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(71) Applicant(s)  
**Unilever PLC**

(72) Inventor(s)  
**David Ellis Clarke; Serge Firmin Alain Creutz; Benoit**  
**Henualt ; Samantha Small**

(74) Agent/Attorney  
**Davies Collison Cave,GPO Box 3876,SYDNEY NSW 2001**

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- (27) Applicant (for AE, AU, BB, CA, CY, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, KE, LC, LK, LS, MN, MW, NZ, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, ZA, ZW only): UNILEVER PLC [GB/GB]; Unilever House, Blackfriars, London EC4P 4BQ (GB).
- (28) Applicant (for all designated States except AE, AU, BB, CA, CY, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, IN, KE, LC, LK, LS, MN, MW, NZ, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, ZA, ZW): UNILEVER NV [NL/NL]; Weena 455, NL-3013 AL Rotterdam (NL).
- (29) Applicant (for IN only): HINDUSTAN LEVER LIMITED [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever House, 165/166 Backbay Reclamation, Mumbai 400 020, Maharashtra (IN).
- (30) Inventors: CLARKE, David, Ellis; 48 Keswick Avenue, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside CH63 0NP (GB).
- (74) Agent: ~~ELLIOTT, Peter, William; Unilever PLC, Patent Department, Colworth House, Sharnbrook, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK44 1LQ (GB).~~  
Davies Colison Cave  
PO Box 3876 Sydney NSW 2001
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(54) Title: FABRIC SOFTENING COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: A fabric softening composition comprising: (a) a cationic fabric softening compound; and (b) an emulsified silicone. In one aspect the viscosity of the silicone before emulsification is from 10,000cSt to 1,000,000cSt, preferably from 30,000cSt to 750,000cSt, more preferably from 40,000cSt to 400,000cSt, most preferably 45,000cSt to 250,000cSt, e.g. 45,000cSt to 200,000cSt and the emulsion is a macro-emulsion. In another aspect, the median silicone droplet size in the emulsion is at least 0.2µm, preferably at least 0.25µm, more preferably at least 0.39µm, preferably also no greater than 25µm and is emulsified with an emulsifier comprising one or more cationic surfactants.

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FABRIC SOFTENING COMPOSITIONSTechnical Field

5 The present invention relates to fabric softening compositions which provide additional benefits to the fabric, particularly improved crease reduction and/or ease of ironing.

10 Background and Prior Art

Fabric softener compositions, especially those added in the rinse, are well known. It is also known to incorporate one or more additional materials such as silicones, to reduce  
15 wrinkling of the fabric during the rinsing and drying stages of the wash. For example WO-A-96/15309 discloses the use of a combination of a silicone and a film-forming polymer for this purpose. Typical silicones in this application are polydiorganosiloxanes. Nevertheless, there remains a need in  
20 fabric softening compositions to formulate with additives which not only reduce the appearance of wrinkles or creases before ironing, but also make ironing easier.

In many prior art compositions, the silicones are  
25 incorporated in the form of an emulsion, which is a micro-emulsion, that is to say the silicone is present as liquid droplets having a droplet size less than the wavelength of visible light and so the emulsion is substantially transparent. However, in a few cases, they are macro-  
30 emulsions (e.g. WO-A-97/31997 and 98). The silicones before emulsification are those having relatively low

viscosities, because it is assumed that those with higher viscosities are more difficult to handle during the process of manufacturing the product and are less suited for anti-creasing performance. WO-A-95/24460 discloses a fabric softening composition which contains from about 0.2% to about 20% of a polydimethyl siloxane having a viscosity from about 2 to 5,000 centi-Stokes (cSt).

It has now been discovered that, surprisingly, good anti-creasing and/or ease of ironing can be achieved by formulating with a silicone which is incorporated in the form of a macro-emulsion and which silicone has a viscosity of from 10,000cSt to 1,000,000cSt, and/or the emulsified silicone has a median droplet size of at least 0.2 $\mu$ m and is emulsified with at least one cationic surfactant.

Definition of the Invention

Thus according to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a fabric softening composition comprising:-

- (a) a cationic fabric softening agent; and
- (b) an emulsified silicone;

wherein the silicone has a linear structure, the viscosity of the silicone before emulsification is from 10,000cSt to 1,000,000cSt, preferably from 30,000cSt to 750,000cSt, more preferably from 40,000cSt to 400,000cSt, most preferably 45,000cSt to 250,000cSt, eg 45,000cSt to 200,000cSt and the emulsion is a macro-emulsion.

