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(54) Titre : COLLE UNIVERSELLE A BASE DE SOLVANT
 (54) Title: UNIVERSAL SOLVENT CEMENT

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A solvent cement for bonding PVC, CPVC and ABS plastic pipe and other molded articles comprises a minor amount of an acrylic resin and one or more solvents capable of dissolving the acrylic resin and further capable of dissolving at least the surfaces of PVC, CPVC and ABS molded articles, wherein the acrylic resin constitutes at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement.



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(54) Title: UNIVERSAL SOLVENT CEMENT

(57) Abstract: A solvent cement for bonding PVC, CPVC and ABS plastic pipe and other molded articles comprises a minor amount of an acrylic resin and one or more solvents capable of dissolving the acrylic resin and further capable of dissolving at least the surfaces of PVC, CPVC and ABS molded articles, wherein the acrylic resin constitutes at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement.



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UNIVERSAL SOLVENT CEMENT

Background

[0001] Solvent cements are widely used for joining plastic pipe and other molded plastic articles made from PVC (polyvinyl chloride), CPVC (chlorinated polyvinyl chloride) and ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene) thermoplastic resins. Such solvent cements are commonly made from one or more solvents for the thermoplastic resin plus a minor amount of the plastic to be bonded. Thus, solvent cements for bonding PVC are typically made from a solvent for PVC plus a minor amount of PVC resin dissolved in the solvent, for example. Solvent cements for CPVC and ABS are typically made in the same way. See, U.S. Patent No. 5,376,717 to Patel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,422,388 to Patel et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,087,421 to Patel et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,372,821 to Patel et al.

In some instances, small amounts of additional resins such as acrylic resins can be included. See, for example, the above-noted Patel '388 and Patel '821 Patents.

[0002] Although these solvent cements work well, they are restricted as a practical matter as they are specific to particular applications. That is to say, solvent cements for PVC are not normally used on CPVC or ABS. In the same way, solvent cements for CPVC are not normally used on PVC or ABS, while solvent cements for ABS are not normally used on PVC or CPVC. The net result is that suppliers and customers must stock all three different types of these cements, i.e., PVC, CPVC and ABS solvent cements, in practice.

[0003] Therefore, there is a need for a universal solvent cement, i.e., a solvent cement which are useful on all three different types of plastic, PVC, CPVC and ABS.

Summary

[0004] A universal solvent cement in accordance with this disclosure is composed of a minor amount of an acrylic resin and one or more solvents capable of dissolving the acrylic resin and further capable of dissolving at least the surfaces of PVC, CPVC and ABS molded articles, wherein the acrylic resin constitutes at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement. Normally, the combined total of the PVC, CPVC and ABS resins in the solvent cement will be less than 5 wt %.

[0005] Also disclosed is a process for bonding PVC, CPVC and ABS plastic pipe and other molded articles to one another, the process comprising applying a solvent cement to the surfaces to be bonded and then bringing these surfaces into contact with one another, wherein the solvent cement comprises a minor amount of an acrylic resin and one or more solvents capable of dissolving the acrylic resin and further capable of at least softening PVC, CPVC and ABS, wherein the acrylic resin constitutes at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement.

[0006] In still another embodiment, this disclosure provides a process for using a universal solvent cement to bond different plastics to one another wherein plastic objects made from a first plastic selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS are joined to one another with the universal solvent cement in a first bonding step, and further wherein plastic objects made from a different plastic selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS are joined to one another in a second bonding step with the same universal solvent cement, wherein the solvent cement comprises a minor amount of an acrylic resin and one or more solvents capable of dissolving the acrylic resin and further capable of dissolving at least the surfaces of PVC, CPVC and ABS molded articles, wherein the acrylic resin constitutes at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement.

Detailed Description

[0007] The universal solvent cement disclosed herein is formed from at least one organic solvent plus an acrylic resin dissolved in this solvent.

Acrylic Resin

[0008] Acrylic resins useful for making the universal solvent described here are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,416,142 to Bush et al.

In general, they comprise polymers and copolymers of acrylic esters represented by the general formula $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^1)\text{C}(\text{OO})\text{R}^5$, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or a lower alkyl group containing from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms, and R^5 is a lower alkyl group containing from 1 to about 16 or more carbon atoms. More often, R^1 is hydrogen or a methyl or ethyl group and R^5 is an alkyl group containing from 1 to about 4 carbon atoms. Examples of such acrylic esters include: methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, sec-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, hexyl acrylate, heptyl acrylate, 2-heptyl acrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, hexadecyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, methyl ethacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, ethyl ethacrylate, etc.

[0009] Acrylic copolymers also can be prepared by copolymerizing an acrylic ester monomer with other monomers such as other acrylic esters, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, acrylamide, methacrylamide, acrylonitrile, maleimide and N-substituted maleimides such as N-alkylmaleimide, N-cycloalkylmaleimide and N-arylmaleimide, and styrene. Acrylic copolymers can be obtained by polymerizing two or more of the above-described monomeric acrylic esters by procedures well known to those skilled in the art, and many acrylic copolymers are available commercially. The acrylic polymers and copolymers can be made by free radical polymerization initiated by peroxide or azo catalyst, or by redox polymerization. The basic polymerization processes include bulk polymerization, suspension polymerization, emulsion polymerization and solution polymerization.

[0010] Normally, such acrylic copolymers will include at least about 50 mol.% acrylic and/or methacrylic ester monomers, more typically at least about 60, 70, 80 or even 90 mol.% acrylic and/or methacrylic ester monomers. Polymers containing at least about 50 mol.% methyl methacrylate, more typically at least about 60, 70, 80, 90 or even 100 mol.% methyl methacrylate, are especially interesting.

