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LINOLEUM COVERING FOR FLOORS

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The present invention is related to linoleum floor coverings, of varied size and shape, constituted of a sheet of linoleum without the fabric layer foundation and it is intended to be enclosed by plunging its inferior face into the fluid cement interlayer cast between the covering and the floor to be covered.

In order to reach the bonding between the linoleum covering and the cement, the floor covering according to the present invention presents the inferior face, that is the face contacting the cement interlayer provided with projecting prominence or ribs. These prominences or ribs may show a biased cut such as a dovetail or any other suitable homologous shape and can stand forth more or less according to the thickness of the covering.

The floor covering according to the present invention constitute an improvement of the linoleum flooring, because it keeps all the most remarkable peculiarities of such flooring, is cheaper, offers a greater field of employment and remains anchored permanently to the floor.

It is known that the linoleum coverings now on the market are of different forms and sizes, for instance they are manufactured in long rolls of given width, in small or large plates, a. s. o., and are made up of a superior part of linoleum and of an inferior part of fabric, which are united during the calendaring operations, that is during the operation in which the kneaded mass of linoleum is pressed to in order to adhere to the fabric foundation. In the linoleum industry found large appliance the jute fabric, which showed to be very suitable.

Such floor coverings are put on place coating the floor with an appropriate mastic or adhesive, by means of which is obtained the sticking of the covering to the floor which generally consists of a platform of cement or plaster.

Many factors can weaken the adhesive power of the binding agent, for instance the humidity or the crystallisation of the adhesive, so far as to loosen the covering from the floor and therefore in some case to come to be questionable the possibility of the use of such coverings in open spaces or in rooms having a great traffic, where hygienics requires very often the cleaning of the floor with plenty of water. Furthermore one has to bear in mind that, considering the influence of humidity on the binding agent, generally is preferred to await for the drying and seasoning of the floor before the covering can be applied to it, so that a long period of time elapses between the casting f. inst. of the reinforced concrete floor and the applying of the covering.

The linoleum coverings according the present invention are anchored to the floor by mechanical means without the employment of adhesives, i. e. by plunging the prominences or ribs of its inferior face into the fluid cement, which by the

hardening seizes, permanently the prominences into its mass, so that all the possible troubles coming from the employment of adhesives are eliminated. It follows that the linoleum covering according to the present invention can be applied with complete confidence in all the cases in which the unfavourable conditions cannot assure a durable binding of the covering to the floor or the covering of the floor has to be done without any delay. Furthermore on account of the missing fabric base the coverings according to the present invention are particularly advantageous because they are cheaper, for they eliminate the employment of a material such as the jute, which is expensive and of not easy supply, and therefore exerting an influence on the price of the finished product.

According to the present invention the prominences or ribs on one of the faces of the linoleum sheet may be of any shape and size and can be obtained on the linoleum sheet either during the calendaring or later by means of any suitable method.

In a preferred process the prominences on one face of the linoleum sheet are produced by means of a coarse mesh fabric, treated with known anti-adhesives, which is pressed in contact with the linoleum sheet during the calendaring operation: the kneated mass of linoleum through the action of the pressure and of the heat penetrates into the meshes of the fabric, which later on is torn off leaving on the surface of the linoleum sheet a net of small groves. The fabric employed for this purpose results very useful because besides the forming of the prominences, it acts as a support during the manufacturing operations and the seasoning of the kneated mass of linoleum. The anchoring capacity of the linoleum sheet is not diminished if some of the prominences are broken away during the tearing off of the fabric.

The manufacture of linoleum according to the present invention can be carried on steadily, for inst. producing long strips, or with interruptions as in the case of the manufacture of small or large plates. After being torn off from the linoleum strip the coarse mesh fabric can be employed anew, increasing so the cheapness and the simplicity of the manufacturing process.

According another process the grooves can be obtained by means of an appropriate tool to chip one face of the finished linoleum sheet.

It is well understood that the processes as above do not limitate the invention. This invention relates to a covering for floors, socles, steps of a stair, a. s. o. of any form and size and consists of a linoleum sheet applied to the surface to be covered by means of the aforesaid prominences or ribs of dovetail section plunged into the liquid cement, with which the floor is coated.