

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
26 April 2001 (26.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/29134 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C08L 63/08,
C09J 163/08, 153/02, C08L 53/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP00/10282

(22) International Filing Date: 17 October 2000 (17.10.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/160,032 18 October 1999 (18.10.1999) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: FORMULATION FOR STRIPPABLE ADHESIVE AND COATING FILMS AND HIGH PERFORMANCE ADHESIVES

(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a formulation for curable strippable adhesive and coating films and high performance adhesives, which comprises: (a) from 10 to 90 percent by weight of a cross-linkable epoxidized diene polymer, (b) from 0 to 70 percent by weight of a diene mono-ol polymer, with the condition that the mono-ol polymer not exceed three times the weight of the epoxidized polymer, and either (c1) from 5 to 40 weight percent of a block copolymer of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and a diene having, on average, more than one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block per molecule, wherein the amount of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon in the block copolymer is less than 30 % by weight, and wherein the block copolymer can optionally be functionalized by grafting onto it from 0.1 to 5 % by weight of a carboxylic acid or anhydride, and (d1) from 0 to 65 % percent by weight of a tackifying resin, or (c2) from 5 to 40 weight percent of a block copolymer of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and a diene having, on average, more than one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block per molecule, wherein the amount of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon in the block copolymer is from 30 % to 50 % by weight, and wherein the block copolymer can optionally be functionalized by grafting onto it from 0.1 to 5 % by weight of a carboxylic acid or anhydride, (d2) from 5 to 65 % percent by weight of a tackifying resin which has an aromaticity of from 2 to 20 percent by weight, and (e) from 0.01 to 3 percent by weight of a photo-initiator the total adding up to 100 percent.

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FORMULATION FOR STRIPPABLE ADHESIVE
AND COATING FILMS AND HIGH PERFORMANCE ADHESIVES

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a formulation for curable, strippable adhesive and coating films and high performance adhesives.

5 Background of the Invention

Protective and decorative strippable adhesive and coating films are well known and are highly useful for application to home and store windows and the windows and panels of automobiles to serve as either a protective or decorative covering or both. This type of film is applied in sheet form, cured, and printed, and it is preferred that it is capable of being wound upon itself without the necessity of a release coating or a release liner.

10 US Patent 5,286,781 describes a pressure sensitive adhesive composition and tape or sheet made therefrom which is comprised of a block copolymer of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and a conjugated diene and a particular polyolefin. Also described therein are previous protective films made with such block copolymers and several other similar polymers.

20 Formulations based on the above block copolymers are used commercially and have the advantage that they exhibit elastic properties at room temperature. However, they are limited in their susceptibility to high service temperatures, i.e., above about 70°C. At such temperatures, the films weaken cohesively.

25 Adhesive films based on UV cured epoxidized polydiene polymers are described in US patents 5,776,998 and 5,837,749. While adhesive and coating films made from these materials are highly useful for high performance

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pressure sensitive adhesives, these formulations do not work very well for strippable coatings. Such films generally have poor tensile properties. They tear or break upon only a small induced elongation. This limits the quality of the strippable coatings and adhesive films because they break too easily and this prevents easy removability. The present invention eliminates this problem.

Furthermore, using this invention, improved high performance pressure sensitive adhesives can be obtained that are more cost effective and convenient to handle for those who have a need for handling a solid adhesive at room temperature such as any typical hot melt adhesive formulator or user. This invention can be handled like a typical hot melt adhesive and later UV cured to get the desired properties. Also, the adhesive can be pre-coated on a paper or film stock roll and then UV cured in latter operation that is followed by immediate bonding of the substrates. Immediate bonding after cationic UV cure gives higher bond strengths.

Summary of the Invention

This invention relates to a formulation for curable strippable adhesive and coating films and high performance adhesives, which comprises:

- (a) from 10 to 90 percent by weight of a cross-linkable epoxidized diene polymer,
- (b) from 0 to 70 percent by weight of a diene mono-ol polymer, with the condition that the mono-ol polymer not exceed three times the weight of the epoxidized polymer,
- (c) from 5 to 40 weight percent of a block copolymer of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and a diene having, on average, more than one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block per molecule, wherein the amount of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon in the block copolymer is less than 30% by weight, and wherein the block copolymer can be

functionalized by grafting onto it from 0.1 to 5% by weight of a carboxylic acid or anhydride, preferably maleic anhydride,

(d) from 0 to 65% percent by weight of a tackifying resin, and

(e) from 0.01 to 3 percent by weight of a photo-initiator, the total adding up to 100 percent by weight.

Alternatively formulations can also be made with block copolymers containing 30 to 50 percent by weight of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon. In this case, a tackifying resin containing from 2 to 20, preferably 3 to 10, percent by weight aromaticity must be used in an amount of 5 to 65, preferably 20 to 40, percent by weight. The use of this type of tackifying resin allows compatible formulations to be made with the block copolymers containing 30 to 50 percent by weight vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and the cross-linkable epoxidized diene polymer.

The preferred epoxidized diene polymer of the present invention is an epoxidized monohydroxylated block copolymer of at least two conjugated dienes, preferably isoprene and butadiene, wherein the isoprene block substantially contains the epoxidation, the butadiene block is hydrogenated, and the hydroxyl group is attached at the end of the butadiene block. It is preferred that the polydiene mono-ol polymer have a number average or hydroxyl equivalent molecular weight of 2000 to 30,000 and these polymers are preferably hydrogenated polybutadiene with a terminal OH group. The preferred mono-ol polymer, block copolymer, and tackifying resins are hydrogenated.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Polymers of this invention containing ethylenic unsaturation can be prepared by polymerizing one or more olefins, particularly diolefins, by themselves or with

one or more alkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomers. The polymers may, of course, be random, tapered, block or a combination of these, as well as linear, star or radial.

In general, when solution anionic techniques are used, polymers of conjugated diolefins, optionally with vinyl aromatic hydrocarbons, are prepared by contacting the monomer or monomers to be polymerized simultaneously or sequentially with an anionic polymerization initiator such as group IA metals, preferably lithium, their alkyls, amides, naphthalides, biphenyls or anthracenyl derivatives.

The vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon/diene block copolymers and the epoxidized polydienes and polydiene mono-ols are synthesized by anionic polymerization of vinyl aromatic and/or conjugated diene hydrocarbons with these lithium initiators. This process is well known as described in US Patents Nos. 4,039,593 and Re. 27,145. Polymerization commences with a monolithium initiator which builds a living polymer backbone at each lithium site. Typically, such polymerizations are capped by termination with ethylene oxide to provide a terminal hydroxyl group.

Conjugated diolefins which may be polymerized anionically include those conjugated diolefins containing from about 4 to about 24 carbon atoms such as 1,3-butadiene, isoprene, piperylene, methylpentadiene, 2-phenyl-1,3-butadiene, 3,4-dimethyl-1,3-hexadiene, 4,5-diethyl-1,3-octadiene and the like. Isoprene and butadiene are the preferred conjugated diene monomers for use in the present invention because of their low cost and ready availability. Alkenyl (vinyl) aromatic hydrocarbons which may be copolymerized include vinyl aryl compounds such as styrene, various alkyl-substituted styrenes, alkoxy-substituted styrenes, vinyl naphthalene, alkyl-substituted vinyl naphthalenes and the like.