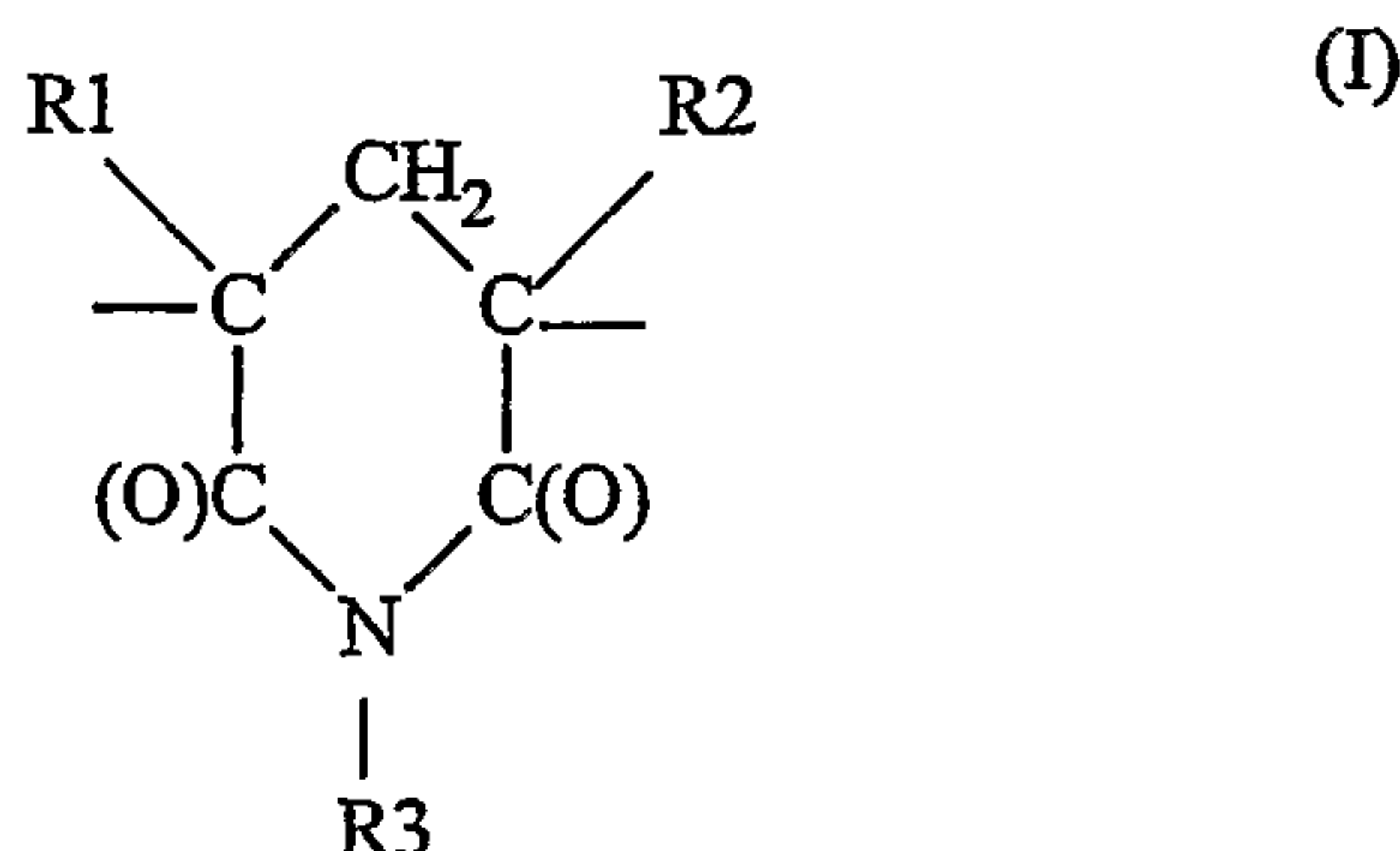
[0011] Acrylic polymers and copolymers which may be included in the compositions useful in this disclosure are available from a variety of commercial sources. Many acrylic polymers and

copolymers are available from Rohm & Haas Company under various trade designations such as "Paraloid," "Acryloid" etc. Specific examples of such acrylic polymers and copolymers include Acryloid^{*} B-67, Paraloid^{*} K-120N, Paraloid KM-390, Paraloid KM-334 and Paraloid K-130D. Acrylic polymers and copolymers also are available from Kaneka Texas Corp. under such trade designations as FM-10, FM-20 and PA-10. Another group of useful commercial acrylic polymers and copolymers is available from ICI Acrylics, St. Louis, Mo., under the general trade designation "Elvacite Acrylic Resins." For example, Elvacite^{*} 2010 is a medium molecular weight polymer of methyl methacrylate; Elvacite 2021 is a high molecular weight polymer of methyl methacrylate; Elvacite 2043 is a low molecular weight polymer of ethyl methacrylate; Elvacite 2044 is a high molecular weight polymer of n-butyl methacrylate; Elvacite 2016 is a low molecular weight copolymer of methyl and n-butyl methacrylates; and Elvacite 2046 is a high molecular weight copolymer of equal parts of n-butyl methacrylate and isobutyl methacrylate.

