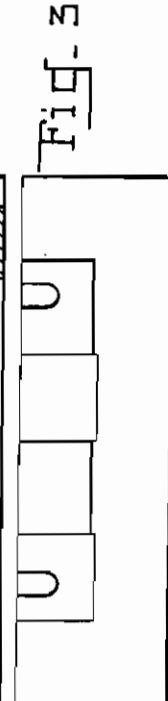
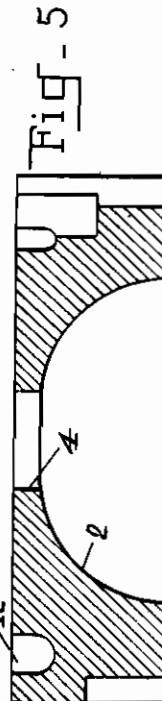
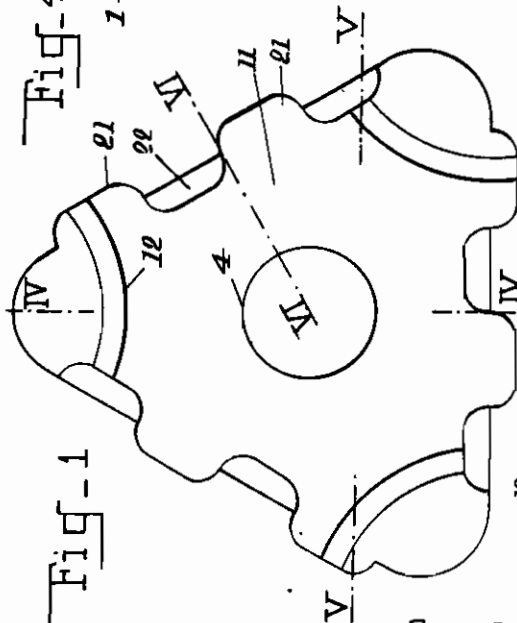
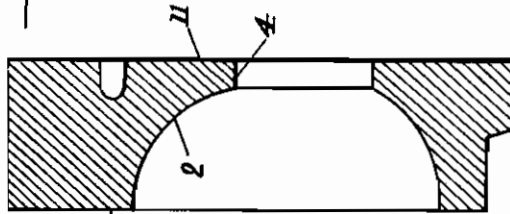
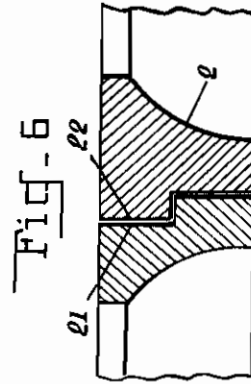
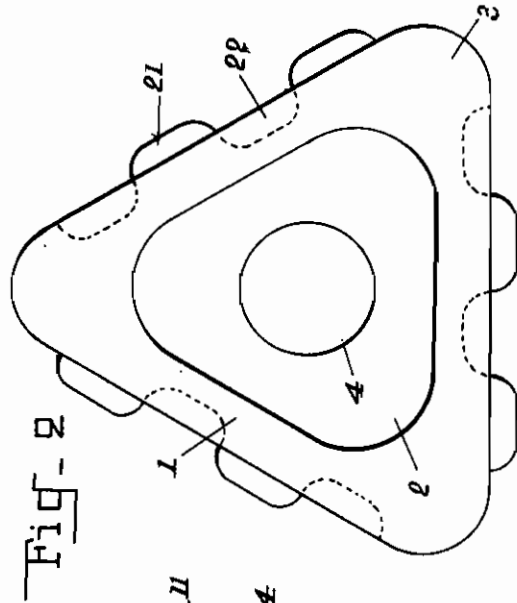


PUBLISHED
JUNE 15, 1943.
BY A. P. C.

J. BÉDIN
GROUND FACING
Filed March 29, 1940

Serial No.
326,823



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ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

GROUND FACING

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in the Alien Property Custodian

Application filed March 29, 1940

The construction of tracks, rolling or supporting surfaces on a ground which is unsuitable for the purpose for which it is intended, or is liable to become so after use, usually requires the use of a facing whereof the weight per square metre covered is comparatively great and whereof the placing in position and the accessory work, for example that of draining the water, take a long time and involve considerable expense. These drawbacks are particularly troublesome in tropical countries, in desert land and in war time, for the construction of aerodromes.

