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(54) **Fabric softening products based on a combination of pentaerythritol compound and bentonite.**

(57) A fabric softening product is a composition or article that is effective for its fabric softening purpose but preferably excludes ecotoxic quaternary ammonium salt, includes, as a fabric softening component, a PEC, which is an ester of pentaerythritol, an ester of an oligomer of pentaerythritol, an ester of a lower alkoxyated pentaerythritol or an ester of a lower alkoxyated pentaerythritol oligomer, with bentonite, which increases its fabric softening effect remarkably. The PEC is preferably a partial higher fatty acid ester of pentaerythritol or a partial higher fatty acid ester or a pentaerythritol oligomer, the bentonite is preferably sodium bentonite or swellable calcium bentonite, the fabric softening composition is a softergent or a non-deterstive composition, both of which may be in solid (preferably particulate solid) or liquid state or form (preferably in aqueous suspension or gel), and the fabric softening article is an absorbent material with bentonite and PEC deposited on it or absorbed by it. Also within the invention are processes for softening fibrous materials of laundry by contacting them with such compositions and/or articles during washing, rinsing and/or drying operations.

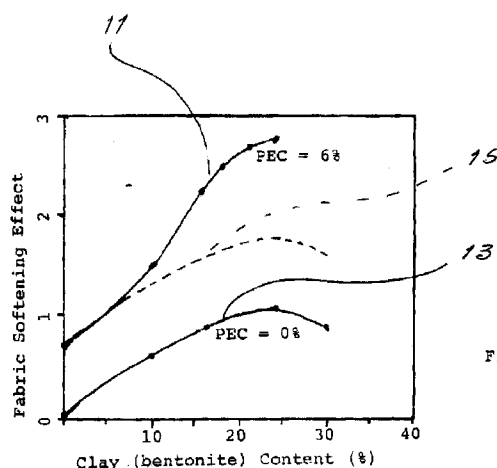


FIG. 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 30 6450

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
E	EP-A-0 494 769 (COLGATE-PALMOLIVE) * the whole document *	1-22	C11D3/20 C11D3/12 C11D17/04
A	DE-A-2 700 512 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) * claim 1 *	1,22	
A	DE-A-2 822 891 (PROCTER & GAMBLE) * page 8, line 16 - page 9, line 21 *	1,22	
D	& US-A-4 162 984		
A	DATABASE WPIL Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 90-101877 & JP-A-2 047 370 (KAO CORP.) 16 February 1990 * abstract *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			C11D D06M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 OCTOBER 1993	Examiner GRITTERN A.G.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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