Block copolymers of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbons and conjugated dienes such as used herein are very well known and are described in the aforementioned US patents 4,039,593 and Reissue 27,145 among many others.

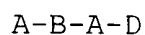
5 Typically, these polymers contain two vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon blocks, one at each end, and an internal conjugated diene block. For example, the polymer may be styrene-isoprene-styrene or styrene-butadiene-styrene.

10 The aforementioned commonly used tri-block copolymers are not very compatible with the epoxidized diene polymers used in this invention. One way of increasing the compatibility is for the hydrogenated block copolymer to have at least some of the polymer molecules with a hydrogenated diene block on at least one end of the
15 molecule. Another way of increasing the compatibility is to keep the amount of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon in the block copolymer less than 30% by weight. The compatibility of block copolymers having a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon content of from 30 to 50 percent by weight
20 can be increased by utilizing from 5 to 65, preferably 20 to 40, percent by weight of a tackifying resin which contains from 2 to 20, preferably 3 to 10, percent by weight of aromaticity. The concentration of the resin can be at the low end if a higher aromaticity content resin
25 is used. Other resins with no aromaticity can be used in combination with this resin and a mineral oil can be added if it is desired to lower the T_g of the composition.

30 One preferred way to achieve such a hydrogenated block copolymer is to use a block copolymer which has a coupling efficiency of no more than 80 percent. One method of making such tri-block copolymers is to first make two di-block copolymers and then couple them together end to end. The coupling efficiency is a measure

of how successful the coupling reaction is. In the present case, it would be desirable to have at least 20 percent of the polymer molecules remaining as a di-block.

5 In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the block copolymer used is a four block copolymer which has alternating vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon blocks and conjugated diene blocks. This provides the required external polydiene block. The preferred block copolymer for use herein is a linear
10 block copolymer of the formula:



wherein A is a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon polymer block having a weight average molecular weight of from 4000 to
15 35,000, B is a hydrogenated polydiene polymer block having a weight average molecular weight of from 20,000 to 200,000, D is a hydrogenated or unhydrogenated polydiene polymer block having a weight average molecular weight of from 3000 to 50,000, and the copolymer has a
20 vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon content of from 9 to 35 percent by weight.

The preferred four block polymers of the present invention may have a weight average molecular weight of from 30,000 to 150,000. The mid-block (B block) of the
25 four block must be hydrogenated to achieve the desired thermal, ultraviolet, and viscosity stability. Preferably, it is a hydrogenated polybutadiene (EB) or polyisoprene (EP) block. The other polydiene block (D block) can be unhydrogenated or hydrogenated.

30 The block copolymers used in this invention may be functionalized by grafting thereon a carboxylic acid or anhydride. As described in US Patent 4,578,429, in general any materials having the ability to react with the base polymer in free radical initiated reactions are
35 operable monomers for the purposes of this invention.

These monomers must be capable of reacting with the base polymer in solution or in the melt by a free radical mechanism. The monomers may be polymerizable or non-polymerizable but preferred monomers are non-polymerizable or slowly polymerizable.

The monomers must be ethylenically unsaturated in order to take part in free radical reactions. The class of preferred monomers which will form graft polymers within the scope of this invention have one or more functional groups or their derivatives such as carboxylic acid groups and their salts, anhydrides, esters, imide groups, amide groups, acid chlorides, and the like in addition to at least one point of unsaturation. These functionalities can be subsequently reacted with other modifying materials to produce new functional groups on the polymer either simultaneously with the grafting or in a post modification reaction.

The preferred modifying monomers are unsaturated mono- and polycarboxylic-containing acids (C₃-C₁₀) with preferably at least one olefinic unsaturation, and anhydrides, salts, esters, ethers, amides, nitriles, thiols, thioacids, glycidyl, cyano, hydroxy, glycol, and other substituted derivatives from such acids. Specific examples of useful materials include maleic acid, fumaric acid, acrylic acid, glycidyl acrylate, hydroxyalkyl-methacrylates, methacrylic acid, maleic anhydride, acrylonitrile and others described in the aforementioned US Patent 4,578,429. The preferred monomers are maleic anhydride, maleic acid, fumaric acid and their derivatives. It is well known in the art that these monomers do not polymerize easily.

The method of preparation of these graft block copolymers is described in detail in the aforementioned US Patent 4,578,429. The grafting reaction is initiated

by a free radical initiator, the concentration of which preferably ranges from 0.01 to 1.0 weight percent, at temperatures of 75 °C to 350 °C. The reaction typically takes place in a screw type extruder to mix and melt the reactants and to heat the reactant mixture to the desired reaction temperature. The polymers used herein may contain from 0.1 up to 5% by weight of the grafted monomer.

The most preferred monohydroxylated polydiene polymer of the present invention has the structural formula



wherein A and B are polymer blocks which may be homopolymer blocks of conjugated diolefin monomers, copolymer blocks of conjugated diolefin monomers, or copolymer blocks of diolefin monomers and monoalkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomers. These polymers may contain up to 60% by weight of at least one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon, preferably styrene. Generally, it is preferred that the A blocks should have a greater concentration of more highly substituted aliphatic double bonds than the B blocks have. Thus, the A blocks have a greater concentration of di-, tri-, or tetra-substituted unsaturation sites (aliphatic double bonds) per unit of block mass than do the B blocks. This produces a polymer wherein the most facile epoxidation occurs in the A blocks. The A blocks have a number average molecular weight of from 100 to 6000 g/mol, preferably 500 to 4,000 g/mol, and most preferably 1000 to 3000 g/mol, and the B blocks have a number average molecular weight of from 1000 to 15,000 g/mol, preferably 2000 to 10,000 g/mol, and most preferably 3000 to 6000 g/mol. S is a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block which may have a number average molecular weight of from 100 to 10,000. x and y are 0 or 1. Either x or y must be 1, but only one

at a time can be 1. z is 0 or 1. Either the A or the B block may be capped with a mini-block of polymer, 50 to 1000 number average molecular weight, of a different composition, to compensate for any initiation, tapering due to unfavorable copolymerization rates, or capping difficulties. These monohydroxylated polydiene polymers may be epoxidized such that they contain from 0.1 to 7.0 milliequivalents (meq) of epoxide functionality (oxirane oxygen) per gram of polymer.

Di-blocks falling within the above description are preferred. The overall number average molecular weight of such di-blocks may range from 1500 to 15000 g/mol, preferably 3000 to 7000 g/mol. Either of the blocks in the di-block may contain some randomly polymerized vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon as described above. For example, where I represents isoprene, B represents butadiene, S represents styrene, and a slash (/) represents a random copolymer block, the di-blocks may have the following structures:

I-B-OH I-B/S-OH I/S-B-OH I-I/B-OH or
 B/I-B/S-OH B-B/S-OH I-EB-OH I-EB/S-OH or
 I-S/EB-OH I/S-EB-OH HO-I-S/B HO-I-S/EB

where EB is hydrogenated butadiene, -EB/S-OH means that the hydroxyl source is attached to a styrene repeating unit, and -S/EB-OH signifies that the hydroxyl source is attached to a hydrogenated butadiene repeating unit. This latter case, -S/EB-OH, requires capping of the S/EB "random copolymer" block with a mini EB block to compensate for the tapering tendency of the styrene prior to capping with ethylene oxide. These di-blocks are advantageous in that they exhibit lower viscosity and are easier to manufacture than the corresponding tri-block polymers. It is preferred that the hydroxyl be attached to the butadiene block because the epoxidation proceeds more favorably with isoprene and there will be a

separation between the functionalities on the polymer. However, the hydroxyl may also be attached to the isoprene block if desired. This produces a more surfactant-like molecule with less load bearing capacity.

