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(54) Title: WATER-DISPERSIBLE AND MULTICOMPONENT FIBERS FROM SULFOPOLYESTERS

(57) Abstract: Disclosed are multicomponent fibers derived from a blend of a sulfopolyester with a water non-dispersible polymer wherein the as-spun denier is less than about 6 and wherein the water dispersible sulfopolyester exhibits a melt viscosity of less than 12,000 poise measured at 240° C at a strain rate of 1 rad/sec, wherein the sulfopolyester comprising less than about 25 mole % of residues of at least one sulfomonomer, based on the total moles of diacid or diol residues, and wherein said poly(ethylene) terephthalate has an inherent viscosity of less than 0.55 dL/g. The multicomponent fiber is capable of being drawn at a relatively high fiber speed, particularly at least about 2000 m/min, and may be used to produce microdenier fibers. Fibrous articles may be produced from the multicomponent fibers and microdenier fibers. Also disclosed is a process for multicomponent fibers, nonwoven fabrics, and microdenier webs.



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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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**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

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/194047 A1 (GUPTA RAKESH K [US] ET AL) 31 August 2006 (2006-08-31) cited in the application paragraphs [0144], [0136]; claims 1-20,40,41 examples 6,7	1-21
X	WO 2004/113598 A (EASTMAN CHEM CO [US]) 29 December 2004 (2004-12-29) cited in the application paragraph [0011] examples 6,7 paragraph [0038]	1-21
X	JP 2005 002510 A (TEIJIN CORDLEY LTD) 6 January 2005 (2005-01-06) abstract	1,2
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See patent family annex.

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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