[0012] In one embodiment, the acrylic polymers which are utilized in the compositions of this disclosure are imide-containing acrylic polymers. The imide-containing acrylic polymers and copolymers are available commercially and may be prepared by a variety of procedures. Imidized acrylic polymers may be prepared by reacting an acrylic polymer or acrylic copolymer with ammonia or a primary aliphatic or aromatic monoamine. The imide group is formed by the reaction of the monoamine with two or more of the following groups which may be present in the acrylic polymer: carboxylic acid group, carboxylic ester group, carboxamide (e.g., from methacrylamide), etc. Such imidized acrylic polymers and their preparation have been disclosed in various patents and publications, and such polymers have been referred to as glutarimide acrylic copolymers or polyglutarimides in view of the formation of glutarimide groups when the ammonia or primary amine reacts with the acrylate copolymer. Reactions of ammonia and primary aliphatic amines with acrylate polymers are described in, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,246,374 to Kopchik and U.S. Pat. No. 4,727,117 to Hallden-Abberton et al, and a procedure utilizing primary aliphatic amines is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,284,425.

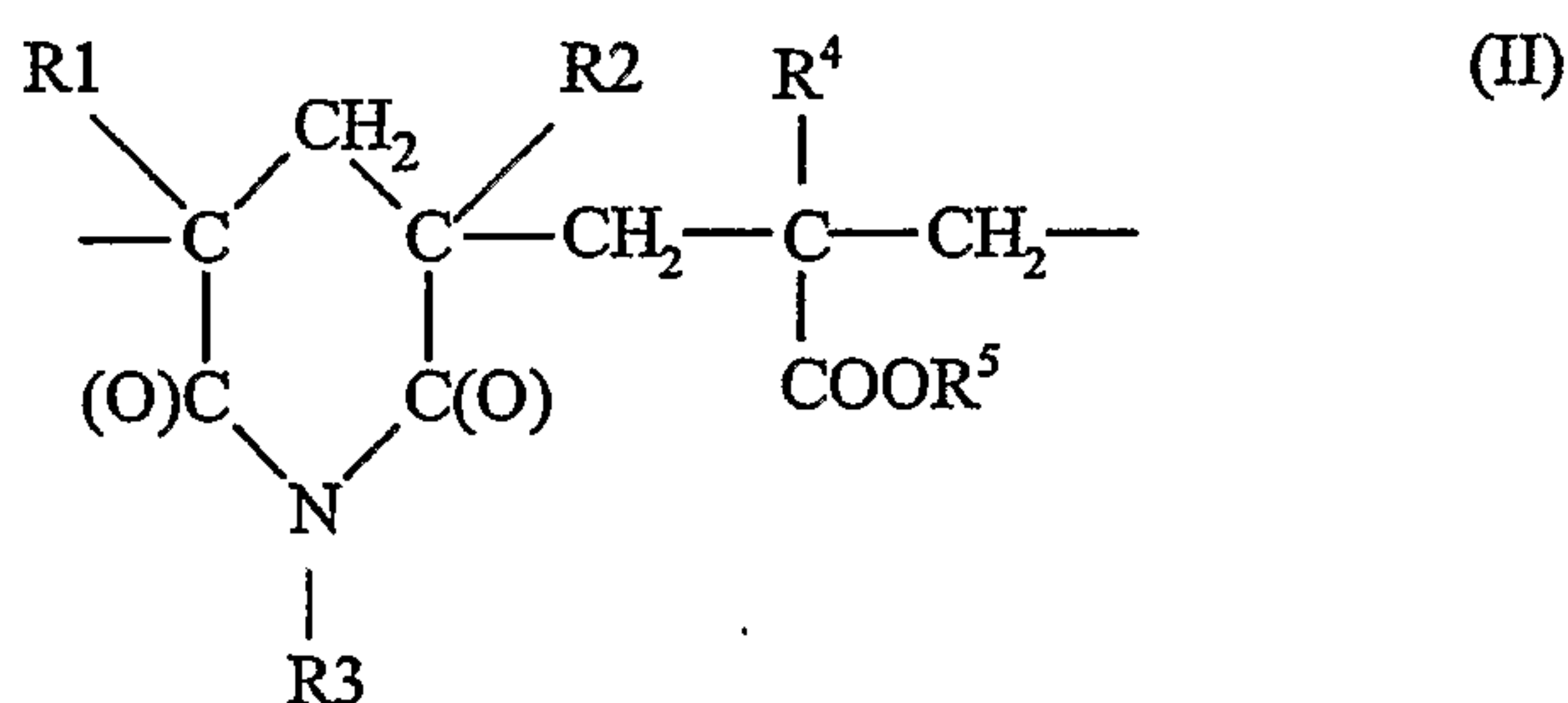
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[0013] The imidized acrylic polymers containing glutarimide groups may be characterized by the formula



[0014] wherein R¹, R² and R³ are each independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, aryl, alkaryl or aralkyl groups. The term "lower alkyl" is utilized in the present application and claims is intended to include alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, amyl, hexyl, and the various isomers thereof. Generally, R¹, R² and R³ are lower alkyl groups and preferably methyl or ethyl groups.

