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(54) Title: CUT RESISTANT YARNS AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME, FABRIC AND GLOVE

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to cut resistant yarns. More particularly, it relates to a cut resistant yarn comprising a plurality of cut resistant filaments and at least one elastomeric filament, as well as fabrics and articles such as gloves, comprising such cut resistant yarns.

**CUT RESISTANT YARNS AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME,
FABRIC AND GLOVE**

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cut resistant yarns. More particularly, it relates to a cut resistant yarn comprising a plurality of cut resistant filaments and at least one elastomeric 10 filament, as well as fabrics and articles such as gloves, comprising such cut resistant yarns. The present invention has many applications, including use in the aerospace industry and other industries where an assembly line or cutting machinery is utilized.

15

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Generally, protective gloves are well known in the art. In many industries such gloves are necessary in order to afford persons protection from 20 cuts and lacerations. Typically, the gloves are comprised of separate discrete layers as described in U.S. Patent 6,044,493 (Post), U.S. Patent 4,942,626 (Stern et al.) and U.S. Patent 4,742,578 (Seid), or a combination of hard molded materials covering selected 25 regions of the hand where latex surgical gloves may be worn over or under the hardened mold material as described in U.S. Patent 4,873,998 (Joyner).

Further, gloves are also typically knitted or woven from yarns having a core and wrapping 30 configuration wherein puncture resistance is increased by the attachment of leathers, leather-like materials, natural elastomers or pliant metals to selected areas of the exterior of the glove, as described in U.S. Patent 5,231,700 (Cutshall).

The present invention provides the advantage of cut resistance and tactile sensitivities while having the components that impart such qualities integrated with one another throughout the fabric,
5 glove or yarn.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a cut resistant yarn comprising at least one continuous
10 synthetic elastomeric filament and a plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments, wherein the plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments have a random entangled loop structure in the yarn. This combination provides for the formation of an
15 elastic yarn having properties allowing it to be highly stretchable.

Furthermore, the present invention relates to a fabric and a glove comprising the cut resistant yarn. Optionally, the fabric and glove may be coated.
20 Applying a coating to the glove results in the glove having high grip ability, high levels of tactile sensitivity and the capability to provide a tight fit because it is highly stretchable.

Still further, the present invention relates to a process of making a cut resistant yarn comprising at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament and a plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments comprising the steps of:

a.) combining at least one continuous
30 synthetic elastomeric filament under tension and a plurality of continuous cut resistant filaments, to form a commingled

yarn where the elastomeric filament(s) is under tension;

5 b.) overfeeding the commingled yarn to a fluid-jet at a rate of no more than 30% per unit length of the yarn; and

c.) bulking the plurality of continuous cut resistant filaments in the yarn with a fluid to create a random entangled loop structure in the yarn.

10 Still further, the present invention relates to a process for making a glove comprising the steps of:

15 a.) knitting or weaving a glove from a cut resistant yarn having strength and recovery capabilities comprising at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament and a plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments;

b.) heat setting the elastomeric filament(s) of the glove;

c.) coating the glove; and

20 d.) curing the coating disposed on the glove.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 depicts a lateral view of a cut resistant yarn of the present invention.

Figure 2 depicts a top view of a glove and a fabric of the present invention.

30

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The first necessary component of the present invention is at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament (4). The continuous synthetic

elastomeric filament(s) (4) is typically in the range of about 20 denier to about 200 denier, however a denier of about 100 to about 150 is preferred.

Suitable examples of the continuous synthetic

5 elastomeric filament(s) (4) include, but are not limited to, polyurethane filament and rubber and combinations thereof. The most preferred continuous synthetic elastomeric filament (4) is spandex.

As used herein, "elastomeric", shall refer to
10 a filament that has, at least to a degree, the properties of stretch and recovery, wherein "stretch" indicates an ability to increase in length in the direction of the filament's axis, and "recovery" indicates an ability of a filament to substantially
15 return to its original shape after an amount of tension has been exerted on the filament.

As used herein, "spandex" shall refer to a manufactured filament in which the filament-forming substance is a long chain synthetic polymer comprised
20 of at least about 85% by weight of a segmented polyurethane.

A second necessary component of the present invention is a plurality of bulked continuous cut
25 resistant filaments (3). Prior to bulking, the continuous cut resistant filaments are typically provided in a yarn in the range of about 50 denier to about 2000 denier, and a preferred range of about 200-600 denier. Further these continuous cut resistant filaments typically have a denier per filament of less
30 than about 3.0, however, the range of about 0.85 denier to about 2.0 denier per filament is preferred.