A second aspect of the present invention provides a fabric softening composition comprising:-

- (a) a cationic fabric softening agent; and

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(b) an emulsified silicone;  
wherein the median droplet size of the silicone in the  
emulsion is  $0.2\mu\text{m}$ , preferably at least  $0.25\mu\text{m}$ , more  
preferably at least  $0.39\mu\text{m}$ , preferably also no greater than  
5  $25\mu\text{m}$  and is emulsified with an emulsifier comprising one or  
more cationic surfactants.

A third aspect of the present invention provides a method of  
manufacturing a fabric softening composition, the method  
10 comprising obtaining a macro-emulsion of a silicone having a  
viscosity of from  $10,000\text{cSt}$  to  $1,000,000\text{cSt}$  and admixing  
said macro-emulsion with a cationic fabric softening agent.

A fourth aspect of the present invention provides a method  
15 of manufacturing a fabric softening composition, the method  
comprising obtaining the emulsion in the form of an emulsion  
of a silicone having a viscosity of from  $10,000\text{cSt}$  to  
 $1,000,000\text{cSt}$ , preferably from  $30,000\text{cSt}$  to  $750,000\text{cSt}$ , more  
preferably from  $40,000\text{cSt}$  to  $400,000\text{cSt}$ , most preferably  
20  $45,000\text{cSt}$  to  $250,000\text{cSt}$ , eg  $45,000\text{cSt}$  to  $200,000\text{cSt}$  the  
median droplet size of the silicone in the emulsion being at  
least  $0.2\mu\text{m}$ , preferably at least  $0.25\mu\text{m}$ , more preferably at  
least  $0.39\mu\text{m}$ , preferably also no greater than  $25\mu\text{m}$  and is  
emulsified with an emulsifier comprising one or more  
25 cationic surfactants, and admixing said emulsion with a  
cationic fabric softening agent.

Compositions according to the present invention may  
optionally embody both the first and second aspects of the  
30 present invention and processes for their manufacture  
optionally may embody the third and fourth aspects. A

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method of using a composition according to the first and/or second aspects of the present invention by applying it to a fabric or textile for softening the fabric or textile, constitutes another aspect of the invention.

5

For the avoidance of doubt, in the context of the present invention, the term emulsified silicone means that the silicone is in emulsion form prior to incorporation in the fabric softening composition and does not necessarily remain  
10 in that form in the final product.

The cationic fabric softening agent may comprise one or more cationic fabric softening materials and the emulsified silicone may comprise one or more individual silicone  
15 materials.

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

##### Cationic Fabric Softening Agents

20

Preferably, the cationic fabric softening agent is a quaternary ammonium material or a quaternary ammonium material containing at least one ester group. The quaternary ammonium compounds containing at least one ester group are  
25 referred to herein as ester-linked quaternary ammonium compounds.

As used herein the term ester group, when used as a group in the quaternary ammonium material, includes an ester group  
30 which is a linking group in the molecule.

- 5 -

It is preferred for the ester-linked quaternary ammonium compounds to contain two or more ester groups. In both monoester and the diester quaternary ammonium compounds it is preferred if the ester group(s) is a linking group  
5 between the nitrogen atom and an alkyl group. The ester group(s) is preferably attached to the nitrogen atom via another hydrocarbyl group.

Also preferred are quaternary ammonium compounds containing  
10 at least one ester group, preferably two, wherein at least one higher molecular weight group containing at least one ester group and two or three lower molecular weight groups are linked to a common nitrogen atom to produce a cation and wherein the electrically balancing anion is a halide,  
15 acetate or lower alkylsulphate ion, such as chloride or methosulphate. The higher molecular weight substituent on the nitrogen is preferably a higher alkyl group, containing 12 to 28, preferably 12 to 22, e.g. 12 to 20 carbon atoms, such as coco-alkyl, tallowalkyl, hydrogenated tallowalkyl or  
20 substituted higher alkyl, and the lower molecular weight substituents are preferably lower alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as methyl or ethyl, or substituted lower alkyl. One or more of the said lower molecular weight substituents may include an aryl moiety or may be replaced by an aryl,  
25 such as benzyl, phenyl or other suitable substituents.

