

J. A. MEHLING.
Artificial Stone Veneer.

No. 211,860.

Patented Feb. 4, 1879.

Fig. 1.

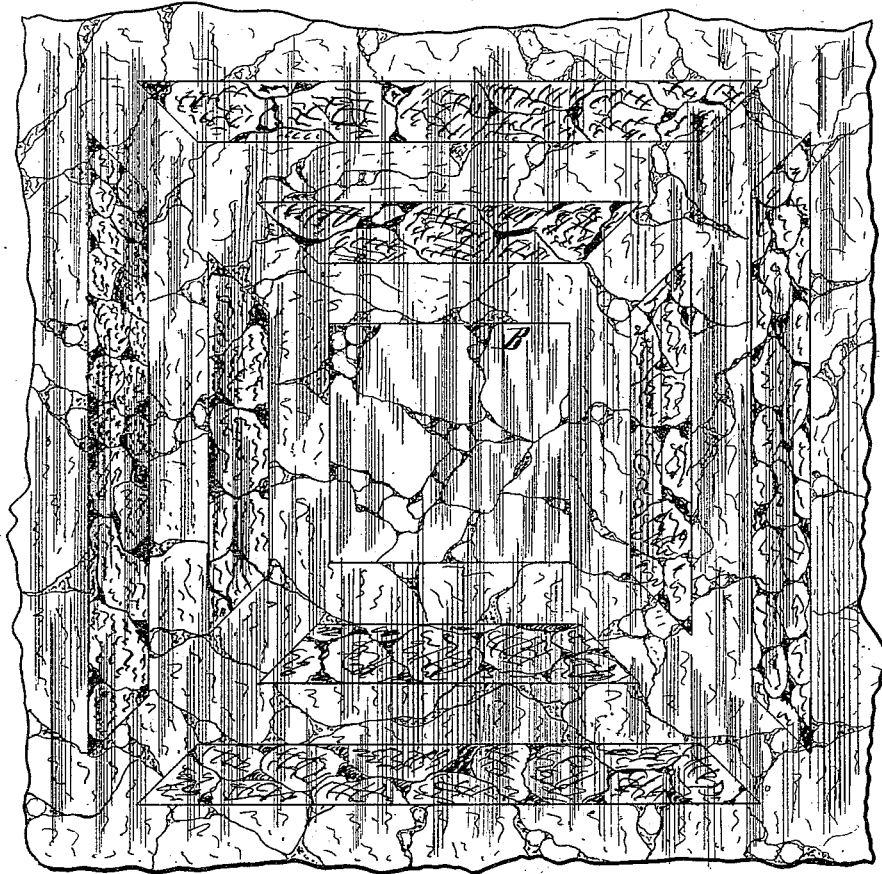
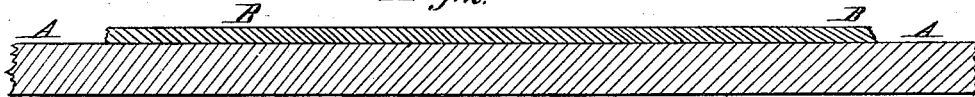


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. MEHLING, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD HIS
RIGHT TO SYLVESTER J. WAGNER, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN ARTIFICIAL-STONE VENEER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **211,860**, dated February 4, 1879; application filed
June 14, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. MEHLING, of Cleveland, county of Cuyahoga, and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Artificial-Stone Veneer, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 is a plan view, representing the surface of a piece of inlaid work made up in accordance with my invention; and Fig. 2 is a sectional view, showing a base of wood or other material having a thin coating or veneer of artificial stone applied thereto in accordance with said invention.

My improvements have relation to the ornamentation of wood, stone, metal, or other material by the application thereto of a thin coating or veneer of artificial stone; and said improvements consist in the production of a new and useful article, as will be hereinafter first fully described, and then pointed out in the claim.