The present invention enables these drawbacks to be avoided and consists in incorporating in the ground, preferably on a vegetable layer which exists or has to be created, a facing whereof the elements include one or a plurality of the following peculiarities:

(a) The lower face of the element is in the shape of one or a plurality of arches, the convexity of which is turned upwards.

(b) The arch is connected to the upper face of the element through one or a plurality of holes.

(c) The element is shaped like a polygonal prism (for example a prism of which the base is an equilateral triangle).

(d) The angles of the prism are truncated, for example rounded.

(e) The lower face of the element is provided, preferably in the immediate vicinity of the angles it forms, with courses on which it is more particularly adapted to bear on the ground and which form the pillars of the arch formed by the lower face of the element.

(f) The lateral sides of each element are provided with projections and slots which are arranged in such a manner that the projections of one element fit into the slots of the adjacent element and conversely.

(g) The upper face of the element is provided with grooves, for example in the shape of portions of a circle, having as their centre the apex of the angles it forms.

The present invention also covers any facing whereof at least a part is formed by elements such as those described above.

In particular, said facing is formed by the juxtaposition of elements such as those described above, which are secured to each other by metallic or non-metallic rings placed in the circular grooves referred to above.

By way of example, a facing element according to the present invention has been shown in the accompanying drawing.

Figure 1 is a top view of said element.

Figure 2 is a bottom view of said element.

Figure 3 is a view of one side of said element.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 are respectively sections along the lines IV—IV, V—V and VI—VI of Figure 1.

The element shown is generally shaped like a prism, the base of which is formed by an equilateral triangle whose angles are rounded. Its lower face 1, resting on the ground to be faced, is shaped like an arch 2, the convexity of which is turned upwardly. The element rests first of all on the ground by means of the three pillars 3 of the arch 2 which are placed as close as possible to the apices of the triangle. The loads supported by the upper face are thus transmitted to the ground by the pillars 3 without overhang. Maximum stability and strength are thus obtained. The element also rests on the ground by the reaction of the latter on the arch 2. The earth, in fact, comes into the space formed by the arch 2 and the latter, by bearing on the earth, contributes to support the element.

In order to enable the element to rest resiliently on the ground, the arch 2 is connected to the upper face 11 through a hole 4, the cross-section of which is of smaller size than that of the arch 2. A resilient cushion is thus obtained and the facing therefore retains a flexibility which is advantageous and necessary in the case of the landing of aeroplanes, for example.

The elements are secured to the adjacent elements:

(a) In the first place by means of male jointings 21 and female jointings 22 on the sides. Said jointings 21 and 22 are such as to ensure the most perfect interchangeability.

(b) Then, optionally by means of metallic or non-metallic rings arranged in circular grooves 12 which are provided in the face 11 and the centres of which coincide with the apices of the triangle forming the base.

By means of these methods of connection, the loads received by an element are transmitted to the elements involved through the projections 21 and the slots 22 and the rings. There is consequently no danger of the covered surface being deformed.

It should be observed that, owing to the rounded shape of the apices, there is formed between the six elements which face each other by their apices in pairs a hole shaped like a star with six arms which, together with the holes 4, contribute to the resilient support of the elements by the ground and allow the rain water to penetrate into

the ground and enable favorable conditions for the development of vegetation to be maintained or created, thereby enabling a strong, flexible, permeable rolling surface to be obtained which acts as a protecting screen for the land proper.

The mounting of said elements is of the simplest nature. It is sufficient, before placing the elements in position, to effect if necessary a levelling of the ground and the removal of the hard bodies, large stones for example. In every direction, the pattern is regular; radii of any size are permissible; disfiguring is impossible in any direction of circulation. If, for any reason, an element has to be removed in the middle of the

covered surface, it is possible to replace it without removing a plurality of elements.

Of course, the present invention is not limited to the elements described above; thus for example said elements could be made of stamped sheet metal or of any metal or material. Similarly, their dimensions and shapes could be modified according to the purpose for which they are intended. It would thus be possible to provide longitudinal reinforcements extending over several elements in order to reinforce the facing.

JEAN BÉDIN.