

P. W. NEEFUS.
Improvement in Door-Mats.

No. 115,345.

Patented May 30, 1871.

Figure 1.

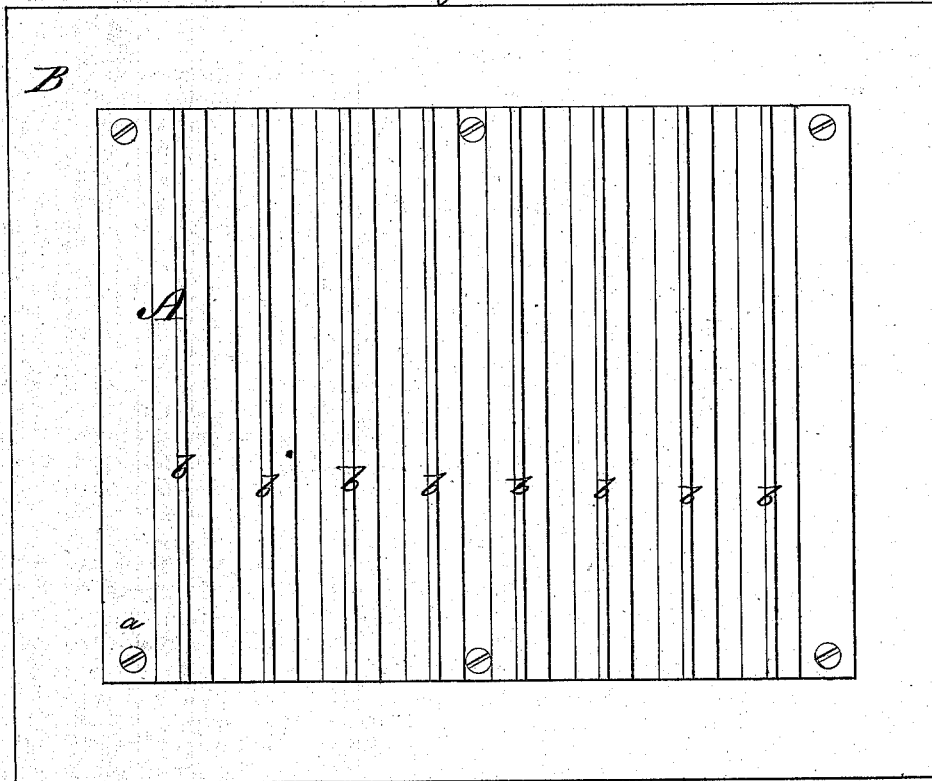
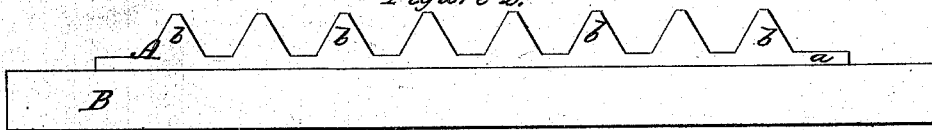


Figure 2.



Witnesses
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PETER W. NEEFUS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVEMENT IN DOOR-MATS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,345, dated May 30, 1871.

Be it known that I, PETER W. NEEFUS, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Mat; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to make a mat of simple and durable construction, and which may be readily cleaned without removing it from the floor.

Heretofore all mats constructed entirely of India rubber or other elastic material have been provided with thin elastic ribs or ridges on their upper surfaces, arranged to intersect each other and thus form cells of rectangular or any desired pattern. The thin ribs in such mats are strengthened by the intersecting ribs, so that they cannot be broken by sudden or unusual pressure. Such mats are, however, very difficult to clean, as the cells fill with dirt, which requires that the whole mat be lifted and inverted.

To remedy this difficulty I have been for some time engaged in the construction of mats in which strips or ridges of elastic material are secured in place by strips or holding-pieces of wood or metal. The holding-pieces protect, in a measure, the elastic strips from wear, and such mats can be repaired without great difficulty, and be readily cleaned with a broom. In my experience, however, I found that the wood or metal holding-pieces could, in certain cases, be dispensed with.

The present invention consists of a mat constructed entirely of India rubber, vulcanized, or other similar elastic material, and provided with ribs of triangular or other similar shaped section, arranged in rows in such manner as to permit the brushing of the dirt out of the ends of the grooves between the ribs without moving the mat from its position.

In the drawing, Figure 1 represents a plan view of a mat, A, constructed in accordance with my invention, and placed upon a board, B, representing a floor or step. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same.

The mat A is molded or otherwise constructed of a single piece of vulcanized India rubber, or other similar elastic or semi-elastic material, and is provided with a thin base, *a*, above which rise ribs or ridges, *b b*, preferably of a section like that shown—viz,

a triangle with a portion of the upper angle removed; but the shape may be varied, as I consider it essential only that such ridges should be narrow at their tops and have wider bases to prevent them from being bent over by the foot beyond the limit of elasticity, and thereby injuring them permanently. The tops or sides of the ribs may evidently be rounded or slightly hollowed without varying the result. These ribs *b b* are preferably arranged in parallel lines, so as to leave grooves between them of uniform width, which grooves may be of the shape shown, or any modification of the same.

The ribs may also be arranged to diverge slightly, especially toward the outer edges of the mat, the only essential condition being that the grooves between the ridges be continuous either from end to end or side to side of the mat, or from any point on the surface of the mat to one of the edges thereof, so that any dirt or moisture which may collect in the grooves may be readily swept out at the edges.

In my improved mat, then, I secure the simplicity of construction due to a single piece of material with great durability and efficiency, and superior facilities for cleaning.

The mat may also be screwed or otherwise secured to the floor or step, if desired, and loss by theft prevented.

I do not claim, broadly, a corrugated piece of vulcanized India rubber, for such a device has been used before for a different purpose not at all analogous to mine, and requiring a difference in construction and relative operation; but

What I do claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A new article of manufacture of a mat constructed of a single piece of vulcanized India rubber or other similar elastic material, and provided with ribs of triangular or other similar-shaped section, arranged with separating-grooves leading to and running out at the edges of the mat in such manner as to permit the cleaning of the same without removing it from its position, substantially as shown and described.

PETER W. NEEFUS,

Witnesses:

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1250 words