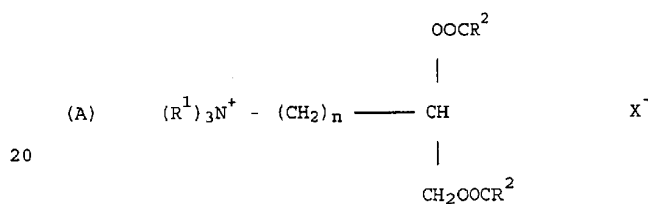
Preferably the quaternary ammonium material is a compound having two C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> alkyl or alkenyl groups connected to a quaternary ammonium head group via at least one ester link,  
30 preferably two ester links or a compound comprising a single

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long chain with an average chain length equal to or greater than C<sub>20</sub>.

More preferably, the quaternary ammonium material comprises  
 5 a compound having two long chain alkyl or alkenyl chains  
 with an average chain length equal to or greater than C<sub>14</sub>.  
 Even more preferably each chain has an average chain length  
 equal to or greater than C<sub>16</sub>. Most preferably at least 50%  
 of each long chain alkyl or alkenyl group has a chain length  
 10 of C<sub>18</sub>. It is preferred if the long chain alkyl or alkenyl  
 groups are predominantly linear.

The most preferred type of ester-linked quaternary ammonium  
 material that can be used in compositions according to the  
 15 invention is represented by the formula (A):



wherein each R<sup>1</sup> group is independently selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>  
 alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or C<sub>2-4</sub> alkenyl groups; and wherein each  
 25 R<sup>2</sup> group is independently selected from C<sub>8-28</sub> alkyl or  
 alkenyl groups; X<sup>-</sup> is any suitable counter-ion, i.e. a  
 halide, acetate or lower alkylsulphate ion, such as chloride  
 or methosulphate.



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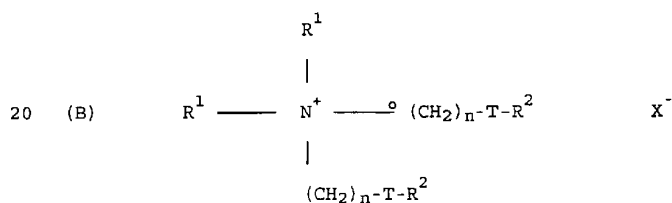
n is an integer from 1-5 or is 0

It is advantageous for environmental reasons if the quaternary ammonium material is biologically degradable.

5

Preferred materials of this class such as 1,2 bis[hardened tallowoyloxy]-3-trimethylammonium propane chloride and their method of preparation are, for example, described in US-A-4 137 180. Preferably these materials comprise small amounts of the corresponding monoester as described in 10 US-A-4 137 180 for example 1-hardened tallow-oyloxy-2-hydroxy-3-trimethylammonium propane chloride.

Another class of preferred ester-linked quaternary ammonium 15 materials for use in compositions according to the invention can be represented by the formula (B):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $n$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{X}^-$  are as defined above.

25

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{O} \quad \quad \text{O} \\
 || \quad \quad || \\
 \text{and T is } \text{-O-C-} \text{ or } \text{-C-O-}; \text{ and}
 \end{array}$$

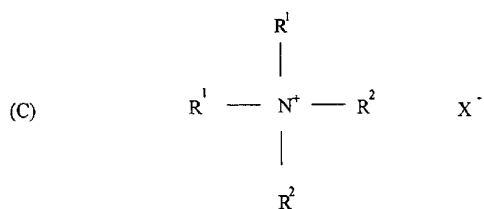
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It is especially preferred that each  $R^1$  group is methyl and each n is 2.

Of the compounds of formula (B), Di-(tallowyloxyethyl)-  
 5 dimethyl ammonium chloride, available from Hoechst, is the most preferred. Di-(hardened tallowyloxyethyl)dimethyl ammonium chloride, ex Hoechst and di-(tallowyloxyethyl)-methyl hydroxyethyl methosulphate are also preferred.

10 Another preferred class of quaternary ammonium cationic fabric softening agent is defined by formula (C):-



15 where  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $X^-$  are as hereinbefore defined.

A preferred material of formula (C) is di-hardened tallow-diethyl ammonium chloride, sold under the Trademark Arquad 2HT.

20

The optionally ester-linked quaternary ammonium material may contain optional additional components, as known in the art, in particular, low molecular weight solvents, for instance isopropanol and/or ethanol, and co-actives such as nonionic  
 25 softeners, for example fatty acid or sorbitan esters.