[0015] The imidized acrylic polymers useful in this disclosure also may be characterized as containing repeating units which are characterized by Formula II

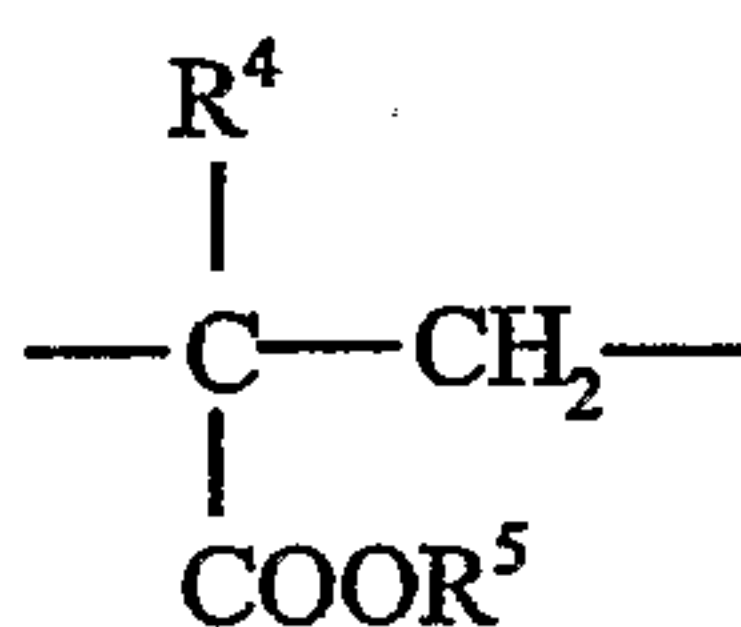


[0016] wherein R¹, R², R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently hydrogen or lower alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms, and R³ is hydrogen or an alkyl, aryl, alkaryl or aralkyl group. In Formula II, R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are generally methyl or ethyl groups, preferably methyl groups.

[0017] The acrylic polymers which are reacted with the amines to form the imidized acrylic polymers may be any polymer containing units derived from esters of acrylic or methacrylic

acid. The polymer can be single or multiple stage, but in the latter case, the outer or final stage must contain units derived from acrylic or methacrylic acid. While any such acrylic or methacrylic acid ester can comprise the acrylic polymer, generally at least 25% by weight, and more often above about 80% by weight of the acrylic polymer is derived from esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid. The acrylic polymer can be of a wide range of molecular weights and can be in any form.

[0018] The degree of imidization of the acrylic polymer is readily controlled by the imidization process, and different degrees can be obtained for different properties desired in the final product. As low as 1% imidization can be achieved, and for the purposes of this invention, at least 5% imidization is desirable. About 100% imidization can be achieved by the process described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,246,374, and in such instances, essentially all of the ester (or acid) groups present in the acrylic polymer are converted to imide moieties. Repeating units characterized by Formula II described above are present in the imidized acrylic polymer when there is less than 100% imidization. As will be noted, the repeating units in Formula II contain acrylic ester units of the formula



[0019] wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently hydrogen or a lower alkyl group containing from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms. Examples of imidized acrylic polymers include: poly(methylmethacrylate) with ammonia or methyl amine; a copolymer of methyl methacrylate and ethyl acrylate with ammonia or methyl amine; and a copolymer of methyl styrene and methyl methacrylate with ammonia or methyl amine.

[0020] An example of an imidized acrylic polymer, and more particularly, a glutarimide acrylic copolymer which is commercially available is a product designated Paraloid HT-510 from Rohm & Haas Company. This product is reported to be characterized by repeating units of Formula II

wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are methyl groups. Other polyimide copolymers manufactured and sold by the Rohm & Haas Company include Paraloid EXL-4151, Paraloid EXL-4171, Paraloid EXL-4241 and Paraloid EXL-4261.

[0021] Imide-containing acrylic polymers useful in the compositions and methods of the invention may also be prepared by other known techniques. For example, they may be prepared by copolymerization of an alkylacrylate or alkylmethacrylate with maleimide, N-alkylmaleimide, N-cyclohexylmaleimide or N-arylmaleimide, etc.; copolymerization of alkylmethacrylates, maleimide, and/or N-alkyl and/or N-cyclohexyl, and/or N-aryl-maleimides, styrene and/or ring-substituted styrenes or .alpha.-methylstyrene; copolymers of styrene, ring-substituted styrenes with maleimide or N-alkyl, or N-cyclohexyl, or N-aryl-maleimides; etc.

[0022] In a particular embodiment, the imide-containing acrylic polymers are acrylic polymers prepared by the polymerization (generally free radical) of alkyl methacrylate with maleimide or substituted maleimides. The copolymers can be prepared having a wide range of molecular weights and with a wide range of acrylate group monomers and a wide range of maleimide group monomers.

[0023] The methacrylate group monomers include, for example, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, etc. The maleimide group monomers include maleimide, N-methylmaleimide, N-ethylmaleimide, N-phenylmaleimide, N-cyclohexylmaleimide, etc. A third monomer may be present which may contain an acrylate group such as ethyl acrylate, propyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, etc. Copolymers can be prepared from mixtures of the first two monomer groups, mixtures of the second and third monomer groups, and mixtures comprising all three groups of monomers. The imide-containing copolymers useful in this disclosure generally will contain 70% or more of the acrylate monomer fraction and up to about 30% by weight of the maleimide monomer fraction. More often the copolymers contain from about 90% to about 99% by weight of the acrylate monomer fraction and from about 1% to about 10% by weight of the imide monomer fraction.

[0024] Imide-containing acrylic copolymers such as described above and their preparation are more fully described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,073,615.

Such imide-containing copolymers useful in this disclosure are available commercially from ICI Acrylics, Inc., St. Louis, Mo., under the general designation Perspex^{*} HHA. HHA-8, HHA-15 and HHA-16 are copolymers obtained from a mixture comprising methyl methacrylate and N-cyclohexylmaleimide.

[0025] Mixtures of two or more of the above acrylic resins can also be used. Moreover, homopolymers and copolymers of methyl methacrylate are particularly interesting.

