Patented May 7, 1940 2,199,989

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,199,989

YARN CONDITIONING PROCESS AND COMPOSITION THEREFOR

Joseph B. Dickey and James G. McNally, Rochester, N. Y., assignors to Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y., a corporation of New Jersey

No Drawing. Application December 17, 1938, Serial No. 246,522

7 Claims. (Cl. 28—1)

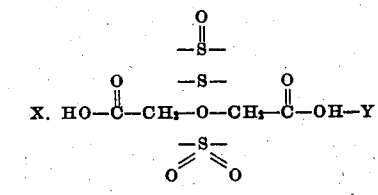
This invention relates to the conditioning of textile yarns and more particularly to the conditioning of filaments and yarns composed of organic derivatives of cellulose such as cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, cellulose acetate propionate, and cellulose acetate butyrate, to render them more amenable to textile operations such as knitting and the like.

As is well known in the manufacture of yarns, particularly those composed of or containing cellulose organic derivatives, it is necessary to treat the yarn in order to reduce the tendency toward breakage of the individual filaments or fibers when they are subjected to various mechanical strains and to lubricate the yarn in order to facilitate handling in such operations as spinning, twisting, winding and reeling. It is also necessary to treat yarn to adapt it for use as warp or filling or for the manufacture of various types of knitted fabrics. In knitting, it is particularly important that the yarn be soft and pliable in order that it may conform readily to the contour of the needles and thus produce a closely knit fabric free from such defects as "stitch distortion," "pin holes," "laddering," and the like.

Heretofore it has been proposed to employ softening agents such as polyhydric alcohols and similar agents as ingredients of yarn conditioning or lubricating formulas, generally in connection with mineral, animal or vegetable oils. It has been found, however, that most of the known softening agents and the various formulas containing them have certain drawbacks, one of the most serious of which is high vapor pressure, and in some cases too drastic a solvent action on the yarn. Many of such agents possess slight or insufficient solvent power for the lubricants with which they are used, and it is accordingly necessary to employ blending agents or emulsifying agents in order to obtain operable yarn treating formulas. In addition, many of the known softening and lubricating agents are insufficiently soluble in water to permit satisfactory removal by aqueous scour baths.

This invention has as its principal object to provide an entirely new class of yarn conditioning agents which are particularly adapted for the treatment of yarns composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose and capable of lubricating, softening, deelectrifying and otherwise rendering such yarns more amenable to knitting and other textile operations. A further and specific object is to provide a class of conditioning agents which augment or assist the lubricating action of various lubricants when applied to such yarns. A still further object is to provide yarn softening and lubricating formulas which can be readily removed from the yarns by the usual scour baths. A still further object is to provide an improved method for the conditioning of yarns, particularly those composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose such as cellulose acetate, whereby the yarn is rendered soft and pliable and capable of employment in a variety of textile operations where complicated designs or stitches are employed. Another object is to provide an improved type of yarn which is especially amenable to textile operations including circular knitting, weaving, spinning the manufacture of cut staple fiber and the like. Other objects will appear hereinafter.

These objects are accomplished by the following invention which, in its broader aspects, comprises the discovery that organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



where X is a metal, ammonia or derivative and Y is the same as X and in some cases may be omitted, may be used as yarn conditioning agents and particularly as softening agents, with or without the addition of animal, mineral, or vegetable oils, in the treatment of yarns composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose. We have found that these compounds when employed as described in the detailed examples set forth below have a slight solvent and/or softening action on cellulose organic derivative yarns which renders such yarns soft and pliable without at the same time having too drastic an action thereon.

In order to prepare the salts we may use any suitable organic base or any inorganic hydroxide.

In accordance with the invention these compounds may be applied directly to the yarn during or after spinning, or may be added to the spinning solution itself. We have found that these compounds have exceptional solvent powers which enable them to dissolve mineral oils and accordingly they may be, and preferably are, employed as ingredients of yarn conditioning or lubricating formulas in conjunction with agents which function wholly or partially as lubricants.

We have also found that the above mentioned compounds are particularly valuable as anti-static agents when applied to filaments, threads, fabrics, etc., composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose, such as cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, and the like, and to textile materials in general.

In the following examples and description, we have set forth several of the preferred embodiments of our invention, but they are included merely for purposes of illustration and not as a limitation thereof.

