



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
**02.04.2025 Bulletin 2025/14**

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):  
**E04F 15/02** <sup>(2006.01)</sup> **E04F 15/10** <sup>(2006.01)</sup>

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**08.01.2025 Bulletin 2025/02**

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):  
**E04F 15/02038; E04F 15/102**; E04F 2201/0115;  
E04F 2201/0146; E04F 2201/0153; E04F 2201/021;  
E04F 2201/025; E04F 2201/0517

(21) Application number: **24185242.5**

(22) Date of filing: **28.06.2024**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB  
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC ME MK MT NL  
NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**BA**  
Designated Validation States:  
**GE KH MA MD TN**

(72) Inventors:  
• **Claerhout, Matthias**  
**8710 Wielsbeke (BE)**  
• **Wittevrongel, Arnout**  
**8710 Wielsbeke (BE)**

(74) Representative: **Unilin Technologies**  
**Patent Department**  
**Ooigemstraat 3**  
**8710 Wielsbeke (BE)**

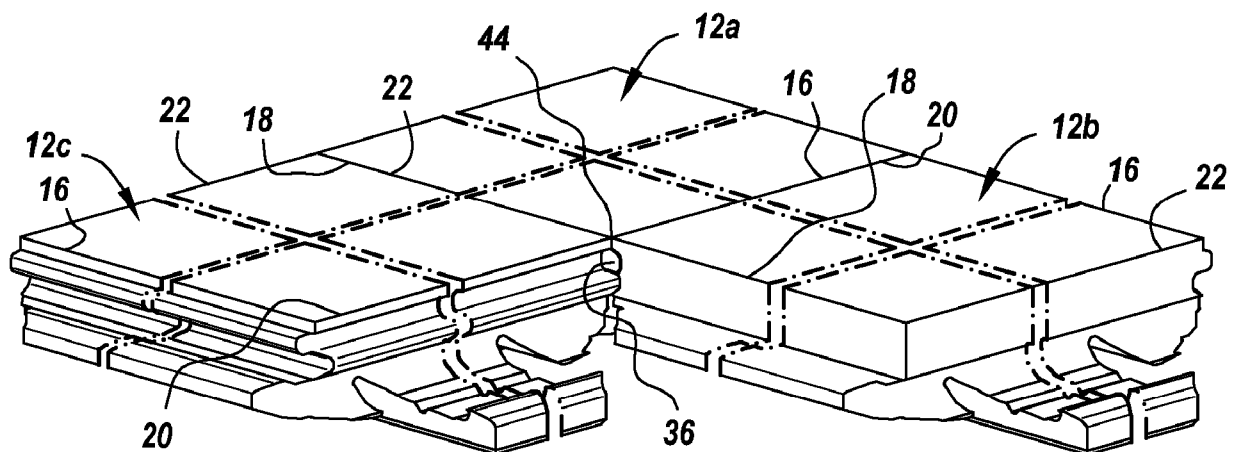
(30) Priority: **03.07.2023 US 202363511689 P**

(71) Applicant: **Unilin, BV**  
**8710 Wielsbeke (BE)**

(54) **FLOOR OR WALL COVERING**

(57) A covering (10) comprising a plurality of rectangular panels (12) is disclosed, wherein the alignment of

the panels (12) is enhanced, such that grid-shaped patterns can easily be obtained.



**Fig. 5**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 24 18 5242

## DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
A	US 623 562 A (RIDER CHARLES E. [US]) 25 April 1899 (1899-04-25) * figure 1 *	1 - 8	INV. E04F15/02 E04F15/10
A	US 2005/247000 A1 (ZHU SAI Y [CN]) 10 November 2005 (2005-11-10) * figure 1 *	1 - 8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			E04F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		29 November 2024	Fournier, Thomas
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



Application Number

EP 24 18 5242

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1 - 8

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 24 18 5242

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**1. claims: 1-8**

Floor or wall covering (10) comprising a plurality of rectangular panels (12) coupled by means of tongues provided on two first opposite sides and grooves on two second opposite sides

---

**2. claims: 9-15**

Floor or wall covering (10) comprising a plurality of rectangular panels (12) coupled by means of a separate connector engaging intersecting grooves running parallel to each edge on the lower surface of the panels

---

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 24 18 5242

5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

29 - 11 - 2024

10	Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
	US 623562	A	25 - 04 - 1899	NONE
	-----			
15	US 2005247000	A1	10 - 11 - 2005	NONE
	-----			
20				
25				
30				
35				
40				
45				
50				
55				

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82