[0026] The molecular weights of the acrylic resins used for making the universal solvent described here can vary widely, and essentially any molecular weight can be used. As further discussed below, the viscosity exhibited by a particular solvent cement depends on many factors, including molecular weight of the acrylic resin. Thus, the molecular weight of the acrylic resin chosen for a particular embodiment should be selected in keeping with the desired viscosity of the intended product. Against this background, the weight average molecular weight of the acrylic resin may be as low as 20,000 and as high as 6,000,000. Molecular weights on the order of 34,000 to 4,000,000, and even 400,000 to 3,000,000, are more typical.

[0027] In the same way, the concentration of acrylic resin in the solvent cements disclosed here also affects their viscosities, and so the concentration chosen for particular embodiments should also be selected in keeping with the desired viscosity of the intended product. Within this context, acrylic resin concentrations as little as about 3 wt.% can be used, although minimum acrylic resin concentration of at least about 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 or even 40 wt.% are also contemplated. Similarly, acrylic resin concentrations as high as about 60 wt.% can also be used, although maximum acrylic resin concentration of no more than about 50, 40, 30 or even 25 wt.% are also contemplated. Acrylic resin concentrations on the order of 5 to 20 wt.%, or even 7 to 15 wt.%, are typical.

[0028] An interesting class of acrylic resins for use in making the solvent cements disclosed here exhibit an inherent viscosity of 0.1 to 1.25, as measured with a solution containing 0.25 g polymer in 50 ml methylene chloride at 20° C using a No. 50 Cannon-Fenske Viscometer. Another interesting class of acrylic resins exhibit a melt flow rate in the range of 1.6 to 24 as

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determined by ASTM D-1238. Examples of such acrylic resins include VS 100, available from Arkema, and Elvacite 2008 and Elvacite 2010, both available from Lucite International.

Solvent

[0029] The solvent cements disclosed here also contain an organic solvent which is capable of dissolving the acrylic resin in the concentration being used as well as dissolving the surfaces of PVC, CPVC and ABS articles being joined. That is to say, in addition to dissolving the acrylic resin in the concentration being used, the solvent should also be capable of dissolving at least the outermost surface layer of the plastic articles to be bonded, whether those articles are made from PVC, CPVC or ABS.

[0030] Although not wishing to be bound to any theory, it is believed that the solvent cements disclosed here achieve adhesive bonding through an intermingling on a molecular level of the acrylic resin of the cement with the polymer forming the article to be bonded. Therefore, the solvent of these cements should be capable of dissolving enough of the surfaces of these articles to enable such an intermingling to occur. There is no particular depth to which the solvent must penetrate for this purpose, since it is a surface phenomenon. On the other hand, solvents which have no solvency at all for PVC, CPVC and/or ABS are not especially effective. In practice, therefore, it is desirable that the solvent exhibit a solvency for PVC, CPVC and ABS of at least about 0.5 wt.%, more desirably at least about 1 wt.%. Solvents capable of dissolving about 5 wt.% or more of all three of these resins are particularly interesting.

[0031] Organic solvents of particular interest include acetone (ACE), methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and other low boiling ketones having boiling points less than 80° C, medium boiling ketones having boiling points of about 80 to 130° C such as diethyl ketone (DEK), methyl propyl ketone (MPK), methyl iso-propyl ketone (MIPK), methyl iso-butyl ketone (MIBK) and methyl n-butyl ketone (MBK), and high boiling ketones having boiling points greater than 130° C. such as methyl amyl ketone, methyl iso-amyl ketone, di-iso-ketone and ethyl amyl ketone. In one embodiment, cyclic ketones such as cyclohexanone (CYH), cyclopentanone, cycloheptanone and isophorone are avoided. Acetone and methyl ethyl ketone are widely available and inexpensive.

[0032] Mixtures of different solvents can also be used, provided that the solvent system as a whole exhibits the same solvency attributes mentioned above. Mixtures of acetone and methyl ethyl ketone are particularly interesting, especially those in which the weight ratio of MEK to ACE is 10:1-1:10, more typically 5:1-1:5, 3:1-1:3, 2:1-1:2, or even about 1:1.

[0033] In addition to ketones, the universal cements disclosed here can include any of the additional solvents that are typically used in solvent cements as described, for example, in the patents mentioned above. For example, they may include esters such as methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, ethyl formate, ethyl propionate, and t-butyl acetate; halogenated solvents such as methylene chloride, ethylene dichloride, trichloroethylene; dibasic esters; ethers such as methyl Cellosolve and dioxane; and other liquids such dimethylformamide (DMF) and acyclic pentanones, hexanones and heptanones.

[0034] Solvent cements containing DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide), NMP (N-methyl pyrrolidone) and GBL (gamma-butyrolactone) are particularly interesting. On the other hand, THF (tetrahydrofuran) is avoided in some embodiments.

[0035] When such additional solvents are used, they are usually present in amounts no greater than about 60 wt.%, based on the total weight of solvent present. More typically they may be present in amounts no more than about 50, 40, 30, 20 or even 10 wt%, based on the total weight of solvent present. Minimum amounts of at least about 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 wt.%, based on the total weight of solvent present, are contemplated.

Additional Resins

[0036] In addition to acrylic resins, the solvent cements disclosed here can contain other dissolved thermoplastic resins including PVC, CPVC and ABS. Any other resin used in or known to be useful as a component of solvent cements can also be included. For example, the homopolymers, copolymers, terpolymers and graft copolymers of vinyl aromatic monomers as described, for example, at col. 10, line 57 *et seq.* of the above-noted Bush '142 Patent can be included. Vinyl pyrrolidone polymers as described at col. 12, line 56 *et seq.* of the above-noted Bush '142 Patent can also be included.

