PATTERN CARPET TILES AND METHODS OF MAKING AND USING SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates in general to pattern carpet tile. More particularly, the invention relates to pattern carpet tiles that cooperatively define a floor covering in which a contrast pattern of a given carpet tile achieves a desired visual appearance relative to contrast patterns of adjacent carpet tiles.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Convention carpet tile has historically been a product that sought to mimic the appearance of broadloom carpet and to hide or at least de-emphasize the fact that the product was modular. Carpet tile and other textile face modular flooring conventionally has been highly uniform in size, shape, and appearance and has had edge structures that present a uniform floor covering when edges of adjacent tiles are abutting.

[0003] Some more recent carpet tile designs and patterns have provided carpet tiles that can be positioned at any rotational position relative to adjacent tiles without disrupting the overall pattern of the floor covering. Thus, for these floor coverings, regardless of the rotational position of each respective tile, the same overall visual effect is achieved.

[0004] There is a need for modular floor designs that are not restricted to a single, consistent overall appearance. Consequently, there remains a need for modular flooring tiles that cooperate to produce distinct visual effects within a floor covering, thereby varying the overall appearance and visual effect of the floor covering depending upon the particular rotational positions of the tile.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention is generally directed to a carpet tiles having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the ~~The~~ distance between the first and second side edges of each carpet tile correspond to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising:

a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and

a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the

background pattern, wherein the second portion is positioned proximate a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the ratio of the width of the carpet tile to the width of the second portion of the carpet tile ranges from about 2.5:1 to about 20:1.

[0005A] The present invention is also directed to a carpet tile system comprising:

a plurality of carpet tiles, each carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of each carpet tile correspond to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising:

a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion is positioned proximate a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the second portion of the carpet tile having a width, wherein the ratio of the width of the carpet tile to the width of the second portion of the carpet tile ranges from about 2.5:1 to about 20:1,

wherein the plurality of carpet tiles are configured for selective positioning relative to one another such that the contrast pattern of each carpet tile has a desired visual appearance relative to the contrast patterns of adjacent carpet tiles, and wherein the plurality of carpet tiles are configured to cooperatively define a floor covering.

[0005B] The present invention is further direction to a method for forming a floor covering, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of carpet tiles, each carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of each carpet tile correspond to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising:

a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and

a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion is positioned proximate a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern, the

second portion of the carpet tile having a width,

wherein the ratio of the width of the carpet tile to the width of the second portion of the carpet tile ranges from about 2.5:1 to about 20:1,

selectively positioning the plurality of carpet tiles relative to one another thereon a flooring surface such that the contrast pattern of each carpet tile has a desired visual appearance relative to the contrast patterns of adjacent carpet tiles,

wherein the plurality of carpet tiles cooperative to define a floor covering.

[0005C] The present invention is further directed to a carpet tile having first and second end edges and first and second side edges, the distance between the first and second end edges of the carpet tile corresponding to a length of the carpet tile, the distance between the first and second side edges of each carpet tile correspond to a width of the carpet tile, the carpet tile comprising:

a first portion having a background pattern comprising at least two colors; and

a second portion having a contrast pattern intermixed with a portion of the background pattern, wherein the second portion is positioned proximate a selected side edge of the carpet tile, the contrast pattern comprising at least one contrast color different than the at least two colors of the background pattern,

wherein the first portion of the carpet tile has a width, and wherein the ratio of the width of the carpet tile to the width of the first portion of the carpet tile ranges from about 2.5:1 to about 20:1.