable of being given the proper form or ornamentation by means of dies or the like, but shall also be such as to retain its plastic or semi-rigid character in order that it may be shaped to the surface or contour of the object to which it is to be applied and thereby fit closely thereagainst.

Another object of my invention is to produce a plastic composition which shall also be elastic under all conditions and for any length of time, so as to adapt or conform itself to the expansions and contractions or shrinkages of the object to which it is applied.

A further object is to provide a composition which shall in addition be tough in character, so that if desired nails may be driven therethrough without cracking or fracturing the same.

Various other advantageous features and properties of my new composition will be apparent from the description hereinafter given.

Speaking in general terms, my composition comprises essentially resinous matter, a drying vegetable oil and starchy matter, to which may be added a mineral filler and finely reduced fibrous matter also if desired. Before describing the particular ingredients employed by me in the present practice of my invention and before setting forth their proportions, it will be understood that the proportions may be varied between certain limits, according to the particular kind of use of the composition of the particular degree of plastic character, but it will be found

that the proportions of ingredients hereinafter described as the preferred ones will be found proper for most uses.

Referring to my plastic composition as compounded by me, I employ resinous matter such as ordinary rosin, a vegetable oil such as boiled linseed oil, a starchy matter, preferably finely reduced cereal such as corn meal, although ordinary flour might be employed and also potatoes, which are of course rich in starch. I prefer to mix these ingredients in the following proportions: rosin eight parts by weight, linseed oil one part by weight and corn meal twelve parts by weight.

If it is desired to give the composition more rigidity and weight, a mineral filler such as whiting may be employed, in which case the following proportions are recommended: rosin eight parts, linseed oil one and one-half part, corn meal twelve parts and whiting twelve parts, said proportions being by weight.

In order to provide for an economical filler, so as to give additional body, while retaining the advantageous properties of the compositions hereinbefore described, a suitable finely divided fibrous matter may be added to the last described composition and for this particular purpose I prefer to employ sawdust. When sawdust is employed as one of the ingredients, the following proportions are recommended: rosin eight parts, linseed oil one and one-half parts, corn meal eight parts, whiting eight parts and sawdust two parts, said proportions being by weight.

As hereinbefore stated, this composition is preferably, though not necessarily, designed for use in the ornamentation and embellishment of burial caskets and speaking of the practice employed in this connection, without intending to limit myself to such particular use, the plastic composition, combined according to any one of the formulæ above stated, is formed to the desired ornamental shape to resemble wood carvings, for instance, such forming or shaping being accomplished by means of dies having the proper configuration. The resulting ornamental product is plastic in character and may be bent or twisted by the hand so as to conform it to the surface of the object or article to which it is to be applied, the product or composition remaining in this plastic or semi-rigid condition under all circumstances and not hardening or becoming brittle after lapse of time or after exposure but retaining a permanent set as to ornamentation or configuration.

ration and still remaining in a plastic condition so that it may be shaped to the article to which it is to be applied. In practice the composition thus partaking of the desired
 5 ornamental shape or a series of the same may be applied or attached to the shell of the casket either directly or indirectly and in suitable manner. When the composition is attached directly to the shell of the casket I
 10 prefer to preliminarily cover the same with the cloth which is to form the covering of the casket, which covering is accomplished by laying the cloth over the formed composition and having the die, by a second operation,
 15 press the cloth directly into the surface of the composition. Owing to the somewhat adhesive character of the composition and the fact that the nap of the cloth is forced by pressure of the die into the surface itself
 20 of such composition, the cloth will be securely affixed to the composition and will moreover partake of identically the same ornamental design as is impressed upon the composition itself. The cloth, with the com-
 25 position or a series thereof on its inner side, is now glued or otherwise secured to the shell of the casket with the result that the casket is provided with an ornamentation and embellishment equal to that provided by cloth
 30 covered wooden ornaments or veneers.

If desired the shell of the casket may be first covered with the cloth and the ornamental composition or series of such products, after being covered by the cloth, may then be
 35 secured in any suitable manner to the cloth, thus covering the shell of the casket. Also, if desired the composition products may be secured to the shell of the casket in suitable manner, as by gluing or nailing or tacking, preferably
 40 by gluing, and the same subsequently covered by hand with the cloth, although the method hereinbefore described, in which the cloth is impressed by the die into the composition itself, is preferred. The elastic property
 45 of my composition permits this covering of the composition products by means of the die, the composition yielding and permitting the cloth to be pressed into it without any tearing or rupturing of such cloth. Notwith-
 50 standing the elastic and plastic character of the composition, the articles thus molded or formed therefrom retain their original shape, the composition being semi-rigid but yet of a nature to permit of the bending and shap-
 55 ing of the same to the article to which it is to be attached.

I have described my invention as it is used in practice, that is in the ornamenting of burial caskets, such particular description
 60 being resorted to for a clear and definite ex-

planation of my invention, although as will be understood I contemplate using my invention wherever applicable, it being evident that articles composed of my composition may be employed in a great variety of situa- 65
 tions owing to the practical and advantageous properties which it possesses.

I claim:

1. A plastic composition comprising resinous matter, a drying vegetable oil, and 70
 starchy matter; substantially as described.
2. A plastic composition comprising resinous matter, linseed oil and starchy matter; substantially as described.
3. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, a drying 75
 oil and a finely reduced cereal; substantially as described.
4. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, a drying 80
 oil and corn meal; substantially as described.
5. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising a resinous matter, linseed oil and corn meal; substantially as described. 85
6. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising rosin, linseed oil and corn meal; substantially as described.
7. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, a drying 90
 oil, starchy matter and a mineral filler, substantially as described.
8. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, a drying 95
 oil, starchy matter and whiting; substantially as described.
9. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, a drying 100
 oil, corn meal and whiting; substantially as described.
10. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, corn meal, linseed oil and whiting; substantially as described.
11. A composition of matter of plastic 105
 character comprising resinous matter, a drying oil, starchy matter, whiting and a fibrous matter; substantially as described.
12. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, a dry- 110
 ing oil, starchy matter, whiting and sawdust; substantially as described.
13. A composition of matter of plastic character comprising resinous matter, linseed oil, corn meal, whiting and sawdust; 115
 substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

O. F. WARD,

C. G. LANCASTER.