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The fabric softening agent is present in the composition preferably in a total amount of 0.5% - 50% by weight based upon the total weight of the composition, more preferably 0.5% to 35%, more preferably 1-30%, more preferably 3-25%, most preferably 3-20%, eg 8-20%.

#### Emulsified Silicone

- 10 According to the first and third aspects of the present invention, in the emulsified silicone, the silicone droplets are incorporated to be in the form of a macro-emulsion, that is to say the droplets have a median size in the wavelength range corresponding to the visible spectrum, or even larger.
- 15 Preferably, the emulsion is an oil-in-water emulsion. The term median size refers to the number average. The visible spectrum is 0.39 $\mu$ m to 0.77 $\mu$ m. In the emulsion, the silicone droplets are then preferably from 0.39 $\mu$ m to 25 $\mu$ m. In the second and fourth aspects of the present invention,
- 20 in the emulsion, the silicone droplets have a median size of at least 0.2 $\mu$ m, preferably at least 0.25 $\mu$ m. The droplet size may be determined based on measurements of median DV05 using a Malvern X Mastersizer.
- 25 The silicone may be of any structure which gives rise to one or more of the desired benefits in use of the fabric softener formulation. Preferably, it has a linear structure. It is preferably a non-functional silicone, especially one which is non-amino functional. Typical
- 30 silicones are siloxanes which have the general formula  $R_aSiO_{(4-a)/2}$  wherein each R is the same or different and is

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selected from hydrocarbon and hydroxyl groups, 'a' being from 0 to 3 and in the bulk material; 'a' has an average value of from 1.85-2.2.

5 Most preferably, the silicone is a polydi-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl (preferably a polydimethyl) siloxane end-terminated either by tri-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsilyl (e.g. trimethylsilyl) or hydroxy-di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsilyl (e.g. hydroxy-dimethylsilyl) groups, or by both.

10 Certainly, in the case of compositions according to the first and third aspects of the present invention and preferably, in the case of compositions according to the second and fourth aspects, the silicone has a viscosity  
15 before emulsification (as measured on a Brookfield RV4 viscometer at 25°C using spindle No.4 at 100 rpm) of from 10,000cSt to 1,000,000cSt, preferably from 30,000cSt to 750,000cSt, more preferably from 40,000cSt to 400,000cSt, most preferably 45,000cSt to 250,000cSt, eg 45,000cSt to  
20 200,000 cSt.

Preferably, in compositions according to the first and third aspects of the present invention and certainly in those according to the second and fourth aspects of the invention,  
25 emulsification is effected using one or more cationic surfactants, preferably having a non-halogen counter-ion.

The cationic emulsifiers are believed to enhance deposition of the silicone during use of the fabric softening  
30 composition. Preferred counter-ions include methosulphate,

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ethosulphate, tosylate, phosphate and nitrate. If a halogen counter-ion is used, it is preferably chloride.

For example, mixtures of one or more cationic and one or more nonionic surfactants can be used, or even nonionic surfactant(s) alone.

Preferably, the total of amount of emulsifying surfactant(s) is from 0.5% to 20%, preferably from 2% to 12%, more preferably from 3% to 10% by weight of the emulsion.

The emulsified silicone (as 100% active silicone) may be included in the fabric softener compositions in an amount of 3.5% to 15% by weight of the total composition (including the emulsion product containing the silicone emulsion), preferably 3.75% to 12%, more preferably 4% to 10%, most preferably 4.5% to 10%. However, it may be possible to include up to 20% by weight if it can be incorporated into the fabric softening composition without instability occurring therein. The total amount of silicone in the emulsion will generally be up to 70% by weight of the emulsion.

Preferably, the weight ratio of silicone to total emulsifying surfactant(s) is from 2.3:1 to 120:1, more preferably 3:1 to 120:1, for example from 3:1 to 30:1. Typical cationic surfactants are alkyl tri-methylammonium methosulphates and derivatives in which at least two of the methyl groups on the nitrogen atom are replaced by (poly)alkoxylated groups.

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In the final product, the weight ratio of total fabric softening agent to total silicone is from 1:1 to 70:1, more preferably from 1.5:1 to 25:1, more preferably 2.5:1 to 10:1, eg 3:1 to 7:1.

5

#### Perfume

The compositions may comprise perfume. If present, the level of perfumes in the compositions may be 0.25% to 2% by weight, preferably 0.27% to 2%, such as 0.3% to 1.5%.

