

E. F. MASSELIN.  
Marquetry.

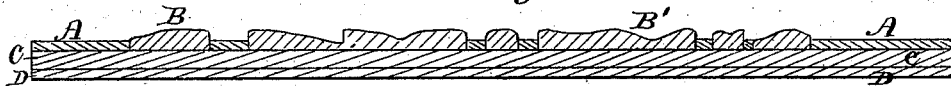
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*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses:*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

EUGÈNE F. MASSELIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MARQUETRY.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,129**, dated July 1, 1879; application filed December 5, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern*

Be it known that I, EUGÈNE F. MASSELIN, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Marquetry and Carving, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents, in front view, a sample of my improvement. Fig. 2 represents a transverse section through the same.

My invention relates to improvements in marquetry or carving to be used in ornamenting furniture and other objects. Heretofore marquetry has been made by cutting various designs out of thin boards or veneer, and inserting in the openings so made pieces of various materials having configurations corresponding to these openings, but of materials contrasting in color with the foundation, and of the same thickness. The surface of the two, being then in the same plane, was carefully polished, so as to form a continuous surface with the designs embedded in it.

The object of my invention is to produce marquetry in relief by using a foundation similar to that used in ordinary marquetry, and having cut designs projecting from its face.

My invention consists in combining, with a foundation-board having openings cut through in the form of designs, a design, or series of designs, formed from a board or other material thicker than the foundation-board, to be inserted in the openings of the latter and project from its face, and adapted to be carved in *rilievo*, as will be described hereinafter.

In the drawings, A represents the face-board or foundation out of which the whole design is cut out with a fine saw, leaving openings to receive correspondingly-designed cuttings B, sawed from another but thicker board or boards. The board or veneer A is generally from a sixteenth to an eighth of an inch thick, while the board out of which the designed cuttings B are cut is twice or three times that thickness.

The color of the wood of the face-board A should be quite distinct from the cut design B to make it appear strongly; but the latter can be made of woods of many colors, as at B B', to bring out flowers distinctly from leaves, stems, &c., according to the nature of the design. The various parts forming the design are then carefully inserted in the openings previously made in the veneer A, according to the predetermined design, but so that they project from its face. The veneer A, with its insertions B, is then glued or cemented to a thicker panel, C, or to a panel formed of two boards or veneers, C D, having the grain of the wood of one running at right angles to the other. The *rilievo* face of the inserted design B B' is then carved and its form completed.

This carved marquetry presents many advantages over ordinary wood-carving, the latter being always made of the same wood and having the same color as the foundation. By my new mode the design can be made of wood of many colors, and can be made as conveniently in *alto-rilievo* as in *basso-rilievo*, and I save all the labor usually necessary in forming the plane A of the design, and, if desired, this plane can be varnished and polished before inserting the *rilievo* design.

Having now fully described my invention, I claim—

1. Marquetry in *rilievo* formed by the combination of a thin board having design-openings cut through it with correspondingly-formed designs cut out of thicker boards than the first, and united, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. Carved marquetry formed by the combination of a thin board having design-openings cut through it with correspondingly-formed designs cut out of thicker boards than the first, united together, glued to a foundation or panel, and carved, substantially as set forth.

EUGÈNE F. MASSELIN.

Witnesses:

THOMAS W. PITTMAN,  
MILTON B. EDWARDS.