Example 1

Diglycolic dioleyl amine salt is applied to textile materials (silk, cotton, wool, viscose, cellulose acetate, etc.) by means of a wick, bath, roller, spray, etc., to facilitate their knitting, weaving, spinning and the like. Yarns lubricated with the above types of lubricants are of special value in the preparation of cut staple fibers. These fibers may be oiled before or after cutting.

Example 2

A conditioning liquid is made up as follows:

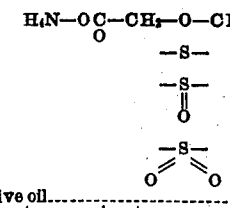
	Parts
B,B'-Tetrahydrofurfuryloxy ethyl ether	90
Water	5
Diglycolic or thiogylcolic acid ditetrahydrofurfurylamine salt	5

and applied to textile materials such as silk, wool, cellulose acetate, etc., as described in Example 1. If the yarn is intended primarily for knitting, the amount of conditioning liquid applied may vary from 4–25% by weight of the yarn and if for weaving, between 1–5% by weight.

Cellulose acetate filaments treated as described above are quite soft and pliable and give improved results in various textile operations such as weaving, knitting, etc., and especially in the production of cut staple yarn.

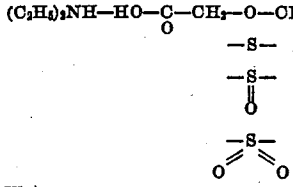
Other examples of yarn conditioning compositions which may be applied to various types of yarns, particularly those composed of or containing cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, and similar cellulose organic acid esters in accordance with our invention and which render such yarns soft and pliable and especially well adapted for various textile operations, particularly knitting, are as follows:

Example 3



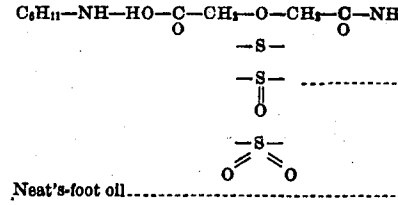
	Parts
	2
Blown olive oil	40
Glycerol acetone propionate	58

Example 4



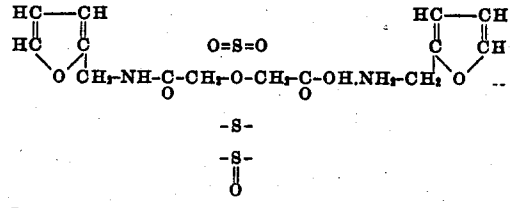
	5
Water	5
Olive oil	60
Tetrahydrofurfuryl lactate	30

Example 5



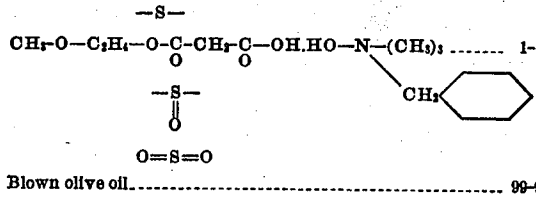
	5
Neat's-foot oil	95

Example 6



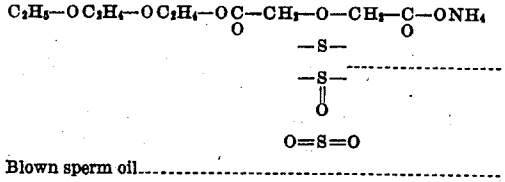
	1-10
Blown neat's-foot oil	99-90

Example 7



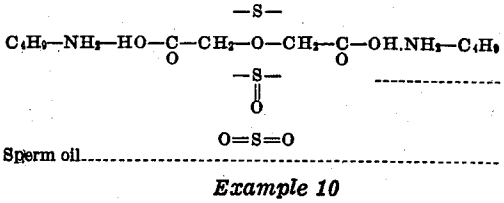
	1-10
Blown olive oil	99-90

Example 8



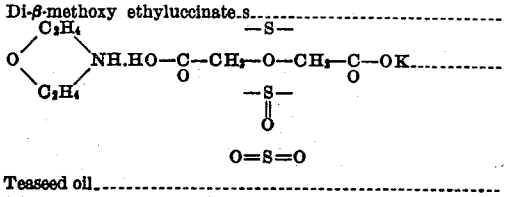
	1-10
Blown sperm oil	99-90

Example 9



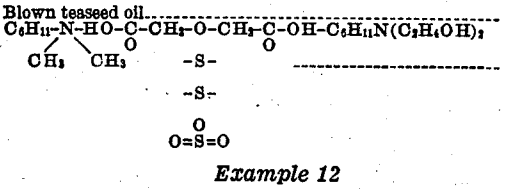
	1-10
Sperm oil	99-90

Example 10



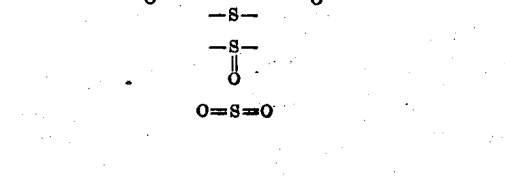
Di-β-methoxy ethyluccinate-s	25
	1-10
Teaseed oil	74-65

