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(54) **ORGANIC PHOTOCHROMIC COMPOSITIONS OF IMPROVED KINETIC PERFORMANCE**

ORGANISCHE PHOTOCHROME ZUSAMMENSETZUNG MIT VERBESSERTEN KINETISCHEN
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COMPOSITIONS PHOTOCHROMIQUES ORGANIQUES A PERFORMANCE CINETIQUE ACCRUE

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Description

5 [0001] The present invention relates to photochromic compositions of enhanced kinetic performance and to a method for improving the performance of organic photochromic compounds in polymeric substrates. More particularly, this invention relates to improved photochromic compositions comprising organic photochromic compound(s), and optionally carrier, stabilizer and/or conventional additive(s) wherein the improvement comprises including at least one kinetic enhancing additive. The kinetic enhancing additive is used in an amount sufficient to improve the performance of organic photochromic compounds in polymeric organic host materials, e.g., polymerizates and polymeric coatings. Still more particularly, this invention relates to photochromic articles, e.g., ophthalmic lenses, made of polymeric substrates having incorporated therein organic photochromic compounds and kinetic enhancing additives such as epoxy-containing compound(s), plasticizer(s) and/or organic polyols.

10 [0002] Photochromic compounds exhibit a reversible change in color when exposed to radiation including ultraviolet rays, such as the ultraviolet radiation in sunlight or the light of a mercury lamp. Various classes of photochromic compounds have been synthesized and suggested for use in applications in which a sunlight-induced reversible color change or darkening is desired. The most widely described classes are oxazines, chromenes and fulgides.

15 [0003] Photochromic compounds may be incorporated into plastic substrates, such as ophthalmic lenses, by various methods described in the art. Such methods include dissolving or dispersing the compound within the surface of a substrate, e.g., imbibition of the photochromic compound into the substrate by immersion of the substrate in a hot solution of the photochromic compound or by depositing the photochromic compound on the surface of the substrate and thermally transferring the photochromic compound into the substrate. The term "imbibition" or "imbibe" is intended to mean and include permeation of the photochromic compound into the substrate, solvent assisted transfer absorption of the photochromic compound into the substrate, vapor phase transfer and other such transfer mechanisms.

20 [0004] The extent to which the photochromic compounds penetrate the polymeric substrate generally increases with increasing temperature, increasing concentration of photochromic compounds at the surface of the polymeric substrate and increasing period of contact with the polymeric substrate. The ease with which the photochromic compounds are incorporated is also dependent upon the characteristics of the photochromic compounds and of the polymeric substrate. The molecular size, melting point and solvent solubility of the photochromic compounds as well as the receptivity of the polymeric substrate all affect the ease of incorporation of the photochromic compounds. Due to the numerous variables affecting production of photochromic articles, in some cases, photochromic compounds may not be incorporated into the plastic substrate with sufficient uniformity and to a sufficient depth. This can result in poor performance of the photochromic compound and inadequate reversible color change of the photochromic article.

25 [0005] Methods for incorporating photochromic compounds into polymeric substrates have been disclosed in U.S. Patents 4,286,957, 4,880,667, 5,789,015 and 5,975,696. The use or avoidance of plasticizers in such methods is mentioned in U.S. Patents 4,880,667 and 5,789,015. In U.S. 4,880,667 at column 5, line 53-58, it is stated that plasticizers may be added to the monomeric materials used to form the polymeric host to improve the diffusion of the photochromic compounds into the subsurface. In U.S. 5,789,015 at column 7 line 66 to column 8 line 2, an inert liquid, i.e., a liquid which does not plasticize the surface of the lens, is used to form suspensions of two photochromic additives to be impregnated into the plastic substrate. Various photochromic compositions used in the process of incorporating photochromic compounds into polymeric substrates have been disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,185,390, 5,391,327 and 5,770,115.

30 [0006] The aforementioned photochromic compositions and methods of incorporating photochromic compounds into polymeric substrates are generally known in the art and can be used in the process of the present invention.

35 [0007] The use of epoxy-containing compounds with photochromic compounds has been disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,395,566, 5,462,698, 5,621,017 and 5,776,376. U.S. Patent 5,395,566 discloses a photochromic composition of a compound having at least one radical polymerizable group and at least one epoxy group and a photochromic compound. U.S. Patent 5,462,698 discloses a photochromic composition of a compound having at least one epoxy group, a fulgide compound and two different (meth)acrylic monomers. U.S. Patent 5,621,017 discloses a photochromic composition of a radical polymerization monomer, photochromic compound and photopolymerization initiator. U.S. Patent 5,776,376 discloses a photochromic composition of a polymerizable monomer composed of a compound having at least one epoxy group, various monomers, an α -methylstyrene dimer and photochromic compounds.

40 [0008] In each of the aforescribed patents disclosing compositions containing epoxy-containing compounds and photochromic compounds, the compositions contained radically polymerizable components and were polymerized to make photochromic lenses.

45 [0009] Although methods exist for incorporating photochromic compounds into polymeric substrates, improvements in such methods are sought. It has now been discovered that the use of kinetic enhancing additive in a photochromic composition comprising organic photochromic compound(s) and optionally carrier, light stabilizer(s), ultraviolet light absorber(s), antioxidant(s), rheology control agents(s) and/or leveling agent(s), improves the performance of the photochromic compound as demonstrated by an increased rating in the Photochromic Performance Test. The ratings of the test are defined as the result obtained when the change in optical density (ΔOD) at 15 minutes is divided by the Bleach

(T 1/2) and then multiplied by 10,000. Photochromic articles may be produced by transfer processes incorporating the improved photochromic composition of the present invention into a polymeric substrate.

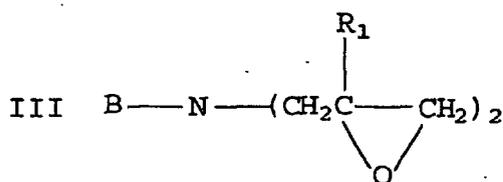
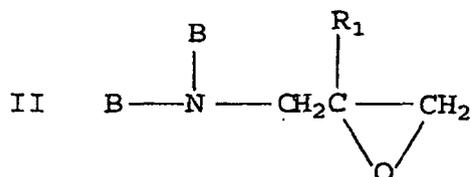
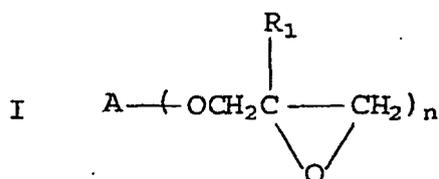
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0010] In accordance with the present invention, a kinetic enhancing additive is defined herein as a material which when added to a photochromic imbibition composition, results in an increased rating in the Photochromic Performance Test described in Example 29. A photochromic performance improving amount of the kinetic enhancing additive is defined herein as the amount necessary to use in the photochromic imbibition composition to result in an increased rating in the Photochromic Performance Test as compared to a photochromic imbibition composition substantially free of the kinetic enhancing additive. Materials which are kinetic enhancing additives include, but are not limited to, epoxy-containing compound(s), plasticizer(s), organic polyols and mixtures thereof.

[0011] The disclosures of the patents and articles cited herein related to photochromic compounds, plasticizers, lactone polyesters, stabilizers, poly(urea-urethanes), polymeric organic host materials, photochromic compositions, i.e., photochromic imbibition compositions, methods of incorporating photochromic compounds into a polymeric substrate and methods for producing hard or soft contact lenses are given as information.

[0012] In each instance where the term "weight percent" is used herein with respect to the photochromic composition, it is to be understood that the described weight percent is based on the total weight of the photochromic composition.

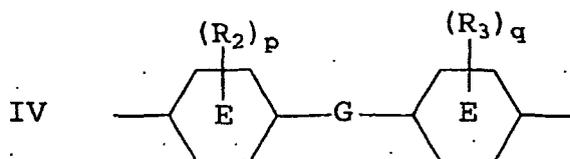
[0013] Epoxy-containing compounds that may be used in the practice of the present invention may be selected from the compounds represented by the following graphic formulae I, II, III or a mixture thereof.



[0014] In graphic formulae I, II and III, R_1 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl. Letter n is an integer selected from one, two, three or four. When n is equal to one in graphic formula I, A is selected from C_2 - C_{20} - alkyl, substituted C_2 - C_{20} alkyl, C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkyl; the unsubstituted or substituted aryl groups, phenyl and naphthyl; aryl (C_1 - C_3)alkyl, substituted aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkyl, acryloxy, methacryloxy; the group $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Y}$,- wherein Y is C_2 - C_{20} alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy or aryl; or the group $-\text{R}-(\text{OR})_m-\text{OH}$ or $-(\text{OR})_m-\text{OH}$ wherein R is C_2 - C_4 alkylene and m is an integer from 1 to 20. The substituents of the alkyl and cycloalkyl groups are carboxy, hydroxy and/or C_1 - C_3 alkoxy. The substituents of the aryl and aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkyl groups are carboxy, hydroxy, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy and/or C_1 - C_3 alkyl. When n is from two to four, A is selected from C_2 - C_{20} alkylene, substituted C_2 - C_{20} alkylene, C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkylene, substituted C_3 - C_{20} cycloalkylene; the unsubstituted or substituted arylene groups, phenylene and naphthylene; aryl (C_1 - C_3)alkylene, substituted aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkylene; the group $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{Z}(\text{O})\text{C}-$, wherein Z is C_2 - C_{20} alkylene or arylene; the group $-\text{R}-(\text{OR})_m-$ or $-(\text{OR})_m-$, wherein R and m are the same as defined hereinbefore; phthaloyl, isophthaloyl, terephthaloyl, hydroxyl-substituted phthaloyl,

hydroxy-substituted isophthaloyl, hydroxy-substituted terephthaloyl; or a group represented by the following graphic formula IV:

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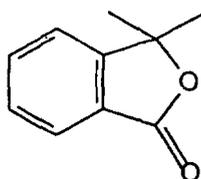
wherein R₂ and R₃ are each C₁-C₄ alkyl; chlorine or bromine; p and q are each an integer from 0 to 4;

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20 represents a divalent benzene group or a divalent cyclohexane group; G is -O-, -S-, -S(O)₂-, -C(O)-, -CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -C(CH₃)(C₆H₅)-, -(C₆H₄)- or

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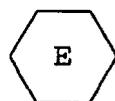
when

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40 is the divalent benzene group; or G is -O-, -S-, -CH₂-, or -C(CH₃)₂-, when

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is the divalent cyclohexane group. The substituents of the alkylene and cycloalkylene groups are carboxy, hydroxy and/or C₁-C₃ alkoxy. The substituents of the aryl and aryl (C₁-C₃)alkylene groups are carboxy, hydroxy, C₁-C₃ alkoxy and/or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

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[0015] In graphic formulae II and III, B is selected from C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, substituted C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl; the unsubstituted or substituted aryl groups, phenyl and naphthyl; aryl (C₁-C₃)alkyl or substituted aryl(C₁-C₃) alkyl. The alkyl and cycloalkyl substituent are carboxy, hydroxy and/or C₁-C₃ alkoxy. The aryl and aryl (C₁-C₃) substituents are carboxy, hydroxy, C₁-C₃ alkoxy and/or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

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[0016] In one contemplated embodiment, R₁ is hydrogen or methyl. When n is one, A is selected from C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, hydroxyl-substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, hydroxyl-substituted C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, aryl (C₁-C₃)alkyl; the group -C(O)Y, wherein Y is C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, C₁-C₆ alkoxy or aryl; the group -R-(OR)_m-OH or -(OR)_m-OH, wherein R is C₂-C₄ alkylene and m is an integer from 1 to 20; acryloxy or methacryloxy. When n is from two to four, A

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is selected from C₂-C₂₀ alkylene, hydroxyl-substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkylene, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkylene, phenylene, naphthylene, aryl(C₁-C₃)alkylene; the groups -R-(OR)_m- or -(OR)_m-, wherein R and m are the same as defined hereinbefore; phthaloyl, isophthathoyl, terephthaloyl, or a group represented by graphic formula IV wherein R₂ and R₃ are each C₁-C₄ alkyl, chlorine or bromine; p and q are each an integer from 0 to 4;

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represents a divalent benzene group or a divalent cyclohexane group; G is -O-, -C(O)-, -CH₂-, or -(C₆H₄)- when

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is the divalent benzene group, or G is -O- or -CH₂-, when

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is the divalent cyclohexane group.