[0037] In those embodiments in which an additional resin is present, the acrylic resin should constitute at least about 75 wt.% of the total amount of dissolved resin. Acrylic resin concentrations of at least about 80, 85, 90 and 95 wt.%, based on the total weight of dissolved thermoplastic resin, are also contemplated. Thus, the concentrations of PVC, CPVC and ABS resins in these solvent cements will normally be less than 5 wt.% in total, based on the weight of the entire solvent cement. Solvent cements containing less than about 4, 3, 2 and even 1 wt.% PVC, CPVC and ABS, in total, based on the weight of the entire solvent cement are also contemplated. Solvent cements essentially completely free of PVC, CPVC and ABS are particularly interesting.

[0038] Because the concentrations of PVC, CPVC and ABS in such solvent cements are kept low or non-existent, compatibility problems between different resins, e.g., PVC vs. CPVC, PVC vs. ABS and CPVC vs. ABS, are avoided. That is to say, because PVC, CPVC and ABS resins are essentially avoided, compatibility problems between one type of resin in the cement, PVC for example, and a different type of resin in the pipe to be bonded, ABS for example, are avoided. This avoidance of compatibility problems, on the one hand, plus the use of an organic solvent system which dissolves the acrylic resin and is capable of dissolving at least the outermost surface layer of the plastic articles to be bonded, on the other hand, enables the solvent cement disclosed here to create excellent bonds on all three different types of plastic, i.e. PVC, CPVC and ABS. Thus, the solvent cement disclosed here is universal in its applications.

[0039] That is to say, the universal solvent cement disclosed here can be used to bond two different plastics selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS to one another. In addition, it can also be used in different bonding operations in which a first group of objects made from the one plastic selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS are joined in a first bonding step, and then another group of objects made from a different plastic also selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS are joined to one another in a second bonding step using the same solvent cement. In this context, PVC, CPVC and ABS are "different" from one another. Two PVC resins are not, even if they differ from one another in terms of molecular weight or other property.

Other Ingredients

[0040] The universal solvent cements disclosed here can contain from 0 to about 4% or even up to 5% by weight of at least one solid particulate inorganic filler. More typically, they will contain about 0.1% or 0.75% by weight up to about 1.5% or 3% or 4% by weight of the solid particulate inorganic filler. The particulate inorganic fillers are inert and are generally included in the solvent cements disclosed here to improve working viscosity and structural strength, and to reduce costs.

[0041] The solid particulate inorganic fillers incorporated into the solvent cements disclosed here preferably are fine powders having an average particle size of less than about 50 microns and a density of less than about 4 g/cc. These inorganic fillers include amorphous silica, silica flour, ground quartz, talc, magnesium silicate, calcium carbonate, clay, whiting, shell flour, wood flour, alumina, antimony trioxide, asbestos powder, barium sulfate, calcined clays, China clays, magnesium oxide, mica powder, fumed silica, etc. A preferred filler is fumed silica available commercially from Cabot Corporation under the trade designation CAB-O-SIL^{*} and from the Degussa Corporation under the trade designation Aerosil. For example, CAB-O-SIL grade PTG is a fumed silica available from the Cabot Corporation and having a surface area of $200 \pm 25 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a nominal particle diameter of 0.014 microns.

[0042] If desired, other components may be advantageously included in the compositions although the compositions of the invention generally are free of hollow microspheres. Other components can include lubricants, stabilizers, plasticizers, colorants, pigments, thixotropic agents, polymeric rheology additives and processing aids, etc. Small amounts of pigments or colorants such as titanium dioxide, carbon black or a dye or other colorant may be added to the adhesive compositions to serve as a guide for uniform mixing and to provide a method of identifying various adhesive compositions. Exemplary stabilizing agents for PVC and CPVC formulations include alkyltin compounds such as methyltin, butyltin and octyltin; dialkyltin dicarboxylates; methyltin mercaptides and butyltin mercaptides; dialkyltin bis(alkylmercaptocarboxylate) including di-n-octyltin-S,S'-bis(isooctyl mercaptoacetate); butylthiostannoic acid; etc. Di-lower alkyl tin stabilizers such as C₄ to C₈ alkyltin mercaptides are normally preferred. The stabilizers are generally present in amounts of from about 0.05 to 3%

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by weight. Triphenyl phosphite, BHT (butylated hydroxy toluene), complex calcium and zinc soaps of alkyl carboxylic acids and hydrotalcite can also be used.

[0043] The compositions of this disclosure are easy to apply, cost effective, and cure within a reasonable period of time without the use of heat, pressure, UV light or extraordinary mechanical devices. The bonding or adhesive properties are satisfactory for the intended uses whether non pressure drain, waste, vent (DWV), applications or pressure systems used in potable water applications.

Viscosity

[0044] The solvent cements disclosed here should be thoroughly blended to provide substantially homogeneous mixtures. Substantially homogeneous mixtures are desirable since non-uniform mixtures will result in non-uniform distribution of the adhesive composition and non-uniform adhesion to substrate surfaces.

[0045] The viscosities of these solvent cements can be as low as 1 cps (centipoise) and as high as 50,000 cps. "Regular" solvent cements normally have viscosities on the order of 1-500 cps, more commonly 90 to 200 cps. Similarly, "Medium Duty" solvent cements normally have viscosities on the order of 500-2,000 cps, more commonly 800 to 1500 cps., while "heavy duty" solvent cements normally have viscosities on the order of 1,600 to 4,000 cps, more commonly 1,600 to 2,500 cps.

[0046] As indicated above, the viscosity exhibited by a particular solvent cement depends on many factors including the concentration and molecular weight of the dissolved acrylic resin. Additional factors affecting viscosity include the concentrations and molecular weights of other dissolved resins, the types and amounts of fillers, desired shelf stability, types and amounts of solvents, etc. Those skilled in this field can readily determine the concentration and molecular weights of the acrylic resin and other ingredients in the solvent cements disclosed here to achieve a desired viscosity.