After bulking, the denier of a continuous cut resistant yarn, particularly an aramid yarn, generally increases proportionally to the utilized overfeed where

the bulked yarn shows an increase in its weight per unit length in the range of about 3% to about 25%. Therefore, the bulked yarn containing the synthetic elastomeric filament(s) (4) and the bulked continuous 5 cut resistant filaments (3) is in the range of about 70 to about 2800 denier, however a denier of about 200 to about 800 is preferred.

The cut resistant filaments (3) useful in this invention are made from a variety of high-strength 10 fiber forming polymers. Suitable examples of cut resistant filaments (3) include, but are not limited to, aromatic polyamide, polyolefin, high molecular weight polyethylene, high molecular weight polyvinyl alcohol, high molecular weight polyacrylonitrile, 15 liquid crystal polyester and combinations thereof, however aramid filaments are preferred. The term "high strength", refers to a tenacity of at least about 10 grams/denier, however a tenacity of at least about 18 grams/denier is preferred. The term "high molecular weight", when used in reference to polyvinyl alcohol, refers to a molecular weight of at least about 200,000. However, "high molecular weight", when used in 20 reference to polyacrylonitrile, refers to a molecular weight of at least about 400,000, and when used in reference to polyethylene, it refers to a molecular 25 weight of at least about 150,000. Particular examples of cut resistant filaments include polybenzoxazole (PBO), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), HDPE (Spectra®, manufactured by the Honeywell Corporation), HDPE 30 (Dyneema®, manufactured by DSM Incorporated) and Technora® (manufactured by the Teijin Corporation).

The present invention relates to a cut resistant yarn (5) comprising a plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments (3) and at least one

continuous synthetic elastomeric filament (4) where the plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments (3) have a random entangled loop structure in the yarn. This combination provides for the formation of an 5 elastic yarn having properties allowing it to be highly stretchable.

Typically, the present invention comprises at most about 30% of continuous synthetic elastomeric filament(s) (4), however a range of about 3% to about 10 10% is preferred. Similarly, the present invention comprises at least about 70% of the plurality of bulked continuous filaments (3), however a range of about 90% to about 97% is preferred. Additionally, the cut resistant yarn (5) may further include other 15 components, for example, nylon, polyester or other typical textile fibers. Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a fabric (2) comprising the cut resistant yarn (5) of the present invention. The fabric (2) may be arranged in any 20 configuration and may additionally include other components such as nylon, polyester or other typical textile fibers.

Further, the fabric (2) typically has a thickness of about 1-7 millimeters (about 0.04-0.28 25 inches), preferably a thickness of about 2-4 millimeters (about 0.08-0.16 inches) and weighs about 3 oz/yd² to about 20 oz/yd² (about 0.1 kg/m² to about 0.7 kg/m²), however about 8 oz/yd² to about 14 oz/yd² (about 0.3 kg/m² to about 0.5 kg/m²) is preferred. The 30 fabric (2) of the present invention is preferably woven or knitted however any configuration may be used. The fabric (2) of the present invention can be made or constructed into various garments or articles such as gloves, sleeves, aprons, pants, shirts or other objects

where a high level of cut resistance and stretch ability is required, however gloves are preferred.

Optionally, a coating may be applied to either the fabric (2) or the glove (1) comprising the 5 cut resistant yarn (5), wherein the preferred polymer coating is either a polyurethane or a polynitrile. The polymer coating allows for the retention of tactile properties as well as improved gripping ability and a high level of dexterity. Generally, the coating of the 10 present invention has a thickness of about 0.2 millimeters (about 0.008 inches) to about 5 millimeters (0.2 inches), however a thickness of about 0.5 millimeters (about 0.02 inches) to about 2 millimeters (about 0.08 inches) is preferred. The coating may be 15 applied via any conventional method known in the art, for example, dipping.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to a process of making a cut resistant yarn (5) comprising the steps of:

- 20 a.) combining at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament under tension and a plurality of continuous cut resistant filaments to form a commingled yarn where the elastomeric filament(s) is under tension;
- 25 b.) overfeeding the commingled yarn to a fluid-jet at a rate of no more than 30% per unit length of the yarn; and
- c.) bulking of the plurality of continuous 30 cut resistant filaments in the commingled yarn with a fluid to create a random loop structure in the yarn.