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[0017] B is selected from C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl; the unsubstituted and hydroxyl-substituted aryl groups, phenyl and naphthyl; or aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyl.

[0018] In another contemplated embodiment, R₁ is hydrogen. When n is one, A is selected from C₂-C₁₀ alkyl, phenyl, the group -R-(OR)_m-OH, or -(OR)_m-OH, wherein R is C₂-C₄ alkylene and m is an integer from 1 to 20. When n is from two to four, A is selected from C₂-C₁₀ alkylene, phenylene, the group -R-(OR)_m- or -(OR)_m-, wherein R and m are the same as defined hereinbefore; and phthaloyl. B is selected from C₂-C₁₀ alkyl, phenyl or phenyl(C₁-C₃)alkyl.

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[0019] Examples of the compound having at least one epoxy group in the molecule include ethylene glycol glycidyl ether, propylene glycol glycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol polyglycidyl ether, glycerol propoxylate triglycidyl ether, trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, butyl glycidyl ether, phenyl glycidyl ether, poly(ethylene glycol)diglycidyl ether, poly(propylene glycol)diglycidyl ether, neopentyl glycol diglycidyl ether, N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyoxyaniline, glycidyl phthalimide, N,N-diglycidyl toluidine, 1,6-hexane diol diglycidyl ether, diglycidyl 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylate; bisphenol A or hydrogenated bisphenol A propylene oxide adduct, diglycidyl ester of terephthalic acid, diglycidyl 1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalate, spiroglycol diglycidyl ether and hydroquinone diglycidyl ether. Such compounds may be used individually or in combination as mixtures.

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[0020] Plasticizers that may optionally be present are generally known in the art of making plastic. Typically, plasticizers are incorporated during polymerization or compounding into a plastic or elastomer to increase flexibility, workability, or distensibility. The optional plasticizers include the generally known classes of plasticizers except the aforementioned epoxy-containing compounds and the various organic polyols described hereinafter. Examples of the classes of plasticizers are listed in Table 117, Chemical Names of Plasticizers and their Brand Names, pp 140-188, of Plasticizer Evaluation and Performance by Ibert Mellan, Noyes Development Corporation, 1967; in Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry, Vol. 20, pp 439-458, 1992, and in Modern Plastics Encyclopedia, Mid-November 1998 Issue, volume 75, Number 12, pages C-105 to C-115.

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[0021] The various classes of plasticizers contemplated for use herein include: abietates, e.g. methyl abietate; acetates, e.g., glycidyl triacetate; adipates, e.g., dibutyl adipate; azelates, e.g., diisooctyl azelate; benzoates, e.g., polyethyleneglycol dibenzoate; biphenyls, e.g., camphor; caprylates, e.g., butanediol dicaprylate; citrates, e.g., triethyl citrate; dodecanedioates, e.g., dioctyl dodecanedioate; ethers, e.g., dibenzyl ether; fumarates, e.g., dioctyl fumarate; glutarates, e.g., diisodecyl glutarate; glycolates, e.g., di (2-ethylhexyl)diglycolate; isophthalate, e.g., dimethyl isophthalate; laurates, e.g., poly(ethylene glycol)monolaurate; maleates, e.g., dibutyl maleate; myristates, e.g., isopropyl myristate; oleates, e.g., methyloleate; palmitates, e.g., tetrahydrofurfuryl palmitate; paraffin derivatives, e.g., chlomenate paraffin; phosphates, e.g., 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphite; phthalates, e.g., dioctyl phthalate; ricinoleates, e.g., methoxyethyl rici-

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noleate; sebacates, e.g., diethyl sebacate; stearates, e.g., methylpentachlorostearate; sulfonamides, e.g., toluene sulfonamide; tartrates, e.g., butyl tartrates; terephthalates, e.g., dioctyl terephthalate; trimellitates, e.g., trioctyl trimellitate and mixtures of such plasticizers.

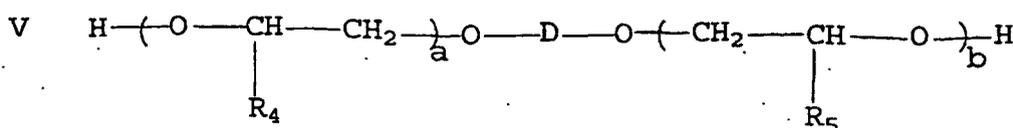
[0022] Examples of organic polyols that may be used in the present invention include (a) polyester polyols; (b) polyether polyols; (c) amide-containing polyols; (d) polyhydric polyvinyl alcohols; and (e) mixtures of such polyols. In one contemplated embodiment, the organic polyols are selected from polyether polyols, polyester polyols or mixtures thereof.

[0023] Polyester polyols are generally known. They are prepared by conventional techniques utilizing low, molecular weight diols, triols and polyhydric alcohols known in the art (optionally in combination with monhydric alcohols) with polycarboxylic acids. Examples of such low molecular weight polyols include ethylene glycol, trimethylolpropane and pentaerythritol. Examples of suitable polycarboxylic acids include: phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, trimellitic acid, tetrahydrophthalic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, fumaric acid and mixtures thereof. Anhydrides of the above acids, where they exist, can also be employed and are encompassed by the term "polycarboxylic acid". If a triol or polyhydric alcohol is used, a monocarboxylic acid, such as acetic acid and/or benzoic acid, may be used in the preparation of the polyester polyols, and for some purposes, such a polyester polyol maybe desirable.

[0024] Moreover, polyester polyols are understood herein to include polyester polyols modified with fatty acids or glyceride oils of fatty acids (i.e., conventional alkyd polyols containing such modification). In addition, certain materials that react in a manner similar to acids to form polyester polyols are also useful. Such materials include lactones, e.g., caprolactone, propiolactone and butyrolactone, and hydroxy acids such as hydroxycaproic acid and dimethylol propionic acid. Lactone polyesters are described in U.S. Patent 3,169,945. Commercially available lactone polyesters or polycaprolactone polyols are sold under the trademarks PLACCEL (Daicell Co. Ltd.) and TONE (Union Carbide). Specific examples of polycaprolactone polyols are materials obtained by the reaction of ϵ -caprolactone and a polyol, e.g., diol or triol.

[0025] Polyether polyols are generally known. Examples of polyether polyols include various polyoxyalkylene polyols, polyalkoxylated polyols, e.g., poly(oxytetramethylene)diols, and mixtures thereof. The polyoxyalkylene polyols can be prepared, according to well-known methods, by condensing alkylene oxide, or a mixture of alkylene oxide using acid or base catalyzed addition, with a polyhydric initiator or a mixture of polyhydric initiators such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, sorbitol and the like. Illustrative alkylene oxides include ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide, amylene oxide, aralkylene oxides, e.g., styrene oxide, and the halogenated alkylene oxides such as trichlorobutylene oxide and so forth. The more preferred alkylene oxides include propylene oxide and ethylene oxide or a mixture thereof using random or step-wise oxyalkylation. Examples of such polyoxyalkylene polyols include polyoxyethylene, i.e., polyethylene glycol, polyoxypropylene, i.e., polypropylene glycol.

[0026] Polyalkoxylated polyols may be represented by the following graphic formula V,



wherein a and b are each a positive number, the sum of a and b being from 2 to 70, R_4 and R_5 are each hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, preferably hydrogen or methyl and D is a divalent linking group selected from straight or branched chain alkylene (usually containing from 1 to 8 carbon atoms), phenylene, $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_9$ alkyl substituted phenylene or a group represented by the aforementioned graphic formula IV. Such materials may be prepared by methods that are well known in the art. One such commonly used method involves reacting a polyol, e.g., 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol, with an oxirane containing substance, for example ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, α -butylene oxide or β -butylene oxide, to form what is commonly referred to as an ethoxylated, propoxylated or butoxylated polyol having hydroxy functionality.

[0027] Examples of polyols suitable for use in preparing the polyalkoxylated polyols include low molecular weight polyols; phenylene diols such as ortho, meta and para dihydroxy benzene; alkyl substituted phenylene diols such as 2,6-dihydroxytoluene, 3-methylcatechol, 4-methylcatechol, 2-hydroxybenzyl alcohol, 3-hydroxybenzyl alcohol, and 4-hydroxybenzyl alcohol; dihydroxybiphenyls such as 4,4'-dihydroxybiphenyl and 2,2'-dihydroxybiphenyl; bisphenols such as 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol; 4,4'-oxybisphenol; 4,4'-dihydroxybenzenephenone; 4,4'-thiobisphenol; phenolphthalein; bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methane; 4,4'-(1,2-ethenediyl)bisphenol; and 4,4'-sulfonylbisphenol; halogenated bisphenols such as 4,4'-isopropylidenebis(2,6-dibromophenol), 4,4'-isopropylidenebis(2,6-dichlorophenol) and 4,4'-isopropylidenebis(2,3,5,6-tetrachlorophenol); and biscyclohexanols, which can be prepared by hydrogenating the corresponding bisphenols, such as 4,4'-isopropylidene-biscyclohexanol; 4,4'-oxybiscyclohexanol; 4,4'-thiobiscyclohexanol; and bis(4-hydroxycyclohexanol)methane.

[0028] The polyether polyols also include the generally known poly(oxytetramethylene)diols or polytetrahydrofuran diols prepared by the polymerization of tetrahydrofuran in the presence of Lewis acid catalysts such as boron trifluoride, tin (IV) chloride and sulfonyl chloride.