Example 11



Blown teaseed oil	99-90
	1-10

Example 12



Mineral oil	99-90
Oleylamine.HO—C(=O)—CH₂—O—CH₂—C(=O)—OH.oleylamine	1-10

Example 13

Water 70
Water soluble cellulose ester 15
Cetylamine.HO—C—CH_2—O—CH_2—C—OH
O O
—S—
—S— 5
O
O=S=O
Sulfonated castor oil 10

Any of the above compositions may be applied to the yarn intended for use in circular knitting by means of a bath, wick, spray, roller, pad or any suitable means. The amount of conditioning liquid applied may vary between 5–25% by weight of the yarn. Usually, however, the amount of conditioning liquid applied is about 10–15% by weight of the yarn. Yarn composed of cellulose acetate conditioned as described above gives excellent results when used in the circular knitting process.

As will be apparent from the above examples and description the conditioning agents of our invention may be applied by a wide variety of methods. For example, we may employ the agent as an ingredient of the spinning dope from which the filaments are formed, the amount of the agent so employed depending upon a number of factors, such as the particular cellulose derivative used in making the yarn, the solvent or solvent combination used in making up the spinning solution, and the degree of softness or pliability desired in the yarn, etc.

If the conditioning agent is to be applied to the yarn after spinning, this may be done by bringing the yarn in contact with a wick, roll, or felt wet therewith, or the liquid may be applied by immersion, spray, or otherwise. The particular point at which the liquid is applied may vary. It may, for example, be applied to the yarn inside or outside the spinning cabinet, between the guide and godet roll, between the godet or other roll or guide and the point of winding and/or twisting. In some cases, the liquid may even be applied to the yarn after winding onto cones, spools, bobbins, or the like or by the so-called "bobbin to bobbin" method. In the case of staple fiber manufacture, the liquid may be applied to the yarn prior to, or after cutting into staple lengths.

The amount of the agent so employed will vary widely depending upon the results desired, the specific nature of the material to which the agent is applied, the use to which the yarn is eventually to be put and other factors. For example, in a given case where a cellulose organic acid ester yarn such as a yarn composed of cellulose acetate, is intended for knitting, about 4 to 25% or more by weight, based on the weight of the dry yarn, may be satisfactory, while if the yarn is intended for weaving, the amount may vary between about 1 and 5%.

Although in the above examples we have referred primarily to yarn treating compositions containing only the conditioning agent and an oil, other ingredients such as solvents, non-solvents, emulsifying agents, blending agents and the like, may be added within the scope of our invention. Likewise, various dyes or other coloring matter may be included in case it is desired to permanently or fugitively tint or dye the material undergoing treatment.

Although we have found it convenient to illustrate our invention by reference to compositions containing specific percentages of the various ingredients, these percentages may vary widely depending upon the particular purpose for which the composition is intended. For example, if it is desired to control the solvent or softening action of the conditioning agent, the amount of the agent may be adjusted as, for example, by reducing the amount of the agent and correspondingly increasing the amount of oil or other ingredient.

While we have described our invention with particular reference to the treatment of yarns composed of organic derivatives of cellulose such as cellulose acetate, the conditioning agents and formulas described herein are applicable to the conditioning of many other types of cellulose derivative yarns such as those composed of or containing cellulose propionate, cellulose butyrate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, ethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, benzyl cellulose and others, as well as to the conditioning of silk, wool, cotton, viscose and other natural or artificial materials.

The term "yarn" as used herein and in the claims is to be understood as including a single filament, a plurality of filaments associated into the form of a thread, either of high or low twist, single or multiple threads associated or twisted together, composite threads composed of a mixture of natural and artificial filaments or a composite thread formed by twisting together individual strands of natural or artificial materials, as well as cut staple fibers produced from natural and/or artificial filaments or threads and spun yarn produced from such staple fibers.

