

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

REBECCA T. SWENNING, OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

PROCESS OF PREPARING BACKGROUNDS ON PILE FABRIC.

997,101.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 4, 1911.

No Drawing.

Application filed June 19, 1907. Serial No. 379,727.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REBECCA T. SWENNING, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Los Angeles, county of Los Angeles, and State of California, have invented a new and useful process of preparing the backgrounds of white or light pile fabric upon which an ornamental design in oils or colors is to be made, of which the following is a specification.

In the preparation of backgrounds upon pile fabrics upon which ornamental designs in oils or in colors are to be made or have been made it has been customary to use a small stick, like a tooth pick, to put the background color on the fabric, and as such stick could carry only a limited amount of color which could only be applied to the top of the pile, it has been difficult to produce an even graduation or shading of the background, and if an even graduated shading were produced it took considerable time and care to do it, and if a mistake were made when the piece was nearly completed there is no way to remedy the same and the effect of the mistake is to destroy a pleasing effect and thereby render the whole work useless.

It is the object of my improved process to so prepare such backgrounds that mistakes, if made can be corrected and the work can be done quickly and efficiently.

I accomplish this object in the manner following: I stretch and secure upon a drawing board a piece of pile fabric upon which has been stamped or otherwise delineated the outline of the ornamental design which is to be represented on such fabric. I then take a liquid coloring agent, such as an indelible liquid water color of the deepest shade that it is desired to have the background assume and saturate the pile to the bottom thereof on a strip of the fabric a little wider than I wish to have the background of the deepest shade. This is usually at the bottom or lower right hand corner. I then take a piece of absorbent material, preferably white cotton batting and dip the same in a thinning agent and then squeeze out the agent so it will not drip. I then flow or spread the color by repeatedly rubbing from the edge of the colored portion toward the point that the background tint shades off to the natural color of the fabric, applying from time to time coloring matter if required. Where the piece of work is of considerable dimensions I prefer

to prepare my coloring matters of different degrees of density, the foundation color would be of the deepest shade, and the next vessel would contain coloring matter of a medium shade and the third vessel would contain coloring matter of a light shade. I would saturate a strip of the fabric across the piece of work with the deepest shade. At about one fourth the distance from the deepest shade I would saturate a strip of the fabric with the medium coloring matter, and at three fourths the distance across the fabric I would saturate a strip with the lightest shade. I would then flow the coloring matter from the deepest shade to the medium, and would then flow the medium to the lightest shade, after which I would flow the color from the lightest shade to the vanishing point; always observing that in flowing the colors not to cause the same to flow upon the fabric within the outline of the ornamental design, unless the colors of such design could cover the background color. By this process a background having a graduated tint can be quickly and easily produced so as to bring out in a most artistic manner the ornamental design represented on the fabric. After the background has been prepared the ornamental design will be put on the fabric in the usual manner. If desired the ornamental design could be first placed on the fabric, but I prefer to first put the background thereon. When flowing the color on the pile in forming the background should any part of the flowed work be of too deep color it can easily be lightened up by absorbing a part of the coloring matter thereof out of the fabric with dampened cotton, and it is likewise easy to touch up any spots which are too light.

In case a background of a graduated shade is not desired I form the solid color background by saturating the pile of the fabric with the liquid coloring matter of the required density.

Having described my invention what I claim is;

The herein described process of preparing backgrounds on pile fabric which consists first saturating a portion of the pile with liquid coloring matter of the darkest shade required in the background, then second, flowing the coloring to the lightest shaded portion of the background by repeatedly rubbing a portion of the darkest

shaded portion with moistened or wet absorbent material and the other portions of background to be shaded until the lightest part of the background is reached, whereby
5 the darkest color is gradually flowed out or shaded off to the lightest required shade, the pile being thoroughly saturated at all parts.

In witness that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto subscribed my name this 12th 10 day of June, 1907.

REBECCA T. SWENNING.

Witnesses:

G. E. HARPHAM,
S. B. AUSTIN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."