5 The isoprene blocks may also be hydrogenated.

Certain tri-block copolymers are also preferred for use herein. Such tri-blocks usually include a styrene block or randomly copolymerized styrene to increase the polymers glass transition temperature, compatibility with
10 polar materials, strength, and room temperature viscosity. These tri-blocks include the following specific structures:

I-EB/S-EB-OH I-B/S-B-OH I-S-EB-OH I-S-B-OH or
I-I/S-I-OH I-S-I-OH B-S-B-OH B-B/S-B-OH or
15 I-B/S-I-OH I-EB/S-I-OH or
I-B-S-OH I-EB-S-OH HO-I-EB-S

The latter group of polymers specified in the last line above wherein the styrene block is external are represented by the formula

20 (II) $(HO)_x-A-B-S-(OH)_y$

where A, B, S, x, and y are as described above. These polymers and the other tri-blocks shown above are particularly advantageous for introducing blocks of epoxy functionality into the monohydroxylated polymers at
25 multiple sites.

Epoxidation of the base polymer can be effected by reaction with organic peracids which can be preformed or formed in situ. Suitable pre-formed peracids include peracetic, performic, and perbenzoic acids. In situ
30 formation may be accomplished by using hydrogen peroxide and a low molecular weight fatty acid such as formic acid. These and other methods are described in more detail in U.S. Patents 5,229,464 and 5,247,026. Alternately, tungsten catalyzed phase transfer

epoxidation can be carried out as described in J. Polymer Science, Pt A, 33 1881 (1995) by J. V. Crivello and B. Yang. The amount of epoxidation of these polydiene polymers ranges from about 0.1 to about 7 milli-
5 equivalents of oxirane oxygen per gram of polymer, Low levels are desirable to avoid over-cure. Above 7 meq/g, the rigidity, cross-link density, cost, difficulty of manufacture, and polarity of the epoxidized are such that polymer does not provide any benefit. The preferred
10 amount of epoxidation is about 0.5 to about 5 meq/g and the most preferred amount of epoxidation is about 1.0 to 3 meq/g. The most preferred amount provides the best balance of rate of UV cure against undesired over-cure and better maintains compatibility with a variety of
15 formulating ingredients commonly used with polydiene based adhesives.

The molecular weights of the linear polymers or unassembled linear segments of polymers such as mono-, di-, tri-block, etc., arms of star polymers before
20 coupling are conveniently measured by Gel Permeation Chromatography (GPC), where the GPC system has been appropriately calibrated. For anionically polymerized linear polymers, the polymer is essentially mono-disperse (weight average molecular weight/number average molecular
25 weight ratio approaches unity), and it is both convenient and adequately descriptive to report the "peak" molecular weight of the narrow molecular weight distribution observed. Usually, the peak value is between the number and the weight average. The peak molecular weight is the
30 molecular weight of the most abundant species shown on the chromatograph. For polydisperse polymers the number average and the weight average molecular weight should be calculated from the chromatograph and used. For materials to be used in the columns of the GPC, styrene-divinyl-
35 benzene gels or silica gels are commonly used and give

excellent molecular weight results. Tetrahydrofuran is an excellent non-aqueous solvent for polymers of the type described herein. A refractive index detector may be used. For anionic polymers, it is also often convenient to determine the number average molecular weight by end group analysis using NMR.

If desired, these block copolymers can be partially hydrogenated. Hydrogenation may be effected selectively as disclosed in US Patent Reissue 27,145. The hydrogenation of these polymers and copolymers may be carried out by a variety of well established processes including hydrogenation in the presence of such catalysts as Raney Nickel, noble metals such as platinum and the like, soluble transition metal catalysts and titanium catalysts as in US Patent 5,039,755. The polymers may have different diene blocks and these diene blocks may be selectively hydrogenated as described in US Patent 5,229,464. Partially unsaturated hydroxylated polymers are useful for further functionalization to make the epoxidized polymers of this invention. The partial unsaturation preferably is such that 0.1 to 7 meq of aliphatic double bonds suitable for epoxidation remain on the polymer. If epoxidation is carried out before hydrogenation, then it is preferred that all remaining aliphatic double bonds be hydrogenated.

It is highly advantageous to include in the composition a low molecular weight polydiene mono-ol in order to improve the tack of the adhesive. These polymers preferably have a functionality of 0.6 to 1.4, more preferably 0.8 to 1.2, and most preferably from 0.9 to 1.0. Such mono-ols have a number average molecular weight of 2000 to 30,000 g/mol and are preferably hydrogenated polydiene polymers with a terminal OH, such as mono-hydroxylated hydrogenated polybutadiene or polyisoprene.

Preferred mono-ols include those with a number average molecular weight range of 2000 to 10,000 g/mol.

5 Strippable coatings are films that are not attached support film. These require the use of very little or no mono-ol polymer and tackifying resin, so that the tack on the exposed surface of the film is minimal. These films can be preformed or sprayed, dipped, or otherwise applied to the object requiring protection. Such strippable coatings can be used for chemical milling. The percent by weight mono-ol should not be more than 10% by weight and the tackifying resin should not be more 20% by weight of the entire formulation.

10 Excellent, cost effective high performance tape and label pressure sensitive adhesives (PSA), such as for permanent labels and automotive adhesives, require the epoxidized polymer to be between 15 and at most 25% by weight of the entire formulation. The epoxidized polymer is the most expensive polymer to produce and must be minimized to obtain the most cost effective adhesive. However, at levels below 15% by weight, high temperature resistance for high performance products becomes borderline for many applications.

15 A high level of tackifier resin is also important for cost effectiveness, as well as to impart and balance PSA physical properties. Tackifier resin is normally the least expensive of the required components of the present inventive adhesives. To satisfy these concerns, the tackifier level must to be between 40% and 65% by weight of the entire formulation.

20 The level of the block copolymer should be between 10% and 20% by weight. The block copolymer is generally less expensive than the mono-ol polymer and especially the epoxidized molecule. Therefore, the more the block copolymer acts as a replacement for the other two polymers, the lower the cost of the formulation. However,

for the adhesive to have good tack, there must be a significant amount of mono-ol polymer in the formulation. Using more than 20% by weight of the block copolymer can prevent the incorporation of sufficient mono-ol polymer.
5 The amount of mono-ol in the formulation must be between 8 and 30% by weight to provide the necessary high tack.

Further, at 10 to 20% by weight of the formulation, the block copolymer provides sufficient elasticity at room to slightly elevated temperatures for the adhesive
10 to remain a solid. Thus, it can hold on vertical surfaces and it can be coated and rewound even without being UV cured. Significantly, it can be packaged and handled as a solid before introduction to the coating equipment. The high performance adhesive has the
15 advantage that it can be handled by production personnel in a manner with which they are familiar, i.e., no special steps or equipment are required, as it will behave much like a typical hot melt adhesive. Another
20 advantage of only using 10 to 20% of the block copolymer is that the application temperature can be as low as 100 and 150 °C instead of the typical 170 to 200 °C range for known thermoplastic block copolymer adhesive
formulations. This is advantageous when the adhesive is applied on heat sensitive substrates.