One method of making the cut resistant yarn (5) of the present invention includes a fluid-jet, preferably an air-jet, texturing process as described in U.S. Patent 3,543,358 (A.L. Breen et al.). The yarn (5) of the 5 present invention is made by bulking a commingled yarn to create a random entangled loop structure in the yarn. In such processes one or more filament yarns are subjected to a fluid-jet that blows individual filaments into a number of loops per inch, both on the 10 surface and in the yarn bundle. Textures of smooth, silky, or worsted-like, as well as woolen and heavy chenille types, can be achieved. The air-jet texturing system utilizes pressurized air, or some other fluid, to rearrange the filament bundle and create loops and 15 bows along the length of the yarn. In a typical process, a tension is placed on the elastomeric filament prior to being fed into the texturing system where the applied tension affects the stretch ability of the final fabric or glove. Additionally, the multi- 20 filament yarn to be bulked is fed to a texturing nozzle at a greater rate than it is removed from the nozzle, which is known as overfeed. The tension and overfeed settings used in the air-jet texturing system are independent variables with respect to one another, such 25 that a variety of tension levels may be used with a variety of overfeed settings. The pressurized fluid impacts the filament bundle, creating loops and entangling the filaments in a random manner. The fluid-jet pressure can be in the range of about 70-90 psi. 30 Using a bulking process with this overfeed rate creates a commingled yarn having a higher weight per unit length, or denier, than the yarn that was fed to the texturing nozzle. It has been found that the increase in weight per unit length should be in the range of

about 3% to about 25 wt %, with increases in the range of about 3%-10 wt % preferred. The loops and entanglements create a continuous filament yarn that can be made into fabrics having high stretch ability 5 and sufficient cut resistance.

Typically, cut resistant yarns lack the requisite stretch properties and only have proper bulk and texture. However, integration of the continuous synthetic elastomeric filament(s) (4), most preferably 10 spandex, provides the cut resistant yarn (5) of the present invention with the necessary stretch properties. In the above-described process the elastomeric filament(s) (4) is fed into the texturing nozzle under tension. Generally, the tension is in the 15 range of about 5 grams to about 30 grams, however, a tension of about 12 grams is preferred.

Overfeed typically indicates the speed (meters/minute) at which the filaments enter the fluid-jet, wherein the speed (meters/minute) at the entrance 20 point is greater than the speed (meters/minute) at the exit point of the fluid-jet, such that loops are formed. Typically, the overfeed may be in the range of about 5% to about 30% per unit length of the yarn, however a range of about 5% to about 20% per unit 25 length of the yarn is preferred.

Generally, the gloves (1) produced in accordance with the present invention can be made by conventional processes using equipment such as Sheima Seiki 13 gauge glove knitting machine. Further, a glove 30 (1) of the present invention may be knitted or woven and may be produced by any conventional method for making gloves that is well known to those skilled within the art. The gloves (1) of the present invention, prior to being coated, are capable of being

worn on either hand, thereby providing cut resistance and high stretch ability without the limitation of selective use on a particular hand.

One method of making a glove (1) of the 5 present invention includes the steps of:

- a.) knitting or weaving a glove from a cut 10 resistant yarn having strength and recovery capabilities comprising at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament and a plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments;
- b.) heat setting the elastomeric filament(s) of the glove;
- c.) coating the glove; and
- 15 d.) curing the coating disposed on the glove.

According to the present invention, heat setting of the glove (1) confers dimensional stability to the glove and is well known with the art. Generally, 20 the glove (1) is placed into an oven for a specified duration of time, typically between about 0.2 to about 10 minutes, which may vary depending on the temperature of the oven and the types of filaments used in the glove (1). The oven temperature should remain at a 25 temperature that is below the melting point for any filament used in the glove (1). While the duration of time and the temperature of the oven may be optimized for the particular components that comprise the glove (1), the preferred temperature for a knitted spandex 30 fabric is about 175°C.

Curing, also well known within the art, typically acts as the mechanism by which the polymer coating is set in or on the glove (1), wherein the polymer is solidified. Further, curing serves to

increase the polymer crosslinking and the coating's adhesion to the glove (1). The curing time ranges from about 5 to about 30 minutes and the curing temperature varies according to the curing time.

5 The embodiments of the present invention are further defined in the following Example. It should be understood that this Example, while indicating a preferred embodiment of the present invention, is given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion
10 and this Example, one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various uses and conditions.

15 Thus various modifications of the present invention in addition to those shown and described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Although the invention has been described with reference to materials and embodiments, it is to
20 be understood that the invention is not limited to the particulars disclosed, and extends to all equivalents within the scope of the claims.

EXAMPLES

25 Example 1: A Cut Resistant Yarn and Glove of Aramid Filaments and Spandex Filaments.

Three yarns of high elasticity and recovery were formed by simultaneously overfeeding a continuous multifilament 400 denier (440 dtex) yarn containing 1.5
30 denier per filament (1.7 dtex) para(phenylene-terephthalamide) filaments and a single 140 denier spandex filament to a Taslan® air-jet texturing system. Tension was applied to the spandex prior to being fed into the texturing system. The air-jet texturing system

provides independent adjustment of overfeed and tension, allowing a variety of simultaneous tension levels and overfeed settings. In all cases, the air-jet pressure was 90 psi.