10

#### Optional ingredients

The compositions may also contain one or more optional ingredients, selected from electrolytes, non-aqueous solvents, pH buffering agents, perfume carriers, fluorescers, colorants, hydrotropes, antifoaming agents, antiredeposition agents, polymeric and other thickeners, enzymes, optical brightening agents, opacifiers, anti-shrinking agents, auxiliary anti-wrinkle agents, anti-spotting agents, germicides, fungicides, anti-oxidants, anti-corrosion agents, drape imparting agents, antistatic agents, sunscreens, colour care agents and auxiliary ironing aids.

20  
25

The preferred product form is a liquid, more especially an aqueous liquid. In liquid products, a viscosity control agent may be included. Any viscosity control agent typically used with rinse conditioners is suitable, for example biological polymers such as Xanthum gum (Kelco ex Kelsan and Rhodopol ex Rhone-Poulenc). Synthetic polymers

30

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may also be used as viscosity control agents e.g. polyacrylic acid, poly vinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene, carbomers, polyethylene glycols and cellulose-based thickeners such as hydroxy-ethyl cellulose modified to include long chain substituent groups. Also suitable as viscosity modifiers are decoupling polymers and deflocculating polymers.

It is preferred that the compositions are substantially free of bleaches.

#### Product Form

However, the compositions may be in any form conventionally used for fabric softening compositions for example, powder, paste or gel. It is preferred if the final product itself is a liquid and especially an aqueous emulsion, preferably a macro-emulsion and not a micro-emulsion, containing suspended fabric softener and emulsified silicone droplets.

#### Compositions

A fabric softening composition within the scope of the present invention may comprise 8 to 50% by weight of a cationic fabric softening agent; and perfume; and 3.5 to 15% by weight of an emulsified silicone (all weights being of the total weight of the composition) the silicone having been emulsified with one or more cationic surfactants to form a macro-emulsion with the viscosity of the silicone before emulsification being from 10,000cSt to 400,000cSt,

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preferably from 20,000cSt to 350,000cSt, more preferably from 25,000cSt to 250,000cSt.

Another fabric softening composition with the scope of the invention may comprise 8 to 50% by weight of a cationic fabric softening agent; and perfume; and 3.5 to 15% by weight of an emulsified silicone (all weights being of the total weight of the composition) the median droplet size of the emulsified silicone being at least 0.2 $\mu$ m, preferably at least 0.25 $\mu$ m, more preferably at least 0.39 $\mu$ m, preferably also no greater than 25 $\mu$ m and the silicone being emulsified with an emulsifier comprising one or more cationic surfactants.



ExamplesExample A

- 5 A dimethyl-terminated polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) having a viscosity of 60,000cSt was formulated as an aqueous emulsion thus in

	<u>Component</u>	<u>% wt</u>
10	PDMS	60
	COCOTMAMS (1)	3.5
	COCOPEMAMS (2)	1.9
	Water, preservatives	to 100

15

- (1) coconut trimethylammonium methosulphate  
 (2) coconut pentaethoxymethylammonium methosulphate

Examples 1 and 2

20

The emulsion of Example A was included in dilute (Example 1) and concentrate (Example 2) forms of fabric softener compositions, in which amounts are % by weight of the total composition:-

25

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	<u>Component</u>	<u>Example 1</u> (Dilute)	<u>Example 2</u> (Concentrate)
5	Cationic Softener (3)	4.7	12.7
	Coconut 20 EO Non-ionic	0.1	0.7
	Tallow Alcohol	--	0.7
	Silicone Anti-foam	0.03	0.015
	Cetyl hydroxyethyl cellulose	0.03	--
10	Proxel (4)	0.16	0.15
	Pearlescer (mica)	0.1	0.18
	Dye	0.0015	0.0048
	Perfume	0.32	0.95
	-----		
15	(Emulsifier)	(1.67)	(5.0)
	Silicone PDMS	1.0	3.0
	COCOTMAMS	0.058	0.17
	COCOPEMAMS	0.032	0.1
	-----		
20	Water, other preservatives	to 100	to 100
	(3) Mixture of 1,2 bis[hardened tallowoxy]-3-trimethyl ammonium propane chloride and free fatty acid in a weight ratio of 6:1.		
25	(4) Preservative		

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Example 3 (Performance Evaluation)

5 Compositions comprising by weight 12.7% of the cationic  
softener of Examples 1 and 2, 0.7% coconut 20 EO nonionic,  
0.7% tallow alcohol and 3% polydimethyl-siloxane (% active)  
obtained from different emulsions containing nonionic  
emulsifier and 50% by weight of the silicone active  
10 ingredient. To evaluate the first and third aspects of the  
present invention, the viscosity and median droplet sizes  
were varied between these different emulsions.