Examples

[0047] In order to more thoroughly describe this disclosure, the following working examples are provided.

[0048] In these examples, a variety of different solvent cements were produced, and then the viscosities of each cement was determined immediately after the cement was made and then periodically over the next four weeks by ASTM D-1084 using a Brookfield viscometer. Each solvent cement was tested according to ASTM D-2564 to determine the lap shear strength of the bond created when the cement was used to bond PVC to PVC. These tests were also repeated over a four week period of time.

[0049] The compositions of the various solvent cements tested are set forth in the following Table A, while the viscosities of these solvents cements are set forth in the following Table B and the bond strengths produced by these cements are set forth in the following Table C. In these tables, the following abbreviations are used:

<u>Abbrev</u>	<u>Polymer or Solvent</u>	<u>Source</u>
K-120N	Poly(EA/MMA)	Rohm & Haas
Elvacite 2041	PMMA	Lucite International
Plaskolite	Imidized PMMA	Plaskolite Continental
CA 41	Poly(EA/MMA)	Plaskolite Continental
K 400	Poly(BA/BMA/MMA)	Rohm & Haas
Elvacite 2008	PMMA	Lucite International
V052	Poly(EA/MMA)	Arkema
V052	Poly(EA/MMA)	Arkema
t-bac	t-butyl acetate	
K130D	Poly(BA/MMA)	Rohm & Haas

Table A
Solvent Cement Compositions

Example	DMSO	NMP	MEK	Acetone	Misc	PVC	Acrylic	F.S.	
1		45.0		45.0			10.0		K120N
2		5	42.5	42.5			10		2041 resin
3		10	40.0	40.0			10		2041 resin
4	45.0		45.0				10		K120N
5	44.4		44.4				11.2		K120N
6			40.0	40.0			20		
7	35.0		35.0	20.0			10k		
8	43.75		43.75				12.5k		K120N
9	47.5		47.5				5k		
10	31.7		31.7	31.6			5k		
11	29.2		29.2	29.2			12.5k		
12	30.0		30.0		30.0		10k		30 Methyl Acetate
13	46.5		46.5				5k	2.0	
14	29.2		29.2	29.2			12.5p		
15	43.8		43.8				12.5p		
16	45.0		45.0		7.5k		2.5p		K120N + Plaskolite
17	45.00		45.00				10		K120N
18	46.25		46.25				7.5		K120N
19	30.00		30.00	30.0			10		K120N
20	30.80		30.80	30.8			7.5		K120N
21	43.75		43.75				12.5		
22	45.00		45.00				10		
23	20.00		70.00				10		K120N
24	43.75		43.50				12.5		K120N
25	20.00		35.00	35.0			10		K120N
26	10.00		40.00	40.0			10		K120N
27	43.75		43.75		12.5				CA41
28	30.00		30.00	30.0	10.0				K400
29	45.00				45.0		10		MIBK, K120N
30	45.00		45.00		5.0		5		Plaskolite, K120N
31	30.00		30.00	30.0			10		2041
32	30.00		30.00	30.0			10		2008
33	30.00		30.00	30.0			10		V052-100
34	30.00		30.00	30.0			10		V825-100
35	20.00		20.00	25.0	25.0		10		K120N +t-bac
36	30.00			30.0	30.0		10		2041+t-bac
37			90.00				10.0		K120N
38				90.0			10		K120N
39			44.00	44.00			12		2041
40			40.00	40.00		5	15		Plaskolite
41	20.00		40.00	30.00			10		K130D

Table B
Viscosities, cps.

Example	As Made	24 hrs	1 wk	2 wk	3 wk	4 wk	10 mo.
1	390	460	470	480	480	490	
2	40	40	40	40	40	40	
3	40	40	40	40	40	40	
4	620	670	680		670		770
5	900	900			920	1040	1000
6	80	80	80	80	80	80	
7	420	540	480	460	490	480	
8	2100	2200	2250	2300	2200	2425	
9	10	12	20		40	20	
10	10	10					
11	1290	1430	1390			1690	
12	450	480	490	461	500	490	
13	140						
14	10	35	36	36	37	38	
15	48	49	47			49	
16	220	250	230	240		260	
17	470	540	560	520	570		
18	140	140	130	140	140		
19	320	330	340	330	360	360	
20	80	80	90	80	80	80	
21	2220	2610	2830	2710	2800	2900	
22	530	610	640	620	700	660	
23	240		270	270		260	
24	2000	2000	2000	2150	2250	2250	
25	250	270	260	250	250	250	
26	200	200	200	200	200	200	
27	33	34	34	34	34		
28	25500	too thick					
29	730	780		780	810	800	
30	80	80	70	80	70	60	
31	120	120				120	
32	12	12					
33	25	25	26				
34	22	24					
35	350	360	370	360		380	
36	230	230	250	240		260	
37	150	150	180	170		160	
38	150	170	190	200		190	
39	220	210	250	250			
40	100	110	110	120	110		
41	1150	1200	1200				