Glove samples having a fabric weight of 10 oz/yd² (about 0.34 kg/m²) were knitted from the two 14% overfeed yarns using a standard Sheima Seiki 13 gauge glove knitting machine. The glove samples were divided into four sets and were heat set at a temperature of 175°C (350°F) for 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 minutes to set the glove form. It was found that optimum glove form setting was achieved when the gloves were heat set between 0.5 and 1.5 minutes. All glove samples exhibited good form fitting properties and flexibility, however, it was observed that the glove samples made with the 14% overfeed yarn and 10 grams of tension on the spandex provided a smoother glove. The glove

samples were then sheathed onto a hand form and dipped into a polyurethane bath of an anionic aliphatic polyester polyurethane dispersion to coat the glove. The coated glove was then cured in an oven at about 5 135°C for about 15 minutes. The resultant coated gloves were comfortable, fit well, and had a high degree flexibility.

What is claimed is:

1. A cut resistant yarn comprising at least one
5 continuous synthetic elastomeric filament; and a
plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments,
wherein the plurality of bulked continuous cut
resistant filaments have a random entangled loop
structure in the yarn.

10

2. The cut resistant yarn of claim 1, wherein the at
least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament is
selected from the group consisting of polyurethane
filament, rubber and combinations thereof; and the
15 plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments
is selected from the group consisting of aromatic
polyamide, high molecular weight polyethylene, high
molecular weight polyolefin, high molecular weight
polyvinyl alcohol, high molecular weight
20 polyacrylonitrile, liquid crystal polyester and
combinations thereof.

3. The cut resistant yarn of claim 1, wherein the
yarn comprises at most about 30% of the at least one
25 continuous synthetic elastomeric filament.

4. The cut resistant yarn of claim 1; wherein the
yarn comprises at least about 70% of the plurality of
bulked continuous cut resistant filaments.

30

5. The cut resistant yarn of claim 1, wherein the
bulked yarn comprising the at least one continuous
synthetic elastomeric filament and the continuous cut

resistant filaments is in the range of about 70 to about 2800 denier.

6. The cut resistant yarn of claim 5, wherein the 5 bulked yarn is in the range of about 200 to about 800 denier.

7. The cut resistant yarn of claim 1, wherein the at 10 least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament is in the range of about 20 to about 200 denier.

8. The cut resistant yarn of claim 7, wherein the at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament is about 100 to about 150 denier per filament.

15

9. The cut resistant yarn of claim 6, wherein the plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments are in the range of about 0.85 to about 2.0 denier per filament.

20

10. A fabric comprising the cut resistant yarn of claim 1.

11. The fabric of claim 10, wherein the fabric further 25 comprises a coating.

12. The fabric of claim 11, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane and polynitrile.

30

13. The fabric of claim 10, wherein the fabric has a weight of about 3 to about 20 oz/yd².

14. The fabric of claim 10, wherein the fabric is
knitted.

15. A glove comprising the yarn of claim 1.

5

16. The glove of claim 15, wherein the glove further
comprises a coating.

17. A process of making a cut resistant yarn
10 comprising at least one continuous synthetic
elastomeric filament and a plurality of bulked
continuous cut resistant filaments, wherein the
plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments
have a random entangled loop structure in the yarn
15 comprising the steps of:

- a.) combining at least one continuous synthetic
elastomeric filament under tension and a
plurality of continuous cut resistant
filaments to form a commingled yarn where the
elastomeric filament is under tension
20
- b.) overfeeding the commingled yarn to a fluid-
jet at a rate of no more than 30% per unit
length of the yarn; and
- c.) bulking the plurality of continuous cut
resistant filaments in the commingled yarn
25 with a fluid to create a random entangled
loop structure in the yarn.

18. The process according to claim 17, wherein the
30 overfeed is about 5% to about 20% per unit length of
the yarn.

19. The process according to claim 17, wherein the
tension is about 5 to about 30 grams.

20. A process for making a glove comprising the steps of:

- a.) knitting or weaving a glove from a cut
5 resistant yarn having strength and recovery capabilities comprising at least one continuous synthetic elastomeric filament and a plurality of bulked continuous cut resistant filaments;
- 10 b.) heat setting the at least one elastomeric filament of the glove;
- c.) coating the glove; and
- e.) curing the coating disposed on the glove.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)
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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.
A	US 6 155 084 A (ANDREWS GREGORY V ET AL) 5 December 2000 (2000-12-05) claims 6-9	1-10, 14, 15
A	US 6 044 493 A (POST DAVID G) 4 April 2000 (2000-04-04) cited in the application claim 1	1-15
A	US 3 543 358 A (BREEN ALVIN L ET AL) 1 December 1970 (1970-12-01) cited in the application abstract	17-19
A	US 3 991 551 A (PETREE DAVID W) 16 November 1976 (1976-11-16) claim 1	17



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

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Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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