25 Adhesive films that are designed to incorporate fiber or fiber mats or foams to deliver extra properties generally require less cure in the adhesive. Therefore, somewhat less epoxidized polymer should be incorporated into such a high performance adhesive composite. Here the
30 epoxidized polymer should be about 10 to 20% by weight of the high performance adhesive, excluding the weight the fiber, fiber mat, or foam.

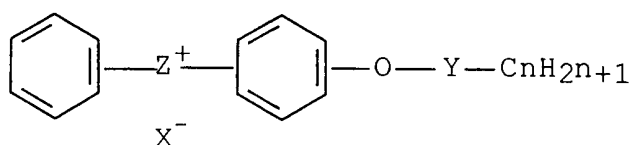
The formulations of this invention may be cured by cationic means using acid catalysts but are preferably
35 cured by means of ultraviolet or electron beam radiation.

Radiation curing utilizing a wide variety of electromagnetic wavelength is feasible. Either ionizing radiation such as alpha, beta, gamma, X-rays and high energy electrons or non-ionizing radiation such as ultraviolet, visible, infrared, microwave and radio frequency may be used. A complete description of how this irradiation may be accomplished is found in commonly assigned US Patent 5,229,464.

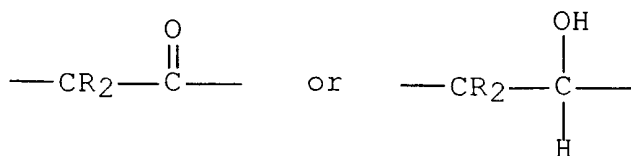
When using non-ionizing radiation it is necessary to employ a photo-initiator to initiate the cross-linking reaction. In this invention, the photo-initiator is one which is very compatible with the composition, preferably soluble in it. It is used in an amount of from 0.01 to 10% by weight of the total composition, preferably 0.1 to 10%, more preferably 0.1 to 1.0%, most preferably 0.1 to 0.3%. Useful photo-initiators include diaryliodonium, alkoxy-substituted diaryliodonium, triarylsulfonium, dialkylphenacylsulfonium, dialkyl-4-hydroxyphenyl-sulfonium salts. The anions in these salts generally possess low nucleophilic character and include SbF_6^- , BF_4^- , PF_6^- , AsF_6^- , and $\text{B}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_5)_4^-$ (tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate). Specific examples include (4-octyloxyphenyl)-phenyl-iodonium hexafluoroantimonate, UVI-6990 (from Union Carbide), FX-512 (3M Company), and SILCOLEASE UV200CATA photo-initiators (Rhone-Poulenc Chemie) (UVI, FX and SILCOLEASE are trademarks). Bis(dodecylphenyl)-iodonium hexafluoroantimonate, UV 9310 (GE), and triaryl sulfonium hexafluoroantimonate, UVI-6974 (Union Carbide), are especially effective. The onium salts can be used alone or in conjunction with a photo-sensitizer to respond to long wavelength UV and visible light. Examples of photo-sensitizers include thioxanthone, anthracene, perylene, phenothiazine, 1,2-benzanthracene coronene, pyrene and tetracene. Generally, the photo-initiator and

photo-sensitizer are chosen to be compatible with the polymer/formulation being cross-linked and the light source available. When the photo-initiator is insoluble in the neat polymer or a 100% solids formulation, it should be adequately dispersed into the polymer/formulation.

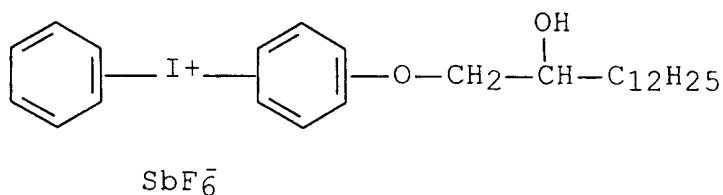
Other useful photo-initiators include those described in US Patent No. 5,079,378. These photo-initiators may be described as diaryl, preferably diaryliodonium, salts characterized by the general formula:



where Y is



where R is hydrogen, aryl, alkyl, or an alkylhalide; n is an integer of at least 1, Z is I, Cl, or Br, preferably I, and X is a complex metal halide anion or a complex halide anion of a strong protonic acid. Included are complex metal halide anions such as BF_4^- , PF_6^- , AsF_6^- , SbF_6^- , as well as anions of strong protonic acids such as ClO_4^- , CF_3SO_3^- , FSO_3^- , CH_3SO_3^- , and $\text{C}_4\text{F}_9\text{SO}_3^-$. Especially useful is another similar compound, CD-1012 supplied by the Sartomer Company. This is a diaryliodonium hexafluoroantimonate and has the formula:



It is common practice to add an adhesion promoting or tackifying resin that is compatible with the polymer. A common tackifying resin is a diene-olefin copolymer of piperylene and 2-methyl-2-butene having a softening point of about 95 °C. This resin is available commercially under the trade name WINGTACK 95 and is prepared by the cationic polymerization of a mixture containing approximately 60% piperylene, 10% isoprene, 5% cyclopentadiene, 15% 2-methyl-2-butene and about 10% dimer, as taught in US Patent No. 3,577,398 (WINGTACK is a trademark). Other tackifying resins may be employed wherein the resinous copolymer comprises 20-80 weight percent of piperylene and 80-20 weight percent of 2-methyl-2-butene. The resins normally have ring and ball softening points as determined by ASTM method E28 between 20 °C and 150 °C. Hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins are especially useful. These hydrogenated resins include such resins as REGALREZ 1018, 1085, 1094, 1126, and 1139, and REGALITE R91, R101, R125, and T140 supplied by Hercules, ARKON P70, P90, P115, P125 supplied by Arakawa, and similar other resins such as the ESCOREZ 5300 resin series supplied by Exxon (REGALREZ, REGALITE, ARKON and ESCOREZ are trademarks). Examples of high aromaticity content resins are REGALITE V1100 (16.6 wt%) and REGALITE V3100 (5 wt%) hydrogenated hydrocarbon resins

Aromatic resins may also be employed as tackifying agents, provided that they are compatible with the particular polymer used in the formulation. Useful resins include coumarone-indene resins, polystyrene resins, vinyl toluene-alpha methylstyrene copolymers and polyindene resins.

Optional components of the present invention are stabilizers which inhibit or retard heat degradation, oxidation, skin formation and color formation. Stabilizers are typically added to the commercially

available compounds in order to protect the polymers against heat degradation and oxidation during the preparation, use and high temperature storage of the composition.