[0029] In one contemplated embodiment, the polyether polyols are selected from the group polyoxyalkylene polyols, polyalkoxylated polyols, poly(oxytetramethylene)diols or mixtures thereof.

[0030] Amide-containing polyols are generally known and typically are prepared from the reaction of diacids or lactones and low molecular weight polyols, e.g., aliphatic diols, triols, etc., with diamines or aminoalcohols as described hereinafter. For example, amide-containing polyols may be prepared by the reaction of neopentyl glycol, adipic acid and hexamethylenediamine. The amide-containing polyols may also be prepared through aminolysis by the reaction, for example, of carboxylates, carboxylic acids, or lactones with amino alcohols. Examples of suitable diamines and amino alcohols include hexamethylenediamines, ethylenediamines, phenylenediamine, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, isophorone diamine and the like.

[0031] Polyhydric polyvinyl alcohols are generally known and can be prepared, for example, by the polymerization of vinyl acetate in the presence of suitable initiators followed by hydrolysis of at least a portion of the acetate moieties. In the hydrolysis process, hydroxyl groups are formed which are attached directly to the polymer backbone. In addition to homopolymers, copolymers of vinyl acetate and monomers such as vinyl chloride can be prepared and hydrolyzed in similar fashion to form polyhydric polyvinyl alcohol-polyvinyl chloride copolymers.

[0032] The amount of kinetic enhancing additive used in the photochromic composition is not critical provided that it is a photochromic performance improving amount. Such an amount may range from 0.1 to 99.9 weight percent of the photochromic composition. In one contemplated embodiment, the amount of kinetic enhancing additive ranges from 1 to 75 weight percent of the photochromic composition. In another contemplated embodiment, the amount of kinetic enhancing additive ranges from 2 to 50 weight percent. In a still further contemplated embodiment, the amount of kinetic enhancing additive ranges from 3 to 30 weight percent. The amount of kinetic enhancing additive used may range between any combination of these values, inclusive of the recited ranges, e.g., from 0.15 to 99.85 weight percent, provided that the amount used is a photochromic performance improving amount.

[0033] The improvement in the photochromic performance resulting from the addition of the kinetic enhancing additive to the photochromic composition is evident by a higher rating in the Photochromic Performance Test than that of a composition without the kinetic enhancing additive. The percent improvement can be determined by subtracting the rating of the composition without kinetic enhancing additive from the rating of the composition with the kinetic enhancing additive, dividing the result by the rating of the composition without kinetic enhancing additive and multiplying by 100. The higher the percent improvement, the greater the effect of the kinetic enhancing additive and the more desirable the result. For example, percent improvements of 10, 15, 20, 30, 50, 90, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 1500 and higher are more desirable than percent improvements of from 1 to less than 10.

[0034] The photochromic compounds used in the photochromic composition of the present invention may be used alone or in combination with one of more other appropriate complementary organic photochromic compounds, i.e., organic photochromic compounds having at least one activated absorption maxima within the range of 400 and 700 nanometers, and which color when activated to an appropriate hue.

[0035] The complementary organic photochromic compounds may include polymerizable photochromic compounds, such as those disclosed in U.S. Patents 4,719,296; 5,166,345; 5,236,958; 5,252,742; 5,359,085; and 5,488,119. Further examples of complementary organic photochromic compounds include naphthopyrans, e.g., naphtho[1,2-b]pyrans and naphtho[2,1-b]pyrans, quinopyrans, indenonaphthopyrans, oxazines, e.g., benzoxazines, naphthoxazines and spiro(indoline)pyridobenzoxazines, phenanthropyrans, e.g., substituted 2H-phenanthro[4,3-b]pyran and 3H-phenanthro[1,2-b]pyran compounds, benzopyrans, e.g., benzopyran compounds having substituents at the 2-position of the pyran ring, and mixtures of such photochromic compounds. Such photochromic compounds are described in U. S. Patents 3,562,172; 3,567,605; 3,578,602; 4,215,010; 4,342,668; 4,816,584; 4,818,096; 4,826,977; 4,880,667; 4,931,219; 5,066,818; 5,238,981; 5,274,132; 5,384,077; 5,405,958; 5,429,774; 5,458,814; 5,466,398; 5,514,817; 5,552,090; 5,552,091; 5,565,147; 5,573,712; 5,578,252; 5,637,262; 5,645,767; 5,656,206; 5,658,500; 5,658,501; 5,674,432 and 5,698,141. Spiro(indoline)pyrans are also described in the text, Techniques in Chemistry, Volume III, "Photochromism", Chapter 3, Glenn H. Brown, Editor, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, 1971.

[0036] Other complementary photochromic substances contemplated are metal-dithiozonates, e.g., mercury dithiozonates which are described in, for example, U.S. Patent 3,361,706; and fulgides and fulgimides, e.g., the 3-furyl and 3-thienyl fulgides and fulgimides, which are described in U.S. Patent 4,931,220 at column 20, line 5 through column 21, line 38.

[0037] The photochromic articles of the present invention may contain one photochromic compound or a mixture of photochromic compounds, as desired.

[0038] Each of the photochromic substances described herein may be used in amounts (or in a ratio) such that a polymeric substrate to which the photochromic composition is associated, exhibits a desired resultant color, e.g., a substantially neutral color when activated with unfiltered sunlight, i.e., as near a neutral color as possible given the colors

of the activated photochromic compounds. Neutral gray and neutral brown colors are preferred. Further discussion of neutral colors and ways to describe colors may be found in U.S. Patent 5,645,767 column 12, line 66 to column 13, line 19.

5 [0039] The amount of the photochromic compounds to be used in the photochromic composition, which is incorporated into a polymeric organic host material, is not critical provided that a sufficient amount is used to produce a photochromic effect discernible to the naked eye upon activation. Generally, such amount can be described as a photochromic amount. The particular amount used depends often upon the intensity of color desired upon irradiation thereof and upon the method used to incorporate the photochromic composition. Typically, the more photochromic compound incorporated, the greater is the color intensity up to a certain limit.

10 [0040] The relative amounts of the aforesaid photochromic compounds used will vary and depend in part upon the relative intensities of the color of the activated species of such compounds, the ultimate color desired and the method of application of the photochromic composition to the polymeric substrate. In a typical commercial imbibition process, the amount of total photochromic compound incorporated into a receptive polymeric substrate may range from about 0.05 to about 2.0, e.g., from 0.2 to about 1.0, milligrams per square centimeter of surface to which the photochromic compound is incorporated or applied.

15 [0041] The amount of photochromic compound incorporated into the photochromic composition may range from 0.1 to 99.9 weight percent based on the weight of the composition. In one series of contemplated embodiments in which the photochromic composition is a combination of kinetic enhancing additive and photochromic compound, the amount of photochromic compound ranges from 25 to 99 weight percent, from 50 to 98 weight percent or from 70 to 97 weight percent. The amount of photochromic compounds used in the photochromic composition of the present invention may range between any combination of these values, inclusive of the recited ranges, e.g., from 0.15 to 99.85 weight percent.

20 [0042] In another series of contemplated embodiments in which there are three or more components in the photochromic composition, the amount of photochromic compound is equivalent to the amount of kinetic enhancing additive, e.g., 5 weight percent of each; is less than the amount of kinetic enhancing additive, e.g., 4 weight percent photochromic and 16 weight percent kinetic enhancing additive; or is more than the amount of kinetic enhancing additive, e.g., 40 weight percent photochromic compound and 10 weight percent kinetic enhancing additive. The sum of all the components in the photochromic composition is 100 percent.

25 [0043] The optional carrier of the present invention may be a solvent, i.e., an aqueous solvent, organic solvent or mixture of such solvents, a polymeric resin or a mixture of solvents and polymeric resin. Examples of solvent-carriers include water, benzene, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, ethanol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, n-methylpyrrolidone, 30 2-ethoxyethyl ether, 2-methoxyethyl ether, xylene, cyclohexane, 3-methyl cyclohexanone, ethyl acetate, tetrahydrofuran, methanol, methyl propionate, ethylene glycol, acetonitrile, butanol, methylisobutyl ketone, methylchloroform, isopropanol and mixtures of such solvents. Examples of polymeric resins include hydroxy (C₁-C₃)alkyl celluloses, poly(vinyl pyrrolidone) (PVP); mixtures of from 5 to 50 parts of hydroxy (C₁-C₃)alkyl celluloses and from 95 to 50 parts of PVP, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinylbutyral, copolymers of vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate, copolymers of vinyl chloride and vinylidene chloride, polyvinyl propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, and mixtures of such polymeric resins.

35 [0044] When the carrier is a solvent, the photochromic composition may be deposited on the surface of the polymeric substrate using a single step imbibition process or a multiple step process which may include high boiling liquids and the application of ultrasonic energy as described in U.S. Patent 5,789,015; the photochromic composition may be applied to a temporary support such as a sheet of paper which is placed directly on the polymeric substrate as described in U.S. Patent 4,286,957; the photochromic composition may utilize a non-polar solvent, which is used in a two-layer immersion bath as described in U.S. Patent 5,975,696; or the photochromic composition may be used in a different method known in the art for transferring photochromic compositions into polymeric substrates.

40 [0045] When the carrier in the photochromic composition includes a polymeric resin, the resin essentially serves as a film-forming binder for the other components of the composition. The affinity between the carrier and the other components, i.e., the solubility of the photochromic compounds and the kinetic enhancing additive in the carrier, should be sufficient to form a homogeneous solution and permit ready removal or transfer of these compounds from the resin film at the aforementioned concentrations. Also, the polymeric resin should not adhere strongly to the polymeric substrate to which it is applied so that it can be readily removed from the surface of the substrate without leaving marks on the surface.

45 [0046] Adjuvant materials may also be incorporated into the photochromic composition. For example, ultraviolet light absorbers and/or stabilizers may be included in the photochromic composition to improve the fatigue resistance of the photochromic substances. Adjuvants, such as hindered amine light stabilizers (HALS), antioxidants, e.g., polyphenolic antioxidants, ultraviolet light absorbers, such as asymmetric diaryloxalamide (oxanilide) compounds, and singlet oxygen quenchers, e.g., a nickel ion complex with an organic ligand, or mixtures of such materials are contemplated. They may be used alone, in combination or in combination with the additional conventional ingredients described hereinafter. Such stabilizers are described in U.S. Patents 4,720,356, 5,391,327 and 5,770,115.

50 [0047] The photochromic compositions used in the process of the present invention may further comprise additional conventional ingredients that impart desired physical characteristics to the composition or the resultant layer; that are required for the process used to apply the photochromic composition to the substrate; and/or that enhance the layer

made therefrom. Such additional ingredients include rheology control agents, e.g., silica, and leveling agents, e.g., surfactants.

5 [0048] The photochromic composition, i.e., the photochromic compound(s), kinetic enhancing additive and optional ingredients, can be prepared by any conventional technique. For example, the individual components may be mixed and used neat or may be dissolved in appropriate solvents before combining or each of the components may be sequentially dissolved or incorporated into a suitable carrier, with heat, if necessary.

