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DECORATIVE ARTEFACT

This invention relates to a novel material of decorative appearance and to articles fabricated from or containing such material, such as display signs, furniture, containers, trays, tableware, door plates and finger boards for guitars.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a material of decorative appearance comprising a laminate of two plastic sheets, said laminate being formed by coating one of said sheets with a plurality of paints or pigments of different colours and applying a glue or solvent to one of said plastics sheets and then permanently adhering together said sheets by application of pressure before the paints or pigments have dried so as to cause spreading and intermingling of the paints or pigments between said sheets, at least one of said sheets being at least translucent so that said paints or pigments are visible therethrough.

In a preferred embodiment "acrylic" paints are applied to a surface of a sheet of Perspex ("Perspex" is a registered Trade Mark) in any desired pattern or combination of colours. Thereafter, and before the paint has dried an adhesive or solvent is applied to the paint (or to the surface of a second sheet of Perspex) and the laminate produced by contacting the said sheets

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with the paint and adhesive therebetween and applying pressure until the sheets are adhered together. The application of pressure causes spreading and mixing of the paint between the sheets to produce random and decorative effects, e.g. an effect almost of marbling. 5 can be very readily produced by this technique. Any suitable adhesive may be employed, such as those conventionally used to glue polymethyl methacrylate such as trichloroethylene, dichloromethane or chloroform.

10 Alternatively the "glue" or solvent may be mixed in with or incorporated into the paints or pigments prior to their application to a said sheet.

In a preferred embodiment one of said sheets is transparent and may be colourless or tinted whilst the 15 other of said sheets may be transparent, translucent or opaque in accordance with the appearance desired and the purpose to which the material is to be put. In the case for example of an illuminated sign the said other sheet (the "back" sheet) should be at least translucent.

20 Once the laminate has been formed it may be cut, glued, etc. in accordance with conventional practice and, if an appropriate adhesive is chosen, may even be moulded to produce articles of striking and decorative appearance.

Very preferably more than two colours of acrylic 25 paint are employed (e.g. 6 or 8) thus to increase the decorative effect.

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It will be appreciated that although the invention has been specifically described with reference to polymethyl methacrylate, it is equally applicable to other plastics sheet materials, so long as at least one of the sheets is at least translucent. For example plastics such as polyvinyl chloride, polyalkyl acrylates or methacrylates etc. are suitable.

As has been indicated above the present invention embraces not only the laminate and its method of manufacture but also articles produced therefrom. Whilst the laminate is particularly suitable for producing illuminated signs of decorative and unusual appearance, it can also be used to form a whole gamut of different objects, e.g. finger plates for doors and guitars, containers, car dashboards, trays, tableware and furniture. In fact the utility of this material can be said to be limited only by the imagination of the user.

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CLAIMS

1. A Material of decorative appearance comprising a laminate of two plastic sheets, said laminate being formed by coating one of said sheets with a plurality of paints or pigments of different colours and applying a glue or solvent to one of said plastics sheets and then permanently adhering together said sheets by application of pressure before the paints or pigments have dried so as to cause spreading and intermingling of the paints or pigments between said sheets, at least one of said sheets being at least translucent so that said paints or pigments are visible therethrough.
2. A material according to Claim 1, wherein said plastics sheet comprise a polyalkyl acrylate or methacrylate plastics material.
3. A material according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein said paint or pigment comprises an acrylic paint.
4. A material according to any preceeding claim wherein one of said sheets is opaque.
5. A material according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein both sheets are translucent.
6. A material according to Claim 5, wherein both sheets are transparent.
7. A material according to Claim 6, wherein said second sheet of material is glued or solvent welded to the first



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sheet to form a laminate.

8. An artefact made from a material as claimed in any preceding claim.