The nonionic-emulsified silicone emulsion was type HV600,  
available ex Dow Corning, but with the silicone viscosity  
15 and median droplet size being varied by the supplier, the  
other components being per the standard commercial product.

These formulations were evaluated in the rinse cycle as  
follows:-

20

White cotton shirts were washed 4 times at 60°C to remove  
any pre-existing treatments which would distort the results.

Wash/rinse/dry cycles were then carried out. The conditions  
25 were as follows:

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Machine: Candy Aquaviva 1000  
Temperature: 40°C  
Programme: Programme 5 - Non-fast coloureds  
recommended for cotton  
5 Water hardness: 13 °FH (Wirral water)  
Main wash product: 150g Persil Bio powder via shuttle  
Rinse products: 35 gm of a control composition  
containing 3% PDMS with a  
viscosity of 60,000cSt before  
10 emulsification OR 35 gm of a test  
composition containing 3% PDMS  
with viscosities before  
emulsification in the range  
1,000cSt to 750,000cSt  
15 Washload: 10 shirts  
Drying: Hung on rails indoors

2 extra shirts were added to the washes so that extraction  
could be carried out and silicone deposition estimated.  
20 These were split evenly over the washes.

Desized cotton poplin monitors were included for each  
product; 3 X 20cm by 20cm and 3 X 50cm by 100cm desized  
cotton poplin monitors were also included for measurement of  
25 fabric physical properties.

The garments were assessed for:

1. Degree of creasing before ironing
- 30 2. Ease of ironing, Using steam

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The degree of creasing was assessed by paired comparisons between garments rinsed in the test and control products respectively. The garments were placed in the viewing cabinet and the assessor was asked Which is the least creased? . For the ease of ironing comparison, the panellist ironed two shirts using steam and was asked Which is the easiest to iron? . The irons used were Philips Azur 50 set at the temperature for cotton. 100ml of water was added for each panellist. The steam was set at maximum. Separate irons were used for each treatment to avoid possible transfer of rinse conditioner or silicone via the plate of the iron. The irons were washed and swapped halfway through the exercise to compensate for differences in the irons. Identical ironing boards were used.

The result obtained are summarised in the following table:-

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Emulsion Characteristics		Degree of creasing (sample size 40)		Ease of ironing (sample size 20)	
Viscosity (cSt)	Median Droplet Diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Score	Score (as %)	Score	Score (as %)
(a) 1,000	0.5	14	35.0	8	40
(b) 60,000	0.5	20	50.0	10	50
(c) 60,000	5.0	20	50.0	9	45
(d) 60,000	10.0	18	45.0	7	35
(e) 143,000	0.5	26	65.0	8	40
(f) 600,000	5.0	23	57.5	10	50
(g) 750,000	0.5	27	67.5	12	60
(h) 600,000	7.8	22	55.0	7	35

Sample (a) does not correspond to the invention, the viscosity being within the prior art range. All of samples  
5 (b)-(h) showed a marked improvement in degree of creasing over sample (a). All except (d), (e) and (h) showed a marked improvement over (a) in terms of ease of ironing.

Example 4 (Performance Evaluation)

To evaluate the second and fourth aspects of the present invention, a comparison of effects on silicone deposition and performance in anti-creasing and anti-ironing was performed using a base fabric conditioner formulation as control:-

10	<u>Component</u>	<u>wt %</u>
	Cationic Softener(5)	4.8
	Nonionic 20 EO	0.1
	Tallow Alcohol	0.6

15 (5) Di-ethoxy ester (tallow)-di-methylammonium chloride

To the control formulation was added a PDMS emulsion at an amount equivalent to 1% silicone based on the weight of the softener composition, the balance being water (with minor ingredients), the viscosity of the silicone being 60,000cSt with a median droplet diameter of 0.5µm and emulsified, either with cationic or nonionic surfactants:-

	<u>Cationic System</u>	<u>Nonionic System</u>
25	Cetyl trimethyl ammoniumchloride (4.35%)	HV600 (ex Dow Corning)
	+ COCOPEMANS (1%)	

The weights in the cationic system are expressed as % by weight of the emulsion. The HV600 product is the nonionic-emulsified silicone referred to in Example 3.