10 [0049] The photochromic composition is applied to at least one principal surface, i.e., a flat or curved surface other than the side corresponding to the thickness of the imbibition-receiving surface of the polymeric host by techniques known in the art that are suitable to produce a mottle-free coating or film of uniform thickness. In one contemplated embodiment, the composition is applied in such a manner that the resulting film is substantially dry as soon as it is formed, i.e., the readily vaporizable solvent is substantially volatilized as the composition is applied to the receptor surface of the plastic host, thereby leaving a substantially dry film. Application techniques that may be employed include spraying, brushing, curtain coating, spin-coating, dip coating and use of a drawdown blade or wire bar.

15 [0050] Before applying the photochromic composition to the polymeric host, the surface of the polymer to which the composition is to be applied is preferably cleaned. Cleaning may be accomplished by washing the surface with an aqueous medium, e.g., soapy water, to remove dust and dirt; washing the surface with an organic solvent such as methylethylketone to remove any organic film present on the surface; and/or eliminating static charges that are present on the surface of the plastic material. Elimination of static electricity can be accomplished by commercially available equipment which ionize the air above the surface, thereby producing a conductive path which allows the static charge to drain off or otherwise be neutralized.

20 [0051] The surface of the plastic material to which the photochromic composition is applied should be receptive to imbibition of the photochromic compound(s) and kinetic enhancing additive during the heating step. If the receptor surface is not amenable to imbibition, it can be treated to permit improved diffusion of the photochromic composition into the subsurface of the polymeric host, e.g., by physically or chemically etching the surface. A receptive surface can be achieved usually by undercuring slightly the polymer during its formation. Such techniques are conventional in the polymerization art.

25 [0052] Following application of the photochromic-composition to the surface(s) of the polymeric organic host material, the substantially dry film or coating is permitted to completely dry. Drying can be conveniently conducted at room temperature in air; but, other conditions of drying which avoid crystallization of the photochromic compound within the resin film or coating may be used as the occasion warrants. Thereafter, the coated polymeric article is heated substantially uniformly at temperatures below the boiling temperature of the photochromic compound used. Heating can be accomplished by any convenient technique that results in substantially uniform heating of the coated polymeric host. In one contemplated embodiment, heating is accomplished in a conventional hot air recirculating oven, which allows for uniform heating and hence a constant driving force for transfer of the photochromic compound and kinetic enhancing additive into the polymeric host. Heating may also be accomplished in a vacuum or with use of an inert, e.g., nitrogen atmosphere.

30 [0053] The temperatures to which the coated polymeric article is heated will vary and depend on the boiling point and vapor pressure of the particular photochromic compound and kinetic enhancing additive utilized as well as the softening temperature of the synthetic polymeric article. Such temperatures should preferably be near to but below the boiling point of the photochromic compound and kinetic enhancing additive and below the softening temperature of the synthetic polymeric article. Moreover, such temperatures, i.e., photochromic transfer or incorporation temperatures, should be such as to avoid decomposition (pyrolysis) of the photochromic compound, as well as the kinetic enhancing additive. Hence, the transfer temperatures chosen are sufficient to raise the vapor pressure of the photochromic compound and kinetic enhancing additive adequately to permit its transfer into the polymeric host without significant decomposition to the compounds and softening of the polymeric host.

35 [0054] As the boiling points and vapor pressures of kinetic enhancing additive and photochromic compounds, e.g., chromene-type photochromic compounds, will vary depending on the nature of the compound and their substituents, one temperature range applicable to all photochromic compositions cannot be described. However, given the above requirements one skilled in the art can readily determine an appropriate temperature for heating the coated polymeric article. Transfer temperatures of between 5°C. and 50°C., less than the boiling temperature of the photochromic compound and the kinetic enhancing additive are contemplated except where significant decomposition of the compounds is experienced at such temperatures. Generally, in the imbibition art, temperatures used in association with organic photochromic compounds and polymeric lenses are between 100°C. and 160°C. In one contemplated embodiment, a transfer temperature of between 5 and 10°C less than the boiling temperature of the photochromic compound and other transferable components is used.

40 [0055] The coated polymeric article is maintained at the above-described transfer temperatures, for a time sufficient to allow a substantial portion, i.e., a photochromic amount, of the photochromic compound and a photochromic performance improving amount of kinetic enhancing additive, to diffuse into and penetrate beneath the surface of the plastic article. Typically, the heating period in commercial imbibition processes is from one hour to twelve hours, usually between

four and nine hours at the transfer temperatures.

[0056] The mechanism by which the photochromic compound and the kinetic enhancing additive transfer from the resin film or coating adhered to the surface of the polymeric host into the polymeric host material has not been established with certainty. It is postulated that thermal diffusion, sublimation and condensation or a combination of the aforesaid mechanisms may accomplish transfer. Whatever the specific mechanism(s), the photochromic compound and the kinetic enhancing additive permeate into the polymeric substrate, usually into the subsurface regions thereof, and become incorporated within the polymeric host material. In this manner, a photochromic amount of the photochromic substance and a photochromic performance improving amount of kinetic enhancing additive are transferred into and across the planar surface of the plastic host.

[0057] Following transfer of the photochromic and kinetic enhancing additive into the polymeric article, the coated polymer is allowed to cool, e.g., to room temperature, and subsequently the residual resin film, its concentration of the photochromic compounds and kinetic enhancing additive reduced, is removed from the surface of the polymeric host. Removal of the photochromic compound and kinetic enhancing additive-depleted film may be accomplished by any suitable technique; preferably a technique that does not impair the optical quality of the surface of the plastic. Conveniently, the depleted film is stripped from the polymeric substrate by contacting the film with a suitable solvent such as soapy water or organic solvents such as trichloroethylene, methylethylketone, methylisobutylketone, methylethylketone-toluene mixture, or other solvents such as: acetone, ethylene dichloride, chloroform and chlorobenzenes. The same solvent used to prepare the photochromic composition may be used to remove the residual resin film.

[0058] A suitable method for contacting the film or coating with organic solvent is in a vapor degreasing unit wherein the coated substrate is exposed to the vapors of the selected solvent(s) which condense on and run off the surface of the polymeric material, thereby washing the photochromic and kinetic enhancing additive-depleted resin film or coating from the surface. Alternatively, the resin film or coating can be removed by dipping the polymeric substrate into a bath of the solvent, spraying the solvent on the coated substrate or physically stripping the film or coating from the substrate. After the photochromic and kinetic enhancing additive-depleted or spent film or coating has been removed from the surface of the polymeric article, the surface can be washed with water, solvent or a suitable aqueous medium such as, for example, soap or detergent solutions and dried. If desired, the polymeric article can be tinted with conventional disperse and soluble dyes used in the tinting of organic plastic materials using techniques well known in the art, e.g., a conventional dye bath. Thereafter, the tinted polymeric article is washed, e.g., with soapy water, and dried. Tinting of the polymeric article can be performed immediately after removal of the spent resin film or coating and before cleaning the surface. Alternatively, tinting can be performed before the photochromic composition is applied.

[0059] The polymeric host material will usually be transparent, but may be translucent or even opaque. The host material need only be pervious to that portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, which activates the photochromic substance, i.e., that wavelength of ultraviolet (UV) light that produces the open or colored form of the substance and that portion of the visible spectrum that includes the absorption maximum wavelength of the substance in its UV activated form, i.e., the open form.

[0060] In one contemplated embodiment, the color of the host is such that it does not mask the color of the activated form of the photochromic compounds, i.e., so the change in color is readily apparent to the observer. In another contemplated embodiment, the polymeric organic host material is a solid transparent or optically clear material, e.g., materials suitable for optical applications, such as plano, ophthalmic and contact lenses, windows, automotive transparencies, e.g., windshields, aircraft transparencies, plastic sheeting, polymeric films, etc.

[0061] One polymeric organic host material which may be used with the photochromic imbibition composition described herein is a non-elastomeric poly(urea-urethane). Non-elastomeric poly(urea-urethane) is defined herein as the reaction product of reactants comprising (a) at least one polyol, e.g., diol; (b) at least one polyisocyanate having at least two isocyanato groups; (c) at least one polyamine having at least two amino groups, each amino group being independently selected from primary amino and secondary amino; and optionally, (d) at least one polyol having at least three hydroxyl groups. In one contemplated embodiment, the number of isocyanato groups of the isocyanate reactants is greater than the number of hydroxyl groups of the polyol reactants.

[0062] The preparation of poly(urea-urethane) is described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/499,054, filed February 4, 2000 and in United States Patents No. 3,866,242; 5,811,506; 5,962,617; and 5,962,619.

[0063] Examples of additional polymeric organic host materials which may be used with the photochromic composition described herein include: polymers, i.e., homopolymers and copolymers, of polyol(allyl carbonate) monomers, e.g., diethylene glycol bis(allyl carbonate) monomers, polyfunctional acrylate monomers, polyfunctional methacrylate monomers, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate monomers, diisopropenyl benzene monomers, ethoxylated bisphenol A dimethacrylate monomers, ethylene glycol bismethacrylate monomers, poly(ethylene glycol) bismethacrylate monomers, ethoxylated phenol bismethacrylate monomers, alkoxyated polyhydric alcohol acrylate monomers, such as ethoxylated trimethylol propane triacrylate monomers, diallylidene pentaerythritol monomers, urethane acrylate monomers, such as those described in U.S. Patent 5,373,033, and vinylbenzene monomers, such as those described in U.S. Patent 5,475,074 and styrene; polymers, i.e., homopolymers and copolymers, mono- or polyfunctional, e.g., di- or multi-functional, acrylate

and/or methacrylate monomers, poly(C₁-C₁₂ alkyl methacrylates), such as poly(methyl methacrylate), poly(oxyalkylene) dimethacrylate, poly(alkoxylated phenol methacrylates), cellulose acetate, cellulose triacetate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), polyurethanes, polythiourethanes, thermoplastic polycarbonates, polyesters, poly(ethylene terephthalate), polystyrene, poly(alpha methylstyrene), copoly(styrene-methyl methacrylate), copoly(styreneacrylonitrile), polyvinylbutyral and polymers, i.e., homopolymers and copolymers, of diallylidene pentaerythritol, particularly copolymers with polyol (allyl carbonate) monomers, e.g., diethylene glycol bis(allyl carbonate), and acrylate monomers, e.g., ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate. Further examples of polymeric organic host materials are disclosed in the U.S. Patent 5,753,146, column 8, line 62 to column 10, line 34.

