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- (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US).
- (72) Inventors: ARREDONDO, Victor, Manuel; 7469 Cinnamon Woods Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 (US). MEL-LEA, Michelle, Frances; 4061 Eaton Road, Hamilton, OH 45013 (US). PAYET, George, L.; American Laundry Machine Incorporated, 7781 Gwenwyn Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236 (US).
- (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).
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(54) Title: METHODS FOR IMPROVING WATER ABSORBENCY OF FABRICS AND FABRICS WITH IMPROVED PROPERTIES

(57) Abstract: Methods for providing fabric with good water absorbency and durable press properties comprise treating the fabric with a treatment composition comprising formaldehyde, catalyst for crosslinking the formaldehyde with natural fibers in the fabric, and silicone elastomer or a precursor thereof, and heating the treated fabric to effect crosslinking of the formaldehyde. Methods for providing fabric with good water absorbency and shrinkage resistance properties comprise treating the fabric with a treatment composition comprising formaldehyde, catalyst for crosslinking the formaldehyde with natural fibers in the fabric, and silicone elastomer or a precursor thereof, and heating the treated fabric to effect crosslinking of the formaldehyde. Fabrics having good water absorbency in combination with additional advantageous properties are produced.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 01/10203

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 D06M13/127 D06M15/39 D06M15/643 //D06M101:06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 D06M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 885 303 A (PAYET GEORGE L) 23 March 1999 (1999-03-23) cited in the application column 2, line 18 -column 7, line 30; claims ---	1-3,5-12
X	WO 99 58758 A (AMERICAN LAUNDRY MACH) 18 November 1999 (1999-11-18) page 4, line 15 -page 13, line 19; claims ---	1-3,5-8, 10-12
X	CH 557 447 A (WEST POINT PEPPERELL INC) 31 December 1974 (1974-12-31) column 1, line 1 -column 4, line 55; claims; examples 1,5,6 ---	1-12
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Koegler-Hoffmann, S

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 663 974 A (WATANABE KUMAO ET AL) 23 May 1972 (1972-05-23) column 1, line 62 -column 2, line 62 claims -----	1-12

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Information on patent family members

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