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The products were dosed at 110ml to a washing machine rinse cycle and both shirts and T-shirts were evaluated for anti-creasing and ease of ironing. The cationic and nonionic products were compared as a % of the control (i.e. minus silicone). Silicone deposition was evaluated by a standard method. The results obtained were as follows:-

Emulsi- fier System	T-Shirts Anti- crease Benefit %	Shirts Anti- crease Benefit %	T-Shirts Ironing Benefit %	Shirts Ironing Benefit %	T-Shirts Silicone Deposi- tion %	Shirts Silicone Deposi- tion %
Non- ionic	35	53	75	62	47	79
Cat- ionic	57	80	85	70	86	98

10

In all cases, the cationic emulsion shows a marked improvement in silicone deposition, anti-creasing and ease of ironing.



Throughout this specification and the claims which follow,  
unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise",  
or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be  
understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step  
5 or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any  
other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not,  
and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of  
10 suggestion that the prior art forms part of the common  
general knowledge in Australia.



THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A fabric softening composition comprising:-
  - (a) a cationic fabric softening agent; and
  - 5 (b) an emulsified silicone;wherein the silicone has a linear structure, the viscosity of the silicone before emulsification is from 10,000cSt to 1,000,000cSt, preferably from 30,000cSt to 750,000cSt, more preferably from 40,000cSt to 400,000cSt, most preferably  
10 45,000cSt to 250,000cSt, eg 45,000cSt to 200,000cSt and the emulsion is a macro-emulsion.
  
2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein, in the  
15 emulsified silicone, the median droplet size is from 0.39 $\mu$ m to 25 $\mu$ m.
  
3. A composition according to either preceding claim,  
wherein the silicone is emulsified with an emulsifier  
comprising from one or more cationic surfactants, preferably  
20 having a non-halogen counter-ion and/or selected from alkyl tri-methylammonium methosulphates and derivatives in which at least two of the methyl groups on the nitrogen atom are replaced by (poly) alkoxyated groups.
  
- 25 4. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein in the emulsion, the total amount of emulsifying surfactant is from 0.5% to 20%, preferably from 2% to 12%, more preferably from 3% to 10%, by weight of the total composition, the weight ratio of silicone to total  
30 emulsifying surfactant, preferably being from 3:1 to 120:1, more preferably from 3:1 to 120:1.

5. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the cationic fabric softening agent is selected from quaternary ammonium and ester-linked quaternary ammonium compounds.

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6. A composition according to claim 5, wherein the cationic fabric softening agent is selected from 1,2 bis[hardened-tallowoxy]-3-trimethylammonium propane chloride diethoxy ester (tallow) dimethyl ammoniumchloride, 10 dihardened-tallow-dimethyl ammoniumchloride and di-(tallowloxyethyl) methyl hydroxyethyl methosulphate, and mixtures thereof.

7. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein 15 the total amount of cationic fabric softening agent is from 0.5% to 35%, preferably from 1% to 30%, more preferably from 3% to 25% by weight of the total composition.

8. A composition according to any preceding claim wherein 20 the silicone is a poly-di-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsiloxane (preferably polydimethylsiloxane) end-terminated by tri-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsilyl (preferably trimethylsilyl) groups or by hydroxy-di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylsilyl (preferably hydroxy-dimethylsilyl) groups or a mixture of both.

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9. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the weight ratio of total fabric softening agent to total silicone is from 1:1 to 70:1, preferably from 1.5:1 to 25:1.

30 10. A method of manufacturing a composition according to any preceding claim, the method comprising obtaining the emulsion in the form a macro-emulsion of a silicone having a

viscosity of from 10,000cSt to 1,000,000cSt and admixing it with the cationic fabric softening agent, and optionally with any other component(s).

5 11. A method of softening a fabric, the method comprising applying to that fabric, a composition according to any of claims 1-9.

12. A fabric softening composition substantially as  
10 hereinbefore described with reference to the examples.

DATED THIS 31st day of October, 2003.

**UNILEVER PLC**

15 By Its Patent Attorneys

**DAVIES COLLISON CAVE**