5 EXAMPLES

Polymer No. 1 is a hydrogenated styrene-isoprene-styrene-isoprene (SEPSEP) block copolymer having block molecular weights of 6700-50,00-6700-8000, and a polystyrene content of 20.5 percent by weight. Polymer 2
10 is a 71 percent coupled hydrogenated styrene-butadiene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymer containing 13.3 percent polystyrene and having a polystyrene block molecular weight of 5300. Polymer 3 is an epoxidized linear monohydroxy diene polymer with a number average molecular
15 weight of 5500. The polymer is a di-block polymer wherein the first block consists of hydrogenated epoxidized polyisoprene and the second block is hydrogenated polybutadiene. The second block has a terminal primary hydroxyl group. The polymer has 1.4 meq of epoxide
20 functionality per gram and 0.17 meq of hydroxyl groups per gram. Polymer 4 is a linear monohydroxy diene polymer with a number average molecular weight of 3950 and 0.25 meq per gram of hydroxyl functionality. The mono-ol has a terminal primary hydroxyl group.

25 The SAFT (shear adhesion failure temperature) was measured by 1" x 1" (2.5 cm²) Mylar to Mylar lap joint with a 1 kg weight. SAFT measures the temperature at which the lap shear assembly fails under load. Rolling Ball Tack (RBT) is the distance a steel ball rolls on the
30 adhesive film with a standard initial velocity (Pressure Sensitive Tape Council Test No. 6). Small numbers indicate aggressive tack. Holding Power (HP) is the time required to pull a standard area of 1.6 cm² (½ in. x ½ in.) of tape from a standard test surface (steel, Kraft

paper) under a standard load (2 kg), in shear at 2° anti-peel (Pressure Sensitive Tape Council Method No. 7). Long times indicate high adhesive strength. 180° peel was determined by Pressure Sensitive Tape Council Method No. 1. Large numbers indicate high strength when peeling a test tape from a steel substrate. Polyken probe tack (PPT) was determined by ASTM D-2979. Loop tack (LT) was determined using TLMI loop tack tester. High numbers for PPT and LT indicate aggressive tack.

Example 1

In the first example (see Table 1) six adhesive formulations were prepared and tested. The formulations were prepared using a Sigma blade mixer. Polymer 2 and the tackifying resin (REGALITE R-91, Hercules) were melt mixed together at about 163 °C, then the mono-ol polymer, Polymer 4, was added and mixed in. The epoxidized polymer, Polymer 3 and the photoinitiator (CYRACURE UVI-6974, Union Carbide) were added and mixed at about 143 °C until uniform (CYRACURE is a trademark). The photoinitiator had been previously dispersed in a portion of Polymer 4 using sonication.

Adhesive films were prepared by coating the adhesives onto continuous Akrosil F1U release liner with a gravity fed slot lab Chemsultants coater. The uncured adhesive/liner was cut into approximately one foot strips. Each strip was reheated for 45 seconds in a 80 °C oven and then immediately cured while still hot with a 93 watt/cm² (600 watt/in²) Fusion "H" UV bulb. Immediately after cure, the adhesive strip was hand laminated to the corona treated side of 2 mil Mylar film. The films were held for 5 days at constant temperature, 23 °C, and relative humidity, 50%, for 5 days before testing was begun.

Table 1

Formulation	1	2	3	3	4	5	6
Polymer 2	12.49	12.69	24.98		37.05	37.27	24.98
REGALITE R-91	49.84	49.03	49.83		50.39	50.11	49.83
Polymer 4	18.73	26.25	14.99		6.18	8.70	25.19
Polymer 3	18.73	11.42	9.99		6.18	3.73	0.00
UVI-6974	0.20	0.20	0.20		0.20	0.20	0.00
SUM	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0
Application temperature, °C	82	82	135		166	157	135
UV dose, mJ/cm ²	200	200	200	0	200	200	0
180 Peel from stainless steel (SS), pli	3.6	4.1	3.5	1.3 cohesive failure (coh)	1.5	1.6	2.4
Loop tack on SS, pli	4.6	5.6	5.1	2.7	1.6	2.4	2.8
Probe tack to SS, g	390	540	360	740	40	80	430
Holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, hour	>168	29.2	>168	0.2 coh	0.1	0.0	0.4

Table 1 (cont'd)

Formulation	1	2	3	3	4	5	6
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hour	3.1 coh	0.9 coh	1.0 coh	0.0 coh	0.0 coh	0.0 coh	0.0 coh
SAFT on SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C	195 coh	114 coh	114 coh	<88	<88	<88	<88

Formulation 3, where no UV dose was used, formulation 4, having only about 6% epoxidized polymer, formulation 5, having only about 4% epoxidized polymer, and formulation 6, having no epoxidized polymer and no photo-initiator, are counter examples of the invention. They show no ability to hold a 500 gram weight at 95 °C and have SAFT values less than 90 °C. Further they have virtually no room temperature holding power. Formulations 1, 2, and 3, all UV cured, are examples of the invention. These formulations are very elastic at room temperature, have good peel and tack values for a PSA, and also show high temperature resistance. All of the cured films were completely uniform in appearance. Also, all of the pre-cured formulations looked completely uniform with no sign of any bleed out after 5 months storage at room temperature. Formulations like these have the added advantage that they can be stored in release lined boxes instead of cans because they are non-flowing at room temperature.

Example 2

The formulations in example 2 were prepared and tested in a similar fashion to example 1. The UVI-6964 photo-initiator was added as a 5% dispersion in Polymer 3 instead of in Polymer 4. The formulations and results are given in Table 2. All five of the formulations are examples of the invention when UV cured. Since they all contain more than 10% of Polymer 2, all are quite elastic at room temperature. All cured formulations maintain a SAFT of at least 90 °C. Formulation 5, having only about 10% of the epoxidized polymer, has the weakest high temperature properties of the set, including a SAFT value of only 90 °C, and failed cohesively. Formulation 5 shows that the minimum amount of epoxidized polymer should be about 10% if elevated temperature properties are to be achieved. All of the formulations have relatively low

180° peel compared to the examples of the invention in example 1. This is due to the low mono-ol (Polymer 4) levels. The mono-ol polymer levels relative to the epoxidized polymer (Polymer 3) are less than 1 to 1. This would allow them to be removed relatively easily from a substrate. UV cured formulations 3, 2, and 1 have increasing SAFT values, reflecting the increased amounts of epoxidized polymer (Polymer 3) in the formulations.

Table 2

Formulation	1	2	3	3	3	4	5
Polymer 2	16.85	17.33	24.44			31.56	32.06
Regalite R-91	51.67	50.30	50.93			51.24	50.47
Polymer 4	0.00	12.87	4.89			0.00	6.91
Polymer 3	31.29	19.31	19.55			16.99	10.36
UVI-6974	0.20	0.20	0.20			0.20	0.20
SUM	100.0	100.0	100.00			100.0	100.0
Application temperature, °C	127	124	152			177	154
UV dose, mJ/cm ²	200	200	200	0		200	200
180° peel from PP, pli	2.3	2.9	1.5	1.9		2	1.7
Loop tack, pli	1	1.8	2.3	2.3 coh		1.7	1.9
HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, Hours	>100	>100	>100	.1 coh		>100	2.3
95 °C HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hours	>100	>100	>100	.002 coh		.1 coh	.05 coh
95 °C HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 1 kg, hours	>100	>100	>100	.002 coh		0.03 coh	0.01 coh
SAFT, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C	>204	183	153	low coh		98 coh	90 coh

Example 3-5

The formulation of example 3-5, shown in Tables 3-5 were prepared on a Banbury mixer.