The desirability and utility of a veneer of artificial marble or other stone for purposes of ornamenting mantels, wainscoting, furniture, caskets, &c., are obvious from a consideration of the inexpensive nature of the material and the highly ornamental effects which may be produced by its application.

Heretofore it has been regarded as practically impossible to utilize artificial stone for ornamental purposes, except in sections about an inch or more in thickness, which thickness rendered the material too heavy to be advantageously used in many circumstances and too expensive. To overcome this it has been proposed to cast or mold the material in metal boxes or troughs, and then to apply this filled trough for the purposes intended. This method is useless in such situations as the ornamentation of an extended or irregular surface, it being required that the veneer shall present an unbroken face in order to produce the desired effect, and this cannot be accomplished with the box.

In accordance with my improved method the surface which is to be veneered should be prepared in some suitable way so as to hold

the marble or stone. This may be conveniently done by driving in a number of nails or screws, if the surface be wood. The nails or screws may be united by a series of wires, if desirable, and these are finally embedded in the material of the veneer. If the surface be metal, projections may be punched up thereon, or otherwise suitably formed. A very good, and, perhaps, preferable, method of preparing the surface is to coat it with varnish or glue, or any substance to which sand will adhere well, and before this is dry cover it with sand or powdered stone or iron filings, emery, &c. When it is so dry that it cannot be rubbed off with the fingers it is ready to receive the veneer.

I take cement or plaster, (Keene's or other suitable ground cement preferred,) mix with water to about the consistency of butter, then add colors, which must vary in accordance with the stone desired to be imitated. The colors might be mingled in the dry state with the cement. The cement is next rolled out to the thickness desired and placed upon the prepared surface to be ornamented, or it may be rolled directly upon this surface, as is desirable in many cases. Being not yet dry, by this means the surface, if uneven, may be evened up; or, if curved, as in moldings and the like, the plastic stone will conform to all the curvatures, and will finally harden in the desired position and shape, after which it may be polished by the usual methods.

Under some circumstances it may be desired that the veneer be put upon the market already applied to a backing of wood or other material. To supply this want I propose to furnish a light backing, A, of wood, &c., having the veneer B applied thereto and polished. This will be easily applied in many cases by screws or pins entering the back of the body A, and since the marble is securely fastened at every point of its inner face, this form will be quite uniformly advantageous over the previous boxing hereinbefore alluded to.

To produce a veneer which shall represent an inlaid surface, as in Fig. 1, I roll out the material, as before, to any thickness required, and cut out the places to be filled with a chisel or similar implement. The spaces thus left are filled with other material made to represent

different stones. This cutting should be accomplished while the material is yet plastic; or, if done when it is hard, the body-coating must be made wet, by which it is soon softened, and the filling should immediately follow. The surface is then dressed off, and, when dry, may be polished as before.

Instead of cutting through the veneer, I find it preferable in some cases—as when several pieces are to be made of the same design—to stamp the required indentations in the plastic material by use of a surface having corresponding ribs or projections; or, if the material has already hardened, the outlines of the design to be inlaid may be cut with a knife in stamp shape. This is much quicker and gives more uniform results. Into the indentations thus produced the required inlay material is placed, and the whole finished off as before.

So far as the invention is concerned, it is intended to employ any of the known bases for the artificial stone, except, of course, such as will not admit of manipulation as explained.

The invention should be distinguished from the application of tiling, which is baked hard and is much more expensive than the artificial marble, and which, moreover, does not afford

the desired effect—viz., the appearance of a natural stone.

It should also be distinguished from such applications of cement stones as are instanced in numerous forms of pavements, &c., wherein the blocks are made heavy and rest upon a horizontal base. These forms I do not desire to be understood as claiming herein; but,

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

As a new article of manufacture, the herein-described veneer of artificial stone, the same being applied for ornamental purposes to a base of cheaper material, and being held thereon at every point of the adjacent previously-prepared surfaces, presenting an unbroken face, the whole being adapted to be utilized substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN A. MEHLING.

Witnesses:

CHAS. A. STIBLE,
J. H. ROGERS.