[0064] Transparent copolymers and blends of transparent polymers are also suitable as host materials. In one contemplated embodiment, the host material or substrate for the photochromic composition is an optically clear polymerized organic material prepared from a thermoplastic polycarbonate resin, such as the carbonate-linked resin derived from bisphenol A and phosgene, which is sold under the trademark, LEXAN; a polyester, such as the material sold under the trademark, MYLAR; a poly(methyl methacrylate), such as the material sold under the trademark, PLEXIGLAS; polymerizates of a polyol(allyl carbonate) monomer, especially diethylene glycol bis(allyl carbonate), which monomer is sold under the trademark CR-39, and polymerizates of copolymers of a polyol (allyl carbonate), e.g., diethylene glycol bis(allyl carbonate), with other copolymerizable monomeric materials, such as copolymers with vinyl acetate, e.g., copolymers of from 80-90 percent diethylene glycol bis(allyl carbonate) and 10-20 percent vinyl acetate, particularly 80-85 percent of the bis(allyl carbonate) and 15-20 percent vinyl acetate, and copolymers with a polyurethane having terminal diacrylate functionality, as described in U.S. Patents 4,360,653 and 4,994,208; and copolymers with aliphatic urethanes, the terminal portion of which contain allyl or acrylyl functional groups, as described in U.S. Patent 5,200,483; poly(vinyl acetate), polyvinylbutyral, polyurethane, polymers of diethylene glycol dimethacrylate monomers, diisopropenyl benzene monomers, ethoxylated bisphenol A dimethacrylate monomers, ethylene glycol bismethacrylate monomers, poly(ethylene glycol) bismethacrylate monomers, ethoxylated phenol bismethacrylate monomers and ethoxylated trimethylol propane triacrylate monomers; cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, cellulose butyrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, polystyrene and copolymers of styrene with methyl methacrylate, vinyl acetate and acrylonitrile.

[0065] More particularly contemplated is use of the photochromic composition of the present invention with optical organic resin monomers used to produce optically clear polymeric coatings and polymerizates, i.e., materials suitable for optical applications, such as lenses for use in a pair of spectacles, e.g., plano or ophthalmic spectacle lenses, or for use as contact lenses. Optically clear polymerizates may have a refractive index that may range from about 1.35 to about 1.75, e.g., from about 1.495 to about 1.66.

[0066] Other examples of polymeric organic host materials are thermoplastic or thermosetting coatings described in the *Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*, Fourth Edition, Volume 6, pages 669 to 760. In one contemplated embodiment, thermosetting coatings are used. The polymeric coating applied to the surface of the substrate and imbibed with the photochromic composition of the present invention may be a coating that upon curing forms a polymeric layer selected from polyurethanes, aminoplast resins, poly(meth)acrylates, e.g., polyacrylates and polymethacrylates, poly-anhydrides, polyacrylamides, or epoxy resins, e.g., polyacid cured epoxy resins.

[0067] Specifically contemplated as host materials are polymerizates of Spectralite® lenses sold by Sola International, TRIVEX™ lenses and optical resins sold by PPG Industries, Inc. under the CR- designation, e.g., CR-307 and CR-407, and polymerizates prepared for use as hard or soft contact lenses. Methods for producing both types of contact lenses are disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,166,345, column 11, line 52, to column 12, line 52. Additional polymerizates contemplated for use with the photochromic compositions of the present invention are polymerizates used to form soft contact lenses with high moisture content described in U.S. Patent 5,965,630 and extended wear contact lenses described in U.S. Patent 5,965,631.

[0068] Photochromic articles prepared using the photochromic composition of the present invention may be coated with a silica, titania, and/or zirconia-based hard coating material. Alternatively, an organic hard coating material of the ultraviolet curable type may be applied so as to form a hard surface layer. Application of such protective coatings, e.g., abrasion resistant coatings, may be by any of the methods used in coating technology such as, for example, spray coating, spin coating, spread coating, curtain coating, dip coating or roll-coating. Other coatings and/or surface treatments, e.g., antireflective surface, hydrophobic coating, etc., may also be applied individually or sequentially to at least one surface of the photochromic articles of the present invention. An antireflective coating, e.g., a monolayer or multilayer of metal oxides, metal fluorides, or other materials, may be deposited onto the photochromic articles, e.g., lenses, of the present invention through vacuum evaporation, sputtering, or some other method.

[0069] The present invention is more particularly described in the following examples that are intended as illustrative only, since numerous modifications and variations therein will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

[0070] Examples 1 to 4 and Comparative Example 1 demonstrate the effects on the Photochromic Performance Rating of including 5 grams or 4 weight percent of polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (PEG(DGE)) in a photochromic imbibition composition as compared to an imbibition composition without PEG(DGE) and the effects of increasing the amount of

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PEG(DGE) by 5 gram increments to 20 grams or 16 weight percent in the photochromic composition.

EXAMPLE 1

5 **[0071]** The following materials were added in the order and the manner described to a container suitable for use with a BRINKMAN PT-3000 homogenizer:

Charge-1

Material	Weight (grams)
2-Ethoxy ethyl ether	50.0
Tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol	30.0
n-Methyl pyrrolidone	20.0
PEG (DGE) ⁽¹⁾	5.0
Hydroxypropyl cellulose	12.0
Silica	0.9

Charge-2

Material	Weight (grams)
Photochromic No. 1 ⁽²⁾	4.3
Photochromic No. 2 ⁽³⁾	1.7
SANDUVOR® 3056 UV stabilizer ⁽⁴⁾	1.8
IRGANOX® 3114 antioxidant ⁽⁵⁾	1.2
(1) Polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether having a number average molecular weight of 526. (2) A naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a blue color when irradiated with ultraviolet light. (3) A naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a yellow color when irradiated with ultraviolet light. (4) Hindered amine ultraviolet light stabilizer available from Sandoz Chemical Corp. (5) A polyphenolic antioxidant available from Ciba-Geigy Corporation.	

45 **[0072]** Charge 1 was added to the container and mixed by the homogenizer at a speed of 5000 rpm for 2 minutes or until the materials were dissolved. Charge-2 was then added to the container and the resulting mixture was heated and mixed until the materials were dissolved.

EXAMPLE 2

[0073] The procedure of Example 1 was followed except that the amount of PEG(DGE) added was 10.0 grams.

EXAMPLE 3

[0074] The procedure of Example 1 was followed except that the amount of PEG(DGE) added was 15.0 grams

EXAMPLE 4

55 **[0075]** The procedure of Example 1 was followed except that the amount of PEG(DGE) added was 20.0 grams.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

[0076] The procedure of Example 1 was followed except that PEG(DGE) was not included in the imbibition formulation.

[0077] Examples 5-11 and Comparative Example 2 demonstrate the effects on the Photochromic Performance Rating of including several different kinetic enhancing additives, individually, in a photochromic imbibition composition containing different photochromic compounds and stabilizers than used for Examples 1-4 and Comparative Example 1.

EXAMPLE 5

[0078] The procedure of Example 1 was followed except that in Charge 1, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether (TMPTGE) having a formula weight (FW) of 302; and Charge-2 was replaced by the following compounds in the amounts specified:

Material	Weight (grams)
Photochromic No. 3 ⁽⁶⁾	2.28
Photochromic No. 4 ⁽⁷⁾	0.48
Photochromic No. 5 ⁽⁸⁾	0.54
Photochromic No. 6 ⁽⁹⁾	2.70
TINUVIN® 144 UV Stabilizer ⁽¹⁰⁾	2.10
IRGANOX® 3114 Antioxidant	0.90
(6) A photochromic naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a blue color when irradiated with ultraviolet light. (7) A photochromic naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a blue-green color when irradiated with ultraviolet light. (8) A photochromic naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a yellow-orange color when irradiated with ultraviolet light. (9) A photochromic naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a yellow-orange color when irradiated with ultraviolet light. (10) Hindered amine ultraviolet light stabilizer available from Ciba-Geigy Corporation.	

EXAMPLE 6

[0079] The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced by an equal amount of N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidylloxylaniline (DGGA) having a FW of 277.

EXAMPLE 7

[0080] The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced by an equal amount of diglycidyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalate (DGTP) having a FW of 282.

EXAMPLE 8

[0081] The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced by an equal amount of poly(ethylene glycol)diglycidyl ether (PEG(DGE)) having a number-average molecular weight of 526.

EXAMPLE 9

[0082] The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced by an

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equal amount of poly(propylene glycol)diglycidyl ether (PPG(DGE)) having a number-average molecular weight of 380.

EXAMPLE 10

5 **[0083]** The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced by an equal amount of polycaprolactone diol (PCLD) having an number-average molecular weight of 530.

EXAMPLE 11

10 **[0084]** The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced by an equal amount of poly(ethylene glycol)monolaurate (PEGML) having a number-average molecular weight of 400.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2

15 **[0085]** The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was not included in the imbibition formulation.

[0086] Examples 12-22 and Comparative Example 3 demonstrate the effects on the Photochromic Performance Rating of using several different kinetic enhancing additives, individually, in a photochromic imbibition composition containing a mixture of some of the photochromic compounds and additives used in the imbibition composition of the previous two sets of examples and comparative examples.

EXAMPLE 12

25 **[0087]** The procedure of Example 5 was followed except that the following materials were used in Charge 2.

Material	Weight (grams)
Photochromic No. 7 ⁽¹⁰⁾	2.16
Photochromic No. 8 ⁽¹¹⁾	0.54
Photochromic No. 2	3.00
Photochromic No. 5	0.30
Tinuvin® 144 UV Stabilizer	0.60
Irganox® 3114 Antioxidant	1.2
Sanduvor 3058 UV Stabilizer ⁽¹²⁾	1.2
(10) A photochromic naphtho[1,2-b]pyran that exhibits a blue-gray color when irradiated with ultraviolet light.	
(11) A photochromic spironaphthoxazine that exhibits a green-blue color when irradiated with ultraviolet light.	
(12) Hindered amine ultraviolet light stabilizer available from Sandoz Chemical Corporation.	

EXAMPLE 13

50 **[0088]** The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of glycerol propoxylate triglycidyl ether (GPTGE) having an Epoxide equivalent weight of 620-680.

EXAMPLE 14

55 **[0089]** The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyoxy aniline (DGGA) having a. FW of 277.

EXAMPLE 15

5 [0090] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of diglycidyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalate (DGTP) having a FW of 282.

EXAMPLE 16

10 [0091] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of diglycidyl-1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylate (DGCHDC) having a FW of 284.

EXAMPLE 17

15 [0092] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of poly(ethylene glycol)diglycidyl ether (PEG(DGE)) having a number-average molecular weight of 526.

EXAMPLE 18

20 [0093] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of polycaprolactone diol (PCLD) having a number-average molecular weight of 530.

EXAMPLE 19

25 [0094] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylol propane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG-600) having an number-average molecular weight of 600.

EXAMPLE 20

30 [0095] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylol propane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of TERETHANE® 650 polyether glycol (PTHF) reported to be polytetrahydrofuran linear-chain polymer having a number-average molecular weight of 650.

EXAMPLE 21

35 [0096] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylol propane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG-900) having an number-average molecular weight of 900:

EXAMPLE 22

40 [0097] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylol propane triglycidyl ether was replaced with an equal amount of Benzoflex P-200 reported to be a polyethylene glycol dibenzoate (PEGDB).