Table 3

<u>Adhesive</u>	<u>24177-34-G</u>	
Polymer 1	15.68	
REGALITE R-125	40.00	Mixed until uniform at 180 °C
Polymer 4	24.32	
Polymer 3	19.80	Added stepwise and mixed at 140°C
UVI-6974 (added as a 5% dispersion in Polymer 3)	0.20	
Sum =	100.0	
Appearance of bulk adhesive after about 2 months room temperature aging.		Some goeey liquid on surface of adhesive solid
Handling properties prior to cure		Similar to conventional hotmelts, but with lower application temperature
<u>PSA Properties</u>	<u>No Cure</u>	<u>After UV Cure</u>
Adhesive film thickness, mil	6.0	5.3
180° Peel from PP, 12 in/min, pli	2.8	4.4
Probe tack, Kg		0.316
HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 Kg, hr	0.14 coh	>188
95 °C HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hr		>123
SAFT, SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C	30 coh	>160

Table 4

	1	2	3A
Binder composition			
Polymer 1	30	30	40
Polymer 3	35	45	40
Polymer 4	35	25	20
Polymer 1	14.97	14.97	19.96
Regalite R-91	49.90	49.90	49.90
Polymer 4	17.47	12.48	9.98
Polymer 3	13.67	18.66	16.16
5% UVI-6974 in Polymer 3	4.00	4.00	4.00
sum	100.01	100.01	100.00
Appearance of bulk adhesive after several weeks aging at room temperature	Some goeey liquid on surface of solid adhesive	Some goeey liquid on surface of solid adhesive	Trace of goo on surface
Application temperature, °C	132	132	160
Adhesive thickness, micron	1.5	1.5	1.5
Gel, %	65.3	86.4	85.4
Uniformity of cured free adhesive several weeks after cure	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic

Table 4 (cont'd)

	1	2	3A
Binder composition			
180° peel from SS (30 min dwell), pli	3.0	2.7	2.8
180° peel from PP (30 min dwell), pli	3.5	3.0	2.7
180° peel from HDPE (30 min dwell), pli	1.5	1.0	0.90
Loop tack, pli	4.3	3.2	2.3
Polyken probe tack, g	410	195	90
Holding Power to SS, 3.1 cm ² , 2 kg, Hours	4.6	14	2
Holding Power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, Hours	>168	>168	>168
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 1 kg, hours	2 coh	7.4 coh	>100
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hours	>100	>100	>100
SAFT, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g °C	161 coh	147 coh	164 coh

Table 4 (cont'd)

	3B	4	5
Binder composition			
Polymer 1		50	50
Polymer 3		35	45
Polymer 4		15	5
Polymer 1		24.95	24.95
Regalite R-91		49.90	49.90
Polymer 4		7.49	2.50
Polymer 3		13.67	18.66
5% UVI-6974 in Polymer 3		4.00	4.00
sum		100.01	100.01
Appearance of bulk adhesive after several weeks aging at room temperature	Trace of goo on surface	Clean uniform solid	Clean uniform solid
Application temperature, °C	154	174	174
Adhesive thickness, micron	5	1.5	1.5
Gel, %	94.0	93.6	100.0
Uniformity of cured free adhesive several weeks after cure	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic

Table 4 (cont'd)

	3B	4	5
Binder composition			
180° peel from SS (30 min dwell), pli	3.2	2.6	1.9
180° peel from PP (30 min dwell), pli	3.2	2.0	1.7
180° peel from HDPE (30 min dwell), pli	1.0	0.8	0.5
Loop tack, pli	4.1	2.3	1
Polyken probe tack, g	610	80	45
Holding Power to SS, 3.1 cm ² , 2 kg, hours	1.8	0.6	2.7
Holding Power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, hours	>168	>168	>168
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 1 kg, hours	7.5	1 coh	1.2 coh
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hours	>100	>100	>100
SAFT, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g °C	169 coh	167 coh	181 coh

Table 5

	1	2	3A
Binder composition			
Polymer 1	30	30	40
Polymer 3	35	45	40
Polymer 4	35	25	20
Polymer 1	17.96	17.96	23.95
REGALITE 125	39.92	39.92	39.92
Polymer 4	20.96	14.97	11.98
Polymer 3	17.16	23.15	20.15
5% UVI-6974 in Polymer 3	4.00	4.00	4.00
sum	100.00	100.00	100.00
Appearance of bulk adhesive after several weeks aging at room temperature	Some goeey liquid on surface of solid adhesive	Some goeey liquid on surface of solid adhesive	Trace of goo on surface
Application temperature, °C	132	132	149
Adhesive thickness, micron	1.5	1.5	1.5
Gel, %	76.7	89.4	84.8
Uniformity of cured free adhesive several weeks after cure	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic

Table 5 (cont'd)

	1	2	3A
Binder composition			
180° peel from SS (30 min dwell), pli	3.5	2.9	2.5
180° peel from PP (30 min dwell), pli	3.0	1.7	1.9
180° peel from HDPE (30 min dwell), pli	0.8	0.5	0.03
Loop tack, pli	1.6	0.5	1.9
Polyken probe tack, g	130	25	15
Holding Power to SS, 3.2 cm ² , 2 kg, hours	66	>168	30
Holding Power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, hours	>168	>168	>168
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 1 kg, hours	>100	>100	>100
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hours	>100	>100	>100
SAFT, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C	170 coh	166 coh	166 coh

Table 5 (cont'd)

	3B	4	5
Binder composition			
Polymer 1		50	50
Polymer 3		35	45
Polymer 4		15	5
Polymer 1		29.94	29.94
REGALITE 125		39.92	39.92
Polymer 4		8.98	2.99
Polymer 3		17.16	23.15
5% UVI-6974 in Polymer 3		4.00	4.00
sum		100.00	100.00
Appearance of bulk adhesive after several weeks aging at room temperature	Trace of goo on surface	Clean uniform solid	Clean uniform solid
Application temperature, °C	146	160	168
Adhesive thickness, micron	5	1.5	1.5
Gel, %	90.5	87.0	100.0
Uniformity of cured free adhesive several weeks after cure	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic	Uniform, very stretchable, elastic

Table 5 (cont'd)

	3B	4	5
Binder composition			
180° peel from SS (30 min dwell), pli	3.5	3.0	3.0
180° peel from PP (30 min dwell), pli	3.2	2.9	2.4
180° peel from HDPE (30 min dwell), pli	0.6	0.5	0.2
Loop tack, pli	1.8	1.7	0.5
Polyken probe tack, g	90	20	5
Holding Power to SS, 3.2 cm ² , 2 kg, hours	78	5.6	27
Holding Power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, hours	>168	>168	>168
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 1 kg, hours	>100	>100	>100
95 °C holding power to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hours	>100	>100	>100
SAFT, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g °C	183 coh	195	200

Example 6

The adhesives of example 6 were prepared in stages on a Branbury mixer. In step I, the maleated block copolymer, Polymer 5 (this is Polymer 2 which has been
5 maleated such that there is 2 percent by weight maleation in the polymer), is melted and mixed with the tackifying resin Regalite P-125. In step II, the alcohol mono-ol polymer, Polymer 4, is reacted with the anhydride group on the block copolymer. In step III, a low molecular
10 weight mono-epoxide diluent is reacted with the carboxylic acid on the block copolymer-mono-ol polymer adduct. In Part IV, the epoxidized polymer and the photo-initiator are mixed in and the epoxidized polymer may undergo some small grafting reaction to the adduct. In
15 Adhesive M and N this final grafting reaction caused the adhesive to gel prematurely. From the gel content of adhesive O, it is apparent that at least a portion of the the maleated block copolymer joins the final gel network of the UV cured adhesive. The same block copolymer,
20 unmaleated, does not chemically co-react with the epoxidized polymer and the mono-ol polymer.

