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Today’s portables are rooted in the 1950s and 60’s, relying on manual assembly of the panels in “jigs”, the final trimming completed by hand, with each panel being unique in its final dimension. However, today’s updated designs using new manufacturing technology, combined with better material selection, are moving the market forward. Progressive engineering and improved assembly designs have also pushed portable basketball floor systems practicality and set-up speeds forward. Performance materials such as laminated veneer lumber and HMDT plastics now take the place of historical materials such as dimensional softwoods or light metal cladding. The newer materials offer significant strength and dimensional accuracy, allowing the portable floor’s subfloor panels to be constructed from stronger, straighter, and lighter materials. Additionally, the new materials are more environmentally stable and not easily compromised by sudden short-term spikes in relative humidity and temperature fluctuations.

Along with new materials, today’s superior manufacturing methods are no longer tied to producing portable sections in jigs, the variability of manually drilling hardware bracket holes, or manually determining performance pad placement. CNC.
machining takes the guess work and loose tolerances required for jig construction out of the equation. With CNC machining, each portable panel has its hardware brackets accurately placed. Each panel is precisely cut to exacting tolerances, performance pads are evenly placed for maximum uniformity, and the panel-to-panel tongue and groove is milled to the overall panel build-up dimension; not subject to individual material tolerance variables. The tongue and groove connection between the portable panels is a critical element to the floor’s uniformity. By accurately machining a continuous tongue and groove around the perimeter of each panel, energy from a player’s action is passed seamlessly from point to point, delivering a true uniform floor. Many older system designs do not feature a true continuous perimeter tongue and groove, rather they use sectional grooves reducing the uniformity of their portable floor system.

Slam Dunk
What does this all mean? The desired characteristics for a portable floor — strength, stability, and straightness — along with uniform portable floor construction requirements and manufacturing technology have finally been combined. The result being a new generation of portable floors that deliver the real game-time performance demanded by teams and expected by players with the quick, efficient assembly and take-down required by arenas to keep their facilities on schedule. The superior engineering, materials, and manufacturing practices of the latest portables deliver an option for strong durable floor systems that maximise performance and reliable service.

Portables typically feature hard maple flooring grown in the northern United States. Maple has long been, and continues to be, the preferred basketball flooring surface. Maple flooring has a light colour. Fine tight-grained maple sands and finishes well, and resists splintering, a trait often found in species that have a coarser cellular structure. The light colour affords players easy colour contrast of game lines, and the strength and density of maple delivers floor systems with excellent durability and performance.

When you start looking for your next portable basketball floor system make sure to research the systems’ design, the materials used, and how it is manufactured. Technology advancements coupled with product improvement have become an expectation. Portable basketball floor systems are just the latest product to take that next inevitable step. You wouldn’t buy an outdated cellular phone, so why purchase an outdated portable floor.