

molecular weight cyclic polysiloxanes such as hexamethylcyclotrisiloxane, 1.2 g of a solid hydrophobe agent consisting principally of 1,3,5,7-tetramethyl-1,3,5,7-tetravinylcyclotetrasiloxane and 180 ml of methyl orthosilicate. After a suitable aging period at room temperature, the wet, gelled composition contained a hydrophobic reinforcing silica filler at a solids content believed to be about 25 weight percent of the total composition.

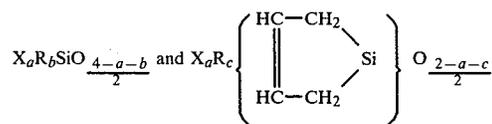
The optically clear composition was prepared according to a master-batching procedure wherein a portion of the Polymer I was withheld while the Polymer I and the wet, gelled Filler Composition VIII were being blended together on a two-roll mill such that the amount of filler present during the milling procedure was 80 parts of filler solids per 100 parts of Polymer I. After 30 minutes of mixing at 105°-110° C. on the two-roll mill, the remainder of the Polymer I was added to the ingredients resulting in a composition containing 60 parts of filler solids per 100 parts of Polymer I (approximately 60 parts of filler solids per 100 cc of Polymer I).

A 2.56 mm thickness of the homogeneously blended composition between two sheets of glass possessed a haze value of 2.3% per 2.54 mm thickness and a luminous transmittance value of 87.6%, both of which were measured at room temperature (~23° C.). However, when the sample was placed in a 100° C. oven until the sample reached 100° C. and the haze value of the sample was measured within 30 seconds after it was removed from the oven, the haze value was found to be 3.9% per 2.54 mm thickness. The sample was allowed to cool to room temperature (approximately 30 minutes) in the haze measuring instrument and the haze value after cooling was found to again be 2.3% per 2.54 mm thickness which is a change of 1.6% per 2.54 mm thickness upon heating from ~23° C. to ~100° C.

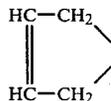
That which is claimed is:

1. An optically clear composition curable to an elastomer which comprises:

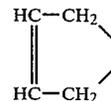
(A) 100 parts by weight of at least one polydiorganosiloxane consisting essentially of siloxane units selected from the group consisting of siloxane units of the unit formula



wherein each R radical is selected from the group consisting of alkyl radicals of from 1 to 6 inclusive carbon atoms, cyclohexyl radicals, phenyl radicals, halogenated alkyl radicals of from 1 to 10 inclusive carbon atoms and alkenyl radicals of from 2 to 6 inclusive carbon atoms, each X being selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl radicals, hydrogen radicals and alkoxy radicals of from 1 to 6 inclusive carbon atoms, at least 50 percent of the total amount of R radicals and

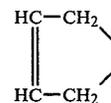


radicals present in said polydiorganosiloxane being methyl radicals, a having a value of from 0 to 1 inclusive, b having a value of from 1 to 3 inclusive and c having a value of from 0 to 1 inclusive, the sum of a + b having a value of from 1 to 3 inclusive, the sum of a + c having a value of from 0 to 1 inclusive, the values of a, b and c being such that the ratio of total R radicals and



radicals to total silicon atoms present in said polydiorganosiloxane is in the range of from 1.98/1 to 2.02/1 inclusive, said polydiorganosiloxane having a viscosity of at least 0.1 pascal.seconds at 25° C., and

(B) 15 to 120 parts by weight of a hydrophobic reinforcing silica filler consisting essentially of surface-treated silica particles wherein said particles consist essentially of SiO_{4/2} units containing a sufficient amount of organosiloxy units chemically bonded to the surface of said particles to render the silica filler hydrophobic, said organosiloxy units being selected from the group consisting of R₃Si-O_{1/2} units, R₂SiO units, O_{1/2}R₂SiO(R₂SiO)_dSiR₂O_{1/2} units, XR₂SiO(R₂SiO)_dSiR₂O_{1/2} units and mixtures thereof where each R and each X are as above defined and d has an average value of from 1 to 12 inclusive, wherein substantially all of said particles have an aggregate particle size of no greater than 4,000 Angstroms in their largest dimension and are of an overall particle size distribution which is sufficiently small such that when 60 parts by weight of said filler is homogeneously mixed with 100 cubic centimeters at 23° ± 2° C. of a polydiorganosiloxane of the type described in (A) to form a test blend, wherein (1) the refractive index (at 25° C., sodium D line) of the polydiorganosiloxane chosen for use in said blend differs from the refractive index (at 25° C., sodium D line) of the filler by at least 0.025 units and (2) the organosiloxy units employed to render said filler hydrophobic are primarily the same as the R radicals and the



radicals present in the polydiorganosiloxane chosen for use in said blend, then the test blend possesses a haze value of less than 4% per 2.54 millimeter thickness of said blend at 23° ± 2° C. according to the procedure set out in ASTM D1003-61;

wherein the mixture of (A) and (B) is an optically clear composition possessing a luminous transmittance value of at least 85% and a haze value of no greater than 4% per 2.54 millimeter thickness of said composition at 23° ± 2° C. according to the procedure set out in ASTM D1003-61.