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3

45 [0098] The procedure of Example 12 was followed except that trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether was not included in the imbibition formulation.

[0099] Examples 23-28 and Comparative Examples 4-7 demonstrate the effects on the Performance Rating of including different kinetic enhancing additives in the photochromic imbibition compositions for two different non-elastomeric urea-urethane lenses.

50 Example 23

Part A

55 [0100] The following materials were added in the order and the manner described to a suitable reaction vessel equipped with an agitator, a thermometer, nitrogen inlet and heat/cooling capabilities.

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<u>Material</u>	<u>Number of Equivalents</u>
PCLD (400 EW) ⁽¹³⁾	0.740
PCLD (200 EW) ⁽¹⁴⁾	0.115
PCLD (1000 EW) ⁽¹⁵⁾	0.025
Trimethylolpropane	0.120
DESMODUR W ⁽¹⁶⁾	2.700
(13) Polycaprolactone diol having an equivalent weight of about 400. (14) Polycaprolactone diol having an equivalent weight of about 200. (15) Polycaprolactone diol having an equivalent weight of about 1000. (16) Dicyclohexylmethane-4,4'-diisocyanate available from Bayer Corporation.	

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After addition of the materials, nitrogen was introduced into the vessel to provide a nitrogen blanket and the agitator was turned on. Heat was applied until the prepolymer reaction mixture reached a temperature of 250°F (121°C). Further heating was discontinued. The resulting exothermic reaction usually caused an increase in the temperature of the reaction mixture to about 280°F (138°C). If the temperature continued to rise above 280°F (138°C), cooling was applied. After the reaction temperature reached about 220°F (104°C), the prepolymer product was filtered through a 400 mesh filter. The resulting filtrate was cooled and transferred to a suitable container.

Part B

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[0101] The following materials were added in the order and the manner described to a reaction injection molding (RIM) machine, such as the Max Mixer available from Max Machines:

Charge-1

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[0102]

<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight (grams)</u>
Product of Part A	50.00

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Charge-2

[0103]

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<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight (grams)</u>
Diethyltoluenediamine	12.50

[0104] Charge-1 was added to the container. Charge-2 was added and the contents were rapidly mixed in the Max Mixer.

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Part C

[0105] The product of Part B was poured into molds measuring 60-80 mm that were treated with an external mold release agent, preheated to 150°C and placed in an oven at 150°C for 16 hours. Afterwards, the polymerizates were removed from the molds.

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Part D

[0106] The following materials were added in the order and the manner described to a container suitable for use with a BRINKMAN PT-3000 homogenizer:

Charge-1

[0107]

<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight (grams)</u>
2-Ethoxy ethyl ether	30.0
Tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol	35.0
n-Methyl pyrrolidone	20.0
PEG(DGE)	10.0
Hydroxypropyl cellulose	12.0
Silica	0.9

Charge-2

[0108]

<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight (grams)</u>
Photochromic No. 1	4.3
Photochromic No. 2	1.7
SANDUVOR 3056 UV stabilizer	1.8
IRGANOX® 3114 antioxidant	1.2

[0109] Charge-1 was added to the container and mixed by the homogenizer at a speed of 5000 rpm for 2 minutes or until the materials were dissolved. Charge-2 was added and the resulting mixture was heated and mixed until the materials were dissolved.

Part E

[0110] The solutions of Part D were imbibed into duplicate sample lenses prepared in Part C by applying the imbibition formulation onto the surface of the test lenses by spin coating. The average wet weight of the resin film that formed on the lens ranged from 0.35 to 0.40 milligrams per lens. The resin film was allowed to dry. The lenses were then heated in a hot-air oven at 135-140°C for 8 hours. After cooling, the resin film was removed from the test samples by rinsing with water and wiping with an acetone soaked tissue.

Comparative Example 4

[0111] The procedure of Example 23 was followed except that polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether was not included in Charge-1 of Part D. The amount of hydroxypropyl cellulose and silica remained the same. The amounts of the other materials were as follows:

<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight (grams)</u>
2-Ethoxy ethyl ether	35
Tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol	35
n-Methyl pyrrolidone	20

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Example 24

[0112] The procedure of Example 23 was followed except that the following formulation was used in Part A to prepare the prepolymer.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Number of Equivalents</u>
PCLD (400 EW)	0.75
PCLD (200 EW)	0.10
Trimethylolpropane	0.15
DESMODUR W	2.70

Comparative Example 5

[0113] The procedure of Example 24 was followed except that polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether was not included in Charge-1 of Part D. The amount of hydroxypropyl cellulose and silica remained the same. The amounts of the other materials were the same as in Comparative Example 4.

Example 25

[0114] The procedure of Example 23 was followed except that in Charge-1 of Part D, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (10 grams) was replaced with polycaprolactone diol (PCLD) (6.67 grams) having an number-average molecular weight of 530 and the following materials were used in Charge-2.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Weight (grams)</u>
Photochromic No. 3	2.28
Photochromic No. 4	0.48
Photochromic No. 5	0.54
Photochromic No. 6	2.70
TINUVIN®144 UV Stabilizer	2.1
IRGANOX® 3114 antioxidant	0.9

Example 26

[0115] The procedure of Example 25 was followed except that in Charge-1 of Part.D, polycaprolactone diol was replaced with an equal amount of polyethylene glycol (PEG-900) having an number-average molecular weight of 900.

Comparative Example 6

[0116] The procedure of Example 25 was followed except that polycaprolactone diol was not included in Charge-1 of Part D. The amount of hydroxypropyl cellulose and silica remained the same. The amounts of the other materials were the same as in Comparative Example 4.

Example 27

[0117] The procedure of Example 25 was followed except that the following formulation was used in Part A to prepare the prepolymer.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Number of Equivalents</u>
PCLD (400 EW)	0.75
PCLD (200 EW)	0.10

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(continued)

<u>Material</u>	<u>Number of Equivalents</u>
Trimethylolpropane	0.15
DESMODUR W	2.70

Example 28

[0118] The procedure of Example 26 was followed except that the following formulation was used in Part A to prepare the prepolymer.

<u>Material</u>	<u>Number of Equivalents</u>
PCLD (400 EW)	0.75
PCLD (200 EW)	0.10
Trimethylolpropane	0.15
DESMODUR W	2.70

Comparative Example 7

[0119] The procedure of Example 27 was followed except that polycaprolactone diol was not included in Charge-1 of Part D. The amount of hydroxylpropyl cellulose and silica remained the same. The amounts of the other materials were the same as in Comparative Example 4.

EXAMPLE 29

Part A

[0120] Testing of Examples 1-4 and Comparative Example (CE) 1 was done with 2 different sets of sample lenses. The "A" lenses were cast from an optical resin sold by PPG Industries, Inc. under the designation CR-307. The "B" lenses were Spectralite lenses obtained from Sola. In Table 1, the example number is followed by an A or B to indicate which lenses were used. The sample lenses were washed with dishwashing detergent and water, rinsed with deionized water and wiped with an acetone soaked tissue prior to the application of the example solutions. The solutions of Examples 1-4 and Comparative Example 1 were imbibed into the sample lenses by applying a film of the imbibition formulation onto the surface of the test lenses by spin coating. The average wet weight of the resin film ranged from 0.35 to 0.40 milligrams per lens. The applied film was allowed to dry. The lenses were then heated in a hot-air oven at 135-140°C for 8 hours. After cooling, the resin film was removed from the test samples by rinsing with water and wiping with an acetone soaked tissue.

[0121] Examples 5-22 and Comparative Examples 2 and 3 were individually applied to lenses cast from CR-307 monomer. Application of the imbibition solutions of these examples was done in the same way done for the previous examples. Heating of the coated lenses was done for 7 and/or 8 hours as indicated in Table 2.

Part B

[0122] The photochromic lenses prepared in Part A and the lenses of Examples 23-28 and Comparative Examples 4-7 were screened for ultraviolet absorbance and lenses having comparable UV absorbance at 390 nanometers were tested for photochromic response on an optical bench. The ultraviolet absorbance value gives an indication of the amount of photochromic compounds in the lens. The optical bench was maintained at a temperature of 72°F (22°C). The lenses of Examples 23-28, Comparative Examples 4-7 and the lenses imbibed with Examples 1-4 and Comparative Example 1 were activated for 30 minutes and the ΔOD was measured after the first 30 seconds and then after 15 minutes. Lenses imbibed with Examples 5-22 and Comparative Examples 2 and 3 were activated for 30 minutes and the ΔOD was measured after 15 minutes.

[0123] Prior to testing on the optical bench, the photochromic lenses were exposed to 365 nanometer ultraviolet light for about 20 minutes to activate the photochromic compounds and then placed in a 75°C oven for about 20 minutes to bleach (inactivate) the photochromic compounds. The lenses were then cooled to room temperature, exposed to fluo-

rescent room lighting for at least 3 hours and then kept covered for at least 1 hours prior to testing on an optical bench. The bench was fitted with a 300 watt Xenon arc lamp, a remote controlled shutter, a Schott 3mm KG-2 band-pass filter, which removes short wavelength radiation, neutral density filter(s), a quartz water cell/sample holder for maintaining sample temperature in which the lens to be tested was inserted.

[0124] Measurements were made on the optical bench in the Photochromic Performance Test with the power output adjusted to 0.67 milliwatts per square centimeter (mW/cm²). Measurement of the power output was made using a GRASEBY Optronics Model S-371 portable photometer (Serial #21536) with a UV-A detector (Serial # 22411) or comparable equipment. The UV-A detector was placed into the sample holder and the light output was measured. Adjustments to the power output were made by increasing or decreasing the lamp wattage or by adding or removing neutral density filters in the light path.

[0125] A monitoring, collimated beam of light from a tungsten lamp was passed through the sample at 30° normal to the surface of the lens. After passing through the lens, the light from the tungsten lamp was directed through a photopic filter attached to a detector. The output signals from the detector were processed by a radiometer. The control of the test conditions and acquisition of data was handled by the Labtech Notebook Pro software and the recommended I/O board.

[0126] Change in optical density (ΔOD) from the bleached state to the darkened state was determined by establishing the initial transmittance, opening the shutter from the Xenon lamp to provide ultraviolet radiation to change the test lens from the bleached state to an activated (i.e., darkened) state at selected intervals of time, measuring the transmittance in the activated state, and calculating the change in optical density according to the formula: $\Delta OD = \log(\%T_b/\%T_a)$, where $\%T_b$ is the percent transmittance in the bleached state, $\%T_a$ is the percent transmittance in the activated state and the logarithm is to the base 10.