Table C
Lap Shear Strengths, psi

Example	2 hrs	16 hrs	72 hrs	1 wk	4 wk
1	237	756	1141	1386	
2	578	1114	1446		
3	527	1034	1455	1500	
4	422	915	1176	1289	957 (6 mo)
5	301	595	975	950	
6		1134	1274	1404	941
7	334	566	1089	1478	1500
8	389	638	1300	1490	1304
9	479	666	1372	949	
10	419	564	1413	1336	
11	330	585	1090	1015	
12	344	477	1239	926	1500
13	na	na	1071	na	
14	504	928	1459		
15	281	783	1004	1392	
16	347	767	1233	1421	
17	479	1190	920	1024	
18	305	1160	941	1103	1475
19	336	925	1150		1381
20	330	1036	1175		
21	350	994	1017		
22	490	1347	1221		
23	359	524	1104	1266	1409
24	294	712	1400	1491	1500
25	408	535	1500	1500	1328
26	378	609	1500	1500	1125
27					
28	too thick				
29	261	488	740	893	
30	260	642	988	1137	
31	446	754	1487	1482	
32	305	787	1500		1465
33	380				
34					
35	324		646		
36	297		920		
37	327		740	1113	1245
38	334	528	1124	938	1062
39				1500	
40	441	835	1435		
41			999		

[0050] From the above, it can be seen that solvent cements formulated in accordance with this disclosure provide excellent bond strengths for 72 hours and longer in adhering PVC objects to one another, even though these cements contain no PVC resin. Thus, most solvent cements provided lap strengths of at least about 900 psi after 72 hours, while many provided lap strengths of about 1100 or even 1200 or more after 72 hours. In addition, their viscosities remained largely unchanged for four weeks and longer, indicating commercially viable storage stabilities of two years and longer.

[0051] The skilled person will appreciate that the scope of the claims should not be limited by any embodiment or example set forth above but should be given the broadest interpretation consistent with the description as a whole.

Claims:

1. A solvent cement for bonding polyvinyl chloride (PVC), chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) plastic pipe and other molded
5 articles, the solvent cement comprising at least one thermoplastic resin dissolved in a solvent mixture containing methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and acetone (ACE) in which the ratio of MEK to ACE is 10:1-1:10, wherein at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement is an acrylic resin and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the cement is 60 wt.%.
10
2. The solvent cement of claim 1, wherein the total amount of PVC, CPVC and ABS in the solvent cement is less than 5 wt.%, based on the total weight of the solvent cement, and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the cement is 50 wt.%.
- 15 3. The solvent cement of claim 2, wherein the acrylic resin contains at least 50 mol% of polymerized methyl methacrylate.
4. The solvent cement of claim 1, further comprising dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).
- 20 5. The solvent cement of claim 4, further comprising N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP).
6. The solvent cement of claim 4, wherein the solvent cement is essentially free of tetrahydrofuran (THF) and cyclohexanone (CYH).
- 25 7. A process for bonding polyvinyl chloride (PVC), chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) plastic pipe and other molded articles to one another, the process comprising applying a solvent cement to the surfaces to be bonded and then bringing these surfaces into contact with one another, wherein the solvent cement comprises at least one thermoplastic resin dissolved in a solvent mixture
30 containing methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and acetone (ACE) in which the ratio of MEK to ACE is 10:1-1:10, wherein at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement is an acrylic resin and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the cement is 60 wt.%.

8. The process of claim 7, wherein the total amount of thermoplastic resin in the solvent cement is less than 5 wt.%, based on the total weight of the solvent cement, and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the cement is 50 wt.%.
- 5 9. The process of claim 8, wherein the acrylic resin contains at least 50 mol % of polymerized methyl methacrylate.
10. The process of claim 7, wherein the solvent cement contains at least one of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP).
- 10 11. The process of claim 10, wherein the solvent cement is essentially free of tetrahydrofuran (THF) and cyclohexanone (CYH).
12. The process of claim 7, wherein one of the surfaces to be bonded is formed
15 from a first plastic selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS, and further wherein the other surface to be bonded is selected from a different plastic selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS.
13. A process for using a universal solvent cement to bond different plastic objects
20 to one another wherein plastic objects made from a first plastic selected from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) are joined to one another with a universal solvent cement in a first bonding step, and further wherein plastic objects made from a different plastic selected from PVC, CPVC and ABS are joined to one another in a second bonding
25 step with the same universal solvent cement, wherein the solvent cement comprises at least one thermoplastic resin wherein at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement is an acrylic resin and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the cement is 60 wt.%.
- 30 14. The process of claim 13, wherein the total amount of PVC, CPVC and ABS in the solvent cement is less than 5 wt.%, based on the total weight of the solvent cement, and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the cement is 50 wt.%.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein the acrylic resin contains at least 50 mol % of polymerized methyl methacrylate.
- 5 16. The process of claim 13, wherein the solvent cement contains methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) and acetone (ACE) in which the weight ratio of MEK to ACE is 10:1-1:10.
- 10 17. The process of claim 16, wherein the solvent cement contains at least one of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and N-methyl pyrrolidone (NMP).
18. The process of claim 17, wherein the solvent cement is essentially free of tetrahydrofuran (THF) and cyclohexanone (CYH).
- 15 19. A solvent cement for bonding polyvinyl chloride (PVC), chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) plastic pipe and other molded articles, the solvent cement comprising at least one thermoplastic resin dissolved in a solvent mixture, wherein at least 75 wt.% of the dissolved thermoplastic resin in the cement is an acrylic resin and further wherein the maximum amount of acrylic resin in the
20 cement is 60 wt.%, wherein the solvent cement contains at least one of diethyl ketone (DEK), methyl propyl ketone (MPK), methyl isopropyl ketone (MIPK), methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), methyl N-butyl ketone (MBK), methyl amyl ketone, methyl iso-amyl ketone, d-iso-ketone and ethyl amyl ketone.
- 25 20. The solvent cement of claim 19, wherein the solvent cement further contains acetone.