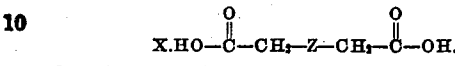
As indicated above, the yarn conditioning agents of our invention are exceptionally good solvents for a wide variety of mineral, blown and unblown, drying and semi-drying animal and vegetable oils such as cottonseed, olive, castor, neatsfoot, sperm and other oils. This enables them to be used with any of such oils in making up a variety of yarn treating formulas of varying composition.

The yarn conditioning method and compositions of our invention possess many outstanding advantages. The fundamental and outstanding characteristic of the agents employed in accordance with the invention is their ability to soften yarns, especially those composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose such as cellulose acetate and render them soft and pliable and amenable to various textile operations, especially operations such as those involved in the manufacture of cut staple fibers and in weaving and knitting where complicated designs or stitches are employed, without too drastic an action on the yarn material. Another outstanding characteristic of these compounds is their exceptional solvent power for a wide variety of mineral, animal, and vegetable oils and their ability to act as lubricating assistants in conjunction with these oils when applied to such yarns. In addition, due to their solubility in water, they may be readily removed from yarns and fabrics by means of the usual aqueous scour baths. By employing the yarn conditioning agents and method of our invention as herein described, one is enabled to obtain highly satisfactory results in the manufacture of yarns and woven fabrics and especially the production from these yarns of closely knit fabrics free from defects such as pin holes, stitch distortion, laddering and the like.

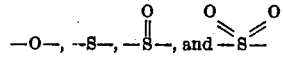
What we claim is:

1. The process of conditioning yarn to render it more amenable to textile operations including

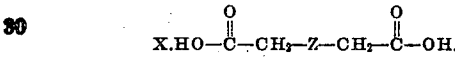
knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers, and the like, which comprises applying a lubricating and anti-static composition containing as its essential lubricating and anti-static component a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



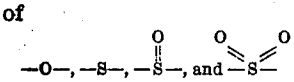
wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



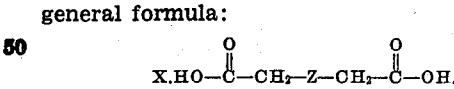
2. The process of conditioning yarn composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose to render it more amenable to textile operations including knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers, and the like which comprises applying a lubricating and anti-static composition containing as its essential lubricating and anti-static component a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



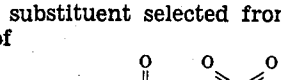
wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



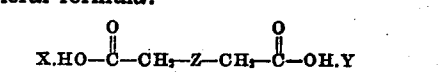
3. The process of conditioning yarn composed of or containing cellulose acetate to render it more amenable to textile operations including knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers and the like which comprises applying a lubricating and anti-static composition containing as its essential lubricating and anti-static component a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



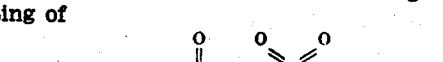
wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



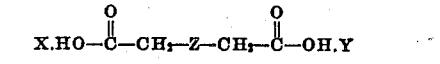
4. The process of conditioning yarn composed of or containing cellulose acetate to render it more amenable to textile operations including knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers, and the like, which comprises applying a lubricating and anti-static composition containing as its essential lubricating and anti-static component a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



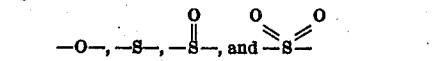
wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



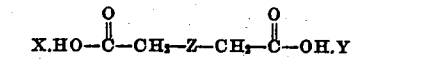
5. Textile yarns amenable to textile operations including knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers, and the like impregnated with a lubricant and anti-static composition containing as its essential lubricating and anti-static component a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



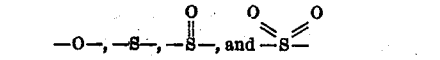
wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



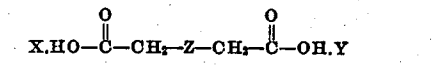
6. Textile yarns composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose amenable to textile operations including knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers, and the like impregnated with a conditioning agent comprising a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



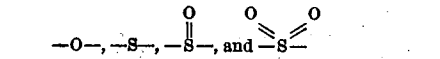
wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



7. Textile yarns composed of or containing organic derivatives of cellulose amenable to textile operations including knitting, weaving, spinning, the manufacture of staple fibers, and the like impregnated with a conditioning agent comprising a salt selected from the group consisting of organic amine, mixed organic amine and metallic salts of organic acids having the general formula:



wherein X and Y are substituents selected from the group consisting of metals and organic bases and Z is a substituent selected from the group consisting of



JOSEPH B. DICKEY.
JAMES G. McNALLY.