Table 6a: Maleated Block Copolymers

	M	N	O	P	Q
Polymer 5	28.16	28.16	19.60	12.19	12.19
Regalite P-125	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Polymer 4	21.84	21.84	30.40	37.81	37.81
VIKLOX 14 *	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Polymer 3	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
PI (5% UVI-6974 in Polymer 3)	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sum	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00
Molar ratio, MA/OH	1	1	2	4	4
Part I mixing temperature, °C	180	180	180	180	180
Part II reaction temperature, °C	140	180	160	140	180
Parts III and IV reaction temperature, °C	140	140	140	140	140

* VIKLOX 14 is a C₁₄ alpha-olefin mono-epoxide.

Table 6b: Maleated Block Copolymers

Adhesive	M	N	O	P	Q
Molar ratio, MA/OH	1	1	2	4	4
MA/OH reaction temperature, °C	140	180	160	140	180
Appearance of bulk adhesive after about 1 month aging at room temperature	All the samples look uniform				
Hand Application temperature, °C	gelled*	gelled*	150	150	150
PSA Properties after UV cure (Adhesive Temperature 80°C, 200 mJ/cm ² , 300 watt/in H bulb)					
Adhesive thickness, mil			5.9	5.8	5.8
Gel content, % of entire adhesive			50.9	41.2	41.3
Gel content, % of KLP			122	86	87
180° peel from PP, pli			5.2	5.4	5.2
Loop tack, pli			8.8	8.5	7.4
Probe tack, kg			1.76	1.80	1.80
HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 2 kg, hours			>167	>167	>167
95 °C HP to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hours			>60	>60	>60
SAFT, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C			>142	98	133

Example 7

Example 7 shows how to make very cost effective high performance PSA's (Table 7). These formulations are compared with two formulations that are not part of the invention. The counter examples represent the best formulations known based on the epoxidized liquid polymer, Polymer 3 and the mono-ol polymer, Polymer 4. They have some very good PSA properties, but they are both more costly and cannot be handled as like a conventional hot melt prior to coating and curing like adhesives 1 to 8 that are examples of the invention.

Adhesive 2 and adhesive 10 were made in excess of 40 litre quantities and applied online with conventional hot melt coating equipment equipped with a single Fusion "H" 93 watt/cm² (600 watt/in²) bulb. Adhesive 10 was applied at 80 °C on double sided release paper. With the UV light off, the adhesive coated paper immediately telescoped on the rewind roll. As soon as the light was turned on, the liquid material converted to solid form sufficiently for the roll to wind perfectly. With Adhesive 2, of this invention, it was coated at 121 °C and rewound perfectly with or without the UV light turned on. Adhesive 2 can be coated, stored, and cured later. Bonding within a few seconds or minutes of the cationic UV cure results in stronger bonds than using the same PSA adhesive after longer times have lapsed between cure and use. With Adhesives 9 or 10 preparing pre-coated stock for latter UV cure is not an option. With adhesive 2 it was possible to make both a UV exposed and an entirely un-UV exposed composite sandwich adhesive on line, consisting of 1.5 mil of adhesive 2, 0.5 Mylar film, and 1.5 mil of adhesive 2. The composite adhesive was easily self wound on double side release liner. FORAL AX is a

hydrogenated rosin acid tackifying resin (FORAL is a trademark).

Table 7

Adhesive	1	2	3	4	5
Polymer 3	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
Polymer 4	26.00	18.00	16.00	8.00	17.00
Polymer 2	10.00	10.00	20.00	20.00	15.00
REGALITE V-1100	48.00	56.00	48.00	56.00	52.00
REGALITE R-91	0	0	0	0	0
Foral AX	0	0	0	0	0
UVI-6974 (5% dispersion in polymer used)	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Sum	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.2
Film thickness, mil	5	5	5	5	5
180 Peel from SS, pli	5.1	9.3	4.5	7.5	5.7
Loop tack, pli	6.1	6.4	5.2	2.95	8.3
Probe tack, kg	1.63	1.71	1.18	1.42	2.15
23 °C Holding power, 3.2 cm ² , 2 kg, hour	1.8	14.1	>27	>168	18.6
95 °C Holding power, 6.5 cm ² , 500g, hour	Not measured	Not measured	Not measured	Not measured	Not measured
SAFT to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C	120	109 transfer	>148 transfer	105 transfer	116 transfer

Table 7 (cont'd)

Adhesive	6	7	8	9	10
Polymer 3	16.00	16.00	19.00	22.46	20.21
Polymer 4	17.00	17.00	14.00	20.46	24.70
Polymer 2	15.00	15.00	15.00	0	0
REGALITE V-1100	51.00	47.00	52.00	0	54.89
REGALITE R-91	0	0	0	54.88	0
Foral AX	1.00	5.00	0	0	0
UVI-6974 (5% dispersion in polymer used)	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Sum	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.0	100.0
Film thickness, mil	5	5	5	5	5
180° Peel from SS, pli	6.2	6.7	4.0	5.5	6.8
Loop tack, pli	8.0	8.0	2.9	5.8	10.0
Probe tack, Kg	1.88	2.233	0.57	0.555	>2.0
23 °C Holding power, 3.2 cm ² , 2 kg, hour	12.2	11.5	>168	Not measured	11.5 coh
95 °C Holding power, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, hour	Not measured	Not measured	>100	>168	>48
SAFT to SS, 6.5 cm ² , 500 g, °C	111	121 coh	169	>204	200

Adhesives 1 to 8 were cured at about 80 °C using a 46 watt/cm² (300 watt/in²) Fusion H bulb, Adhesives 9 and 10 were cured with a 93 watt/cm² (600 watt/in²) Fusion H bulb. In all cases the dose was 200 mJ/cm².

5 Example 8

Several formulations were made with Polymer 6 which is a hydrogenated block copolymer of styrene-butadiene-styrene containing 30 percent by weight styrene. It has a number average molecular weight of 50,000. These
10 formulations also contained an oil, DRAKOL 34 which is a mineral oil, or ADTAC LV, which is a liquid aliphatic tackifying resin made from mixed monomers of petroleum origin (DRAKOL and ADTAC are trademarks). Tackifying resin REGALITE V-3100, which contains about 5 percent by
15 weight aromaticity, was used.

The photo-initiator was dispersed in a portion of Polymer 4 as described in Example 1. All of Polymer 3 and the remainder of Polymer 4 and about half of the tackifying resin were mixed on a high speed Hockmeyer
20 disperser to a temperature of about 130 °C. Then Polymer 6 was added and the mixing was continued until the temperature increased to about 180 °C. The mixture was mixed until all of Polymer 6 was dissolved and then mixed for another 15 minutes. The remaining tackifying
25 resin was added to cool the mixture. At about 120 to 130 °C, the photo-initiator dispersion was added and mixing was carried out for another 15 minutes at which time the batch mixture was complete.

Adhesive films were prepared as described in
30 Example 1 with the following exceptions. They were direct coated onto 25 micron Mylar at 116 °C. They were UV cured at 80 °C and 200 mJ/cm², and 93 watt/cm² (600 watt/in²) Fusion H.

The results are shown in Tables 8 and 9. All formulations prove to be compatible. Formulations 8A and 8D were the ones used to make the films and the properties were excellent.

Table 8

Formulation	8A	8B	8C
Polymer 3	16.00	16.00	16.00
Polymer 4	24.00	24.00	24.00
REGALITE V-3100	40.20	35.30	29.70
DRAKOL 34 Oil	9.80	14.70	20.30
Polymer 6	10.00	10.00	10.00
CYRACURE UVI-6974	0.20	0.20	0.20
Sum	100.20	100.20	100.20

Screened at 25 and 50 micron film thickness.

Properties of 8A	25 micron	50 micron
Rolling ball tack, in	2.2	1.0
Probe tack, g	413	562
180° Peel, pli	0.8	1.1
23 °C Holding power, 3.2 cm ² , 500 g, hour	>6	>6
80 °C Holding power, 3.2 cm ² , 500 g, hour	>6	>6

Table 9

Formulation	8D	8E	8F
Polymer 3	16.00	16.00	16.00
Polymer 4	24.00	24.00	24.00
REGALITE V-3100	39.00	33.00	26.00
ADTAC LV	11.00	17.00	24.00
Polymer 6	10.00	10.00	10.00
CYRACURE UVI-6974	0.20	0.20	0.20
Sum	100.20	100.20	100.20

Screened at 25 and 50 micron film thickness.

Properties of 8D	25 micron	40 micron
Rolling ball tack, in	7.6	1.8
Probe tack, g	350	580
180° Peel, pli	1.1	1.4
23 °C Holding power, 3.2 cm ² , 500 g, hour	13.8	>50
80 °C Holding power, 3.2 cm ² , 500 g, hour	0.1	0.5

Example 9

This example was carried out according to the procedure of Example 8. Polymer 7 is a hydrogenated block copolymer of styrene and butadiene which contains
5 70 percent di-block polymer and has a polystyrene content of 31 percent by weight. The number average molecular weight is 73,000. Polymer 8 is a hydrogenated SEBS block copolymer having a number average molecular weight of 37,600 and a polystyrene content of 31% by weight.
10 Polymer 9 is a hydrogenated SEBS block copolymer having a number average molecular weight of 35,000 and a polystyrene content of 30.3% by weight. V1100 is a

tackifying resin which contains about 16.6 percent by weight aromaticity.

5 The formulations are shown in Table 10 and the results are shown in Table 11. All of the films except for the one with Polymer 2 were somewhat hazy in appearance. The films were evaluated for 180° peel values and the film thickness was also measured. This is shown in Table 11.

Table 10

Formulation	9A	9B	9C	9D	9E
Polymer 2	10	-	-	-	-
Polymer 6	-	10	-	-	-
Polymer 7	-	-	10	-	-
Polymer 8	-	-	-	10	-
Polymer 9	-	-	-	-	10
Polymer 3	16	16	16	16	16
Polymer 4	18	18	18	18	18
V1100	56	56	56	56	56
UVI 6974	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

Table 11

Formulation	180° Peel	Film Thickness (mils)
Polymer 2	9.4 a	5.3
Polymer 6	9.8 a	6.4
Polymer 7	10.2 a	5.2
Polymer 8	7.3 a	5.2
Polymer 9	8.2 a	5.6

C L A I M S

1. A formulation for curable strippable adhesive and coating films and high performance adhesives, which comprises:

5 (a) from 10 to 90 percent by weight of a cross-linkable epoxidized diene polymer;

(b) from 0 to 70 percent by weight of a diene mono-ol polymer, with the condition that the mono-ol polymer not exceed three times the weight of the epoxidized polymer, and either

10 (c1) from 5 to 40 weight percent of a block copolymer of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and a diene having, on average, more than one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block per molecule, wherein the amount of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon in the block copolymer is less than 30% by weight, and wherein the block copolymer can optionally be functionalized by grafting onto it from 0.1 to 5% by weight of a carboxylic acid or anhydride, and

15 (d1) from 0 to 65% percent by weight of a tackifying resin, or

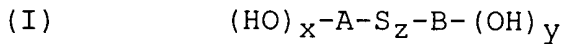
20 (c2) from 5 to 40 weight percent of a block copolymer of a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon and a diene having, on average, more than one vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block per molecule, wherein the amount of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon in the block copolymer is from 30% to 50% by weight, and wherein the block copolymer can optionally be functionalized by grafting onto it from 0.1 to 5% by weight of a carboxylic acid or anhydride,

25 (d2) from 5 to 65% percent by weight of a tackifying resin which has an aromaticity of from 2 to 20 percent by weight, and

30

(e) from 0.01 to 3 percent by weight of a photo-initiator, the total adding up to 100 percent by weight.

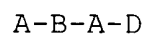
2. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the epoxidized diene polymer is a monohydroxylated polydiene polymer having the formula



wherein A and B are polymer blocks which may be homopolymer blocks of conjugated di-olefin monomers, copolymer blocks of conjugated di-olefin monomers, or copolymer blocks of di-olefin monomers and mono-alkenyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomers; and wherein the A blocks have a greater concentration of more highly substituted aliphatic double bonds than the B blocks have; and wherein the A blocks have a number average molecular weight of from 100 to 6000 g/mol and the B blocks have a number average molecular weight of from 1000 to 15,000 g/mol; and wherein S is a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon block having a number average molecular weight of from 100 to 10,000; and wherein x and y are 0 or 1 and either x or y must be 1 but only one at a time can be 1; and wherein z is 0 or 1.

3. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the epoxidized polydiene polymer of claim 2 contains from 0.1 to 7.0 milliequivalents of epoxide functionality per gram of polymer.

4. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated block copolymer is a linear block copolymer of the formula:



wherein A is a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon polymer block having a weight average molecular weight of from 4000 to 35,000, B is a hydrogenated polydiene polymer block having a weight average molecular weight of from 20,000 to 200,000, D is a hydrogenated or unhydrogenated

polydiene polymer block having a weight average molecular weight of from 3000 to 50,000, and the copolymer has a vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon content of from 9 to 35 percent by weight.

- 5 5. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the amount of tackifying resin (c1) is from 40 to 65 percent by weight; wherein the amount of tackifying resin (c2) is from 20 to 40 percent by weight and the aromaticity of the tackifying resin (c2) is from 3 to 10% by weight.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 00/10282

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C08L63/08 C09J163/08 C09J153/02 C08L53/00

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 C08L C09J

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, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 837 749 A (ERICKSON JAMES ROBERT ET AL) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) cited in the application column 6, lines 39-60 claims 9,10	1-5
Y	US 4 704 110 A (RAYKOVITZ GARY F ET AL) 3 November 1987 (1987-11-03) claim 1	1-5
A	US 4 017 436 A (TABANA MINORU ET AL) 12 April 1977 (1977-04-12) the whole document	1-5

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 January 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/02/2001

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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