[0127] The Bleach Rate (T 1/2) is the time interval in seconds for the ΔOD of the activated form of the photochromic compound in the coated lenses to reach one half the highest ΔOD after removal of the source of activating light. Results for the photochromic imbedded lenses of Examples 1-4 and Comparative Example 1 are listed in Table 1, of Examples 5-22 and Comparative Examples 2 and 3 are listed in Table 2 and of Examples 23-28 and Comparative Examples 4-7 are listed in Table 3. A column identifying the kinetic enhancing additive (KEA) by the abbreviation used in the examples is included with the Example No. in Tables 2 and 3.

[0128] The results of Examples 5-11 should be compared to Comparative Example 2, Examples 12-22 should be compared to Comparative Example 3, Example 23 should be compared to Comparative Example 4, Example 24 should be compared to Comparative Example 5, Examples 25 and 26 should be compared to Comparative Example 6, and Examples 27 and 28 should be compared to Comparative Example 7.

[0129] It is important that the substrate of the Comparative Example is from the same batch of material used to produce the substrate of the Examples. This is done to avoid the effects of any variation in the batches on the outcome of the Photochromic Performance Test.

[0130] Also included in Tables 1 and 2 is a Performance Rating resulting from the Photochromic Performance Test. The Photochromic Performance Test utilizes the ΔOD at 15 minutes and Bleach Rate results to determine a rating of the photochromic performance. The Performance Rating is calculated by dividing the ΔOD at 15 minutes by the T 1/2 and multiplying the result by 10,000. The higher the Performance Rating, the more kinetically enhanced the photochromic compounds are as compared to the Comparative Examples without the additive of the present invention.

TABLE 1

Example No.	$\Delta OD@30$ seconds	$\Delta OD@15$ minutes	T 1/2 seconds	Performance Rating
1A	0.13	0.48	170	28.2
2A	0.14	0.45	128	35.2
3A	0.15	0.45	116	38.8
4A	0.15	0.41	94	43.6
CE 1A	0.12	0.49	201	24.4
1B	0.23	0.56	93	60.2
2B	0.25	0.54	81	66.7
3B	0.26	0.53	74	71.6
4B	0.25	0.51	71	71.8

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(continued)

Example No.	$\Delta OD@30$ seconds	$\Delta OD@15$ minutes	T 1/2 seconds	Performance Rating
CE 1B	0.22	0.57	117	48.7

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TABLE 2

Example No. (KEA)	Imbibition Time (hrs.)	$\Delta OD@15$ minutes	T 1/2 seconds	Performance Rating
5 (TMPTGE)	7	0.64	112	57.1
6 (DGGA)	7	0.61	130	46.9
7 (DGTP)	7	0.61	130	46.9
8 (PEG(DGE))	7	0.42	102	41.2
	8	0.56	120	46.7
9 (PPG(DGE))	8	0.62	155	40.0
10 (PCLD)	8	0.57	121	47.1
11 (PEGML)	8	0.57	130	43.8
CE 2	8	0.59	177	33.3
12 (TMPTGE)	7	0.48	73	65.8
13 (GPTGE)	7	0.40	84	47.6
14 (DGGA)	7	0.50	77	64.9
15 (DGTP)	7	0.53	96	55.2
16 (DGCHDC)	7	0.49	95	51.6
17 (PEG(DGE))	7	0.37	67	55.2
	8	0.45	81	55.6
18 (PCLD)	8	0.43	87	49.4
19 (PEG-600)	8	0.45	95	47.4
20 (PTHF)	8	0.45	90	50.0
21 (PEG-900)	8	0.44	81	54.3
22 (PEGDB)	8	0.52	97	53.6
CE 3	8	0.55	141	39.0

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TABLE 3

Example No.	$\Delta OD@30$ seconds	$\Delta OD@15$ minutes	T 1/2 seconds	Performance Rating
23 (PEG(DGE))	0.15	0.46	162	28.4
CE 4	0.03	0.26	1032	2.5
24 (PEG(DGE))	0.12	0.40	206	19.4
CE 5	0.03	0.22	1496	1.5
25 (PCLD)	0.24	0.61	121	50.4
26 (PEG-900)	0.13	0.41	221	18.6

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(continued)

Example No.	$\Delta OD@30$ seconds	$\Delta OD@15$ minutes	T 1/2 seconds	Performance Rating
CE 6	0.07	0.43	804	5.3
27 (PEG(DGE))	0.20	0.55	147	37.4
28	0.08	0.28	312	9.0
CE 7	0.05	0.33	>904	<3,7

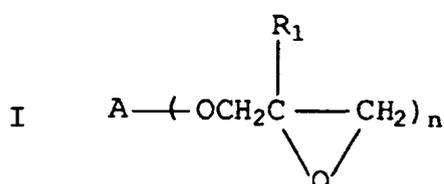
[0131] The results of Table 1 show that the photochromic lenses prepared using either CR-307 monomer resin or Spectralite lenses and the solutions of Examples 1-4 got darker after 30 seconds and faded faster than the photochromic lenses prepared using the solution of CE 1. The Performance Rating for each of the Example treated lenses was higher than that of the Comparative Examples for both types of lenses tested.

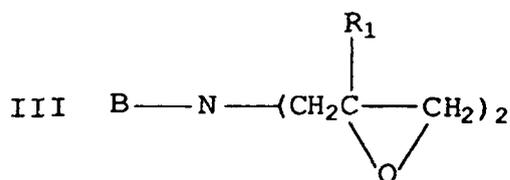
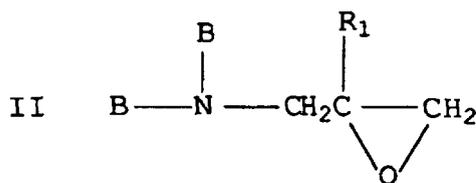
[0132] The results of Table 2 show that the lenses imbibed with the solutions of Examples 5-11 and 12-22 demonstrated Bleach Rates that were faster and Performance Ratings that were higher than those imbibed with the corresponding Comparative Examples 2 and 3. Also, when the imbibition time was extended from 7 to 8 hours for lenses treated with the solutions of Examples 8 and 17 the performance rating also increased.

[0133] The results of Table 3 show that all of the photochromic lenses that were prepared using photochromic imbibition solutions of the present invention in Examples 23-28, got darker after 30 seconds and 15 minutes and faded faster than the photochromic lenses prepared using Comparative Examples 4-7 in the Photochromic Performance Test. The Performance Rating for each of the Example lenses was higher than that of the Comparative Examples.

Claims

1. A photochromic imbibition composition comprising organic photochromic compound(s) and a photochromic performance improving amount of kinetic enhancing additive as measured in the Photochromic Performance Test being selected from epoxy-containing compound(s), organic polyol(s) or a mixture of such kinetic enhancing additives and optionally carrier, ultraviolet light stabilizer(s), ultraviolet light absorber(s), antioxidant(s), rheology control agent(s) and/or leveling agent(s), the photochromic imbibition composition being removable by contacting with a solvent after being applied to a polymeric substrate and heated to a temperature less than the boiling point of the photochromic compound(s) and kinetic enhancing additive(s) and for a period of time sufficient to permit transfer of the photochromic compound(s) and kinetic enhancing additive(s) into the substrate.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the photochromic imbibition composition is removable by contacting with a solvent after being applied to a polymeric substrate and heated to a temperature of between 100°C and 160°C for 1 to 12 hours.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the epoxy-containing compound(s) is selected from the group represented by the following graphic formulae I, II, III or a mixture thereof;

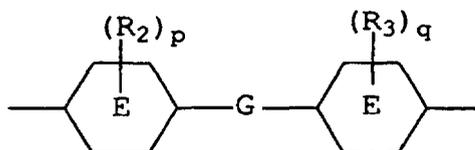




wherein

20 (i) R_1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_3 alkyl;

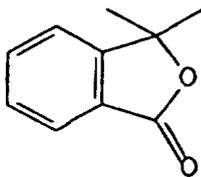
(ii) n is an integer selected from one, two, three or four; when n is one, A is selected from C_2-C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_2-C_{20} alkyl, C_3-C_{20} cycloalkyl, substituted C_3-C_{20} cycloalkyl; the unsubstituted or substituted aryl groups, phenyl and naphthyl; aryl (C_1-C_3)alkyl, substituted aryl(C_1-C_3)alkyl, acryloxy, methacryloxy; the group $-C(O)Y$, wherein Y is C_2-C_{20} alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy or aryl; or the group $-R-(OR)_m-OH$ or $-(OR)_m-OH$, wherein R is C_2-C_4 alkylene and m is an integer from 1 to 20; said alkyl and cycloalkyl substituents being carboxy, hydroxy or C_1-C_3 alkoxy, said aryl and aryl(C_1-C_3)alkyl substituents being carboxy, hydroxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxy or C_1-C_3 alkyl; or when n is from two to four, A is selected from C_2-C_{20} alkylene, substituted C_2-C_{20} alkylene, C_3-C_{20} cycloalkylene, substituted C_3-C_{20} cycloalkylene; the unsubstituted or substituted arylene groups, phenylene and naphthylene; aryl(C_1-C_3)alkylene, substituted aryl(C_1-C_3)alkylene; the group $-C(O)Z(O)C-$ wherein Z is C_2-C_{20} alkylene or arylene; the group $-R-(OR)_m-$ or $-(OR)_m-$, wherein R and m are the same as defined hereinbefore; phthaloyl, isophthaloyl, terephthaloyl; hydroxyl-substituted phthaloyl, hydroxy-substituted isophthaloyl, hydroxy-substituted terephthaloyl; or a group represented by the following graphic formula:



wherein R_2 and R_3 are each C_1-C_4 alkyl, chlorine or bromine; p and q are each an integer from 0 to 4;



50 represents a divalent benzene group or a divalent cyclohexane group; G is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O)_2-$, $-C(O)-$, $-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$, $-C(CH_3)(C_6H_5)-$, $-(C_6H_4)-$ or



when



is the divalent benzene group; or G is -O-, -S-, -CH₂-, or -C(CH₃)₂-, when



is the divalent cyclohexane group; said alkylene and cycloalkylene substituents being carboxy, hydroxy or C₁-C₃ alkoxy; said arylene and aryl (C₁-C₃)alkylene substituents being carboxy, hydroxy, C₁-C₃ alkoxy or C₁-C₃ alkyl; and

(iii) B is selected from C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, substituted C₂-C₂₀ alkyl, C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl, substituted C₃-C₂₀ cycloalkyl; the unsubstituted or substituted aryl groups, phenyl and naphthyl; aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyl or substituted aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyl; said alkyl and cycloalkyl substituents being carboxy, hydroxy or C₁-C₃ alkoxy, said aryl and aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyl substituents being carboxy, hydroxy, C₁-C₃ alkoxy or C₁-C₃ alkyl.

4. The composition of claim 3 wherein R₁ is hydrogen; A is selected from C₂-C₁₀ alkyl, phenyl, -R-(OR)_m-OH or -(OR)_m-OH, wherein R is C₂-C₄ alkylene and m is an integer from 1 to 20, when n is one; or when n is from two to four, A is selected from C₂-C₁₀ alkylene, phenylene, -R-(OR)_m- or -(OR)_m-, wherein R and m are the same as defined hereinbefore; or phthaloyl; B is selected from C₂-C₁₀ alkyl, phenyl or phenyl (C₁-C₃)alkyl.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the epoxy-containing compound is selected from ethylene glycol glycidyl ether, propylene glycol glycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol polyglycidyl ether, glycerol propoxylate triglycidyl ether, trimethylolpropane triglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, butyl glycidyl ether, phenyl glycidyl ether, poly(ethylene glycol)diglycidyl ether, poly(propylene glycol)diglycidyl ether, neopentyl glycol diglycidyl ether, N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidylloxaniline, glycidyl phthalimide, N,N'-diglycidyltoluidine, 1,6-hexane diol diglycidyl ether, diglycidyl 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylate, bisphenol A or hydrogenated bisphenol A propylene oxide adduct, diglycidyl ester of terephthalic acid, diglycidyl 1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalate, spiroglycoldiglycidyl ether, hydroquinone diglycidyl ether or mixtures of such epoxy-containing compounds.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the organic polyol(s) is selected from polyester polyols, polyether polyols, amide-containing polyols, polyhydric polyvinyl alcohols or mixtures of such polyols.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the kinetic enhancing additive is selected from polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, trimethylol propane triglycidyl ether, N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidylloxaniline, diglycidyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalate, polycaprolactone diol, glycerol propoxylate triglycidyl ether, diglycidyl-1,2-cyclohexane dicarboxylate, poly(ethylene glycol), polytetrahydrofuran diols, or mixtures of such kinetic enhancing additives.
8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the photochromic compound(s) have at least one activated absorption maxima within the range of 400 and 700 nanometers.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein the photochromic compound(s) are selected from naphthopyrans, benzopyrans, indenonaphthopyrans, quinopyrans, phenanthropyrans, oxazines, metal dithizonates, fulgides, fulgimides or mixtures thereof.

5 10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the carrier is selected from solvent(s), polymeric resin(s) or a mixture thereof.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein the carrier is selected from water, benzene, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, acetone, ethanol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, n-methyl pyrrolidone, 2-ethoxyethyl ether, 2-methoxyethyl ether, xylene, cyclohexane, 3-methyl cyclohexanone, ethyl acetate, tetrahydrofuran, methanol, methyl propionate, ethylene glycol, hydroxy(C₁-C₃)alkyl cellulose, poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl butyral, polyvinyl propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate or a mixture of such carriers.

12. A process of imparting photochromism to an organic polymeric host material, wherein organic photochromic compound(s) is imbibed into the organic polymeric host material from a photochromic composition according to any of claims 1 to 11.

13. The process of claim 12 wherein the organic polymeric host material is selected from poly(urea-urethane), poly(C₁-C₁₂ alkyl methacrylates), poly(oxyalkylene) dimethacrylates, poly(alkoxylated phenol methacrylates), cellulose acetate, cellulose triacetate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), thermoplastic polycarbonates, polyesters, polyurethanes, polythiourethanes, poly(ethylene terephthalate), polystyrene, poly(alpha methylstyrene), copoly(styrene-methylmethacrylate), copoly(styreneacrylonitrile), polyvinylbutyral and polymers of polyol(allyl carbonate) monomers, polyfunctional acrylate monomers, polyfunctional methacrylate monomers, diethylene glycol dimethacrylate monomers, diisopropenyl benzene monomers, ethoxylated bisphenol A dimethacrylate monomers, ethylene glycol bismethacrylate monomers, poly(ethylene glycol) bismethacrylate monomers, ethoxylated phenol methacrylate monomers, alkoxylated polyhydric alcohol acrylate monomers, diallylidene pentaerythritol monomers, urethane acrylate monomers, vinylbenzene monomers, styrene monomers and mixtures of such monomers.

14. A photochromic article comprising a polymeric substrate and

- (a) a photochromic amount of an organic photochromic compound, and
- (b) a photochromic performance enhancing amount of a kinetic enhancing additive chosen from epoxy-containing compounds, organic polyols, and mixtures thereof,

both of which (a) and (b) are within the subsurface region of the polymeric substrate.

15. The photochromic article of claim 14, wherein the organic photochromic compound (a) and/or the kinetic enhancing additive (b) is defined as in any of claims 3 to 9.

Patentansprüche

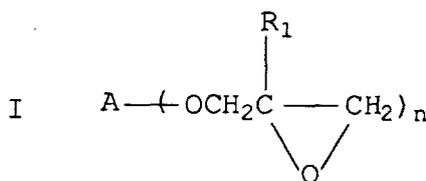
1. Photochrome Imbibierungszusammensetzung, enthaltend organische photochrome Verbindung(en) und ein die Kinetik verbesserndes Additiv in einer Menge, die die photochrome Leistungsfähigkeit, gemessen mit dem Photochromen Leistungstest, erhöht, ausgewählt aus epoxyhaltiger(n) Verbindung(en), organischem(n) Polyol(en) oder einer Mischung solcher die Kinetik verbessernden Additive, und wahlweise Träger, UV-LichtStabilisator(en), UV-Licht-Absorber(n), Antioxidationsmittel(n), Rheologieregelmittel(n) und/oder Verlaufmittel(n), wobei die photochrome Imbibierungszusammensetzung durch In-Kontakt-Bringen mit einem Lösungsmittel, nachdem sie auf ein polymeres Substrat aufgebracht und auf eine Temperatur gebracht worden ist, die niedriger als der Siedepunkt der photochromen Verbindung(en) und des(der) die Kinetik verbessernden Additivs(e) ist, und für einen Zeitraum erwärmt worden ist, der ausreicht, um den Transfer der photochromen Verbindung(en) und des(der) die Kinetik verbessernden Additivs(e) in das Substrat zu erlauben, entfernbar ist.

2. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die photochrome Imbibierungszusammensetzung durch In-Kontakt-Bringen mit einem Lösungsmittel, nachdem sie auf ein polymeres Substrat aufgebracht und auf eine Temperatur zwischen 100°C und 160°C für 1 bis 12 Stunden erwärmt worden ist, entfernbar ist.

3. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die epoxyhaltige(n) Verbindung(en) ausgewählt ist(sind) aus der Gruppe

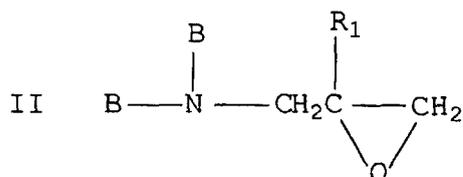
dargestellt durch die folgenden grafischen Formeln I, II oder III oder einer Mischung davon:

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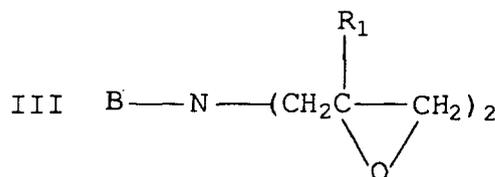
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(i) R_1 Wasserstoff oder C_1 - C_3 -Alkyl ist;

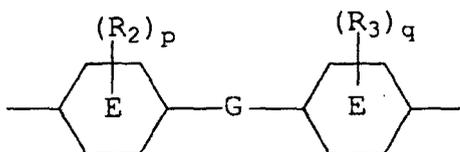
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(ii) n eine ganze Zahl ist, ausgewählt aus 1, 2, 3 oder 4; wenn n gleich 1 ist, A ausgewählt ist aus C_2 - C_{20} -Alkyl, substituiertem C_2 - C_{20} -Alkyl, C_3 - C_{20} -Cycloalkyl, substituiertem C_3 - C_{20} -Cycloalkyl; den unsubstituierten oder substituierten Arylgruppen Phenyl und Naphthyl; Aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkyl, substituiertem Aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkyl, Acryloxy, Methacryloxy; der Gruppe $-C(O)Y$, worin Y gleich C_2 - C_{20} -Alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -Alkoxy oder Aryl ist; oder der Gruppe $-R-(OR)_m-OH$ oder $-(OR)_m-OH$, worin R gleich C_2 - C_4 -Alkylen ist und m eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 20 ist; wobei diese Substituenten der Alkyl- und Cycloalkylgruppen Carboxy, Hydroxy oder C_1 - C_3 -Alkoxy sind, diese Substituenten der Aryl- und Aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkylgruppen Carboxy, Hydroxy, C_1 - C_3 -Alkoxy oder C_1 - C_3 -Alkyl sind; oder wenn n gleich 2 bis 4 ist, A ausgewählt ist aus C_2 - C_{20} -Alkylen, substituiertem C_2 - C_{20} -Alkylen, C_3 - C_{20} -Cycloalkylen, substituiertem C_3 - C_{20} -Cycloalkylen; den unsubstituierten oder substituierten Arylengruppen Phenylen und Naphthylene; Aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkylen, substituiertem Aryl(C_1 - C_3)alkylen; der Gruppe $-C(O)Z(O)C-$, worin Z gleich C_2 - C_{20} -Alkylen oder Arylen ist; der Gruppe $-R-(OR)_m-$ oder $-(OR)_m-$, worin R und m dieselben sind wie hierin zuvor definiert; Phthaloyl, Isophthaloyl, Terephthaloyl; hydroxysubstituiertem Phthaloyl, hydroxysubstituiertem Isophthaloyl, hydroxysubstituiertem Terephthaloyl oder einer Gruppe, die durch die folgende grafische Formel wiedergegeben ist:

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worin R_2 und R_3 jeweils C_1 - C_4 -Alkyl, Chlor oder Brom sind; p und q jeweils ganze Zahlen von 0 bis 4 sind;

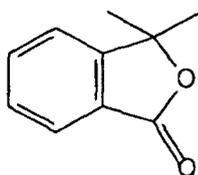
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für eine divalente Benzolgruppe oder eine divalente Cyclohexangruppe steht; G gleich -O-, -S-, -S(O₂)-, -C(O)-, -CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -C(CH₃)₂-, -C(CH₃)(C₆H₅)-, -(C₆H₄)- oder

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ist, wenn

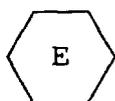
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die divalente Benzolgruppe ist; oder G gleich -O-, -S-, -CH₂- oder -C(CH₃)₂- ist, wenn

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die divalente Cyclohexangruppe ist; wobei diese Substituenten der Alkyl- und Cycloalkylgruppen Carboxy, Hydroxy oder C₁-C₃-Alkoxy sind; diese Substituenten der Aryl- und Aryl(C₁-C₃)alkylgruppen Carboxy, Hydroxy, C₁-C₃-Alkoxy oder C₁-C₃-Alkyl sind; und

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(iii) B ausgewählt ist aus C₂-C₂₀-Alkyl, substituiertem C₂-C₂₀-Alkyl, C₃-C₂₀-Cycloalkyl, substituiertem C₃-C₂₀-Cycloalkyl; den unsubstituierten oder substituierten Arylