position was subjected during processing were increased

That which is claimed is:

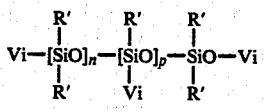
1. A method for preparing an optically clear, curable polyorganosiloxane composition, said method comprising the steps of

I. blending to homogeniety a first mixture comprising at least one polydiorganosiloxane which contains a least two groups, per molecule, that will react with a curing agent, from 10 to 100 percent by weight, based on the weight of said polydiorganosiloxane, of an untreated reinforcing silica filler, and as a filler treating agent, at least 15 percent by weight, based on the weight of said filler, of a hexaorganodisilazane that is miscible with said polydiorganosiloxane;

II. subsequently blending said first mixture with an additional quantity of said hexaorganodisilazane equal to at least 5 percent of the weight of said filler to form a second mixture, where the total weight of hexaorganodisilazane used to treat said filler is at least 30 percent of the weight of said filler; and

III. heating said second mixture under reduced pressure to remove volatile materials and form said polyorganosiloxane composition.

2. A method according to claim 1, where said hexaorganodisilazane is represented by the formula $R_3SiN(H-)SiR_3$, and said polydiorganosiloxane is represented by the average general formula



where each R and R' represents a monovalent hydrocarbon radical containing from 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a monovalent halohydrocarbon radical containing from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, Vi represents a vinyl radical, the sum of n and p represents a degree of polymerization equivalent to a viscosity of from 1 to about 50 Pa.s at 25 degree C. and p represents a value such that $-p/(n+p)$ is equal to from 0.0 to 0.005, total amount of hexaorganodisilazane used to treat said filler is from 40 to 55 percent, based on the weight of said filler, said filler is a precipitated or fume silica and, in step II, said first mixture is blended with from 15 to 40 percent, based on filler weight, of hexaorganodisilazane.

3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the R radicals are identical and represent alkyl radicals containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms or 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl radicals, the R' radicals contain from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and the filler constitutes from 20 to 50 percent by weight of said composition.

4. A method according to claim 3 where R represents methyl and at least 50 percent of the R' radicals° are methyl, with any remainder being phenyl or 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl.

5. A method according to claim 4 where R' represents methyl, said composition includes two polydiorganosiloxanes, the first of which exhibits a viscosity at 25° C. of from 0.1 to 3 Pa.s, and the second of which exhibits a viscosity at 25° C. of from 20 to 40 Pa.s. and said composition includes at least one auxiliary filler treating agent selected from the group consisting of liquid hydroxyl terminated polydimethylsiloxanes and liquid hydroxyl terminated dimethylsiloxane/methylvinylsiloxane copolymers.

6. A method according to claim 2 where said mixture is subjected to shearing forces during the blending operation by being in contact with a mechanically driven stirring blade operated at a speed of at least 80 revolutions per minute.

7. A method according to claim 5 where the viscosity of said curable composition is from 200 to 10,000 Pa.s at 25° C.

8. A method according to claim 1 where said composition is subsequently blended with an organohydrogensiloxane containing at least 3 silicon bonded hydrogen atoms per molecule and a platinum-containing hydrosilation catalyst.

9. A method according to claim 1 where said composition is subsequently blended with an organic peroxide.

10. A method according to claim 1 where the silica filler is initially treated with the hexaorganodisilazane in the presence of said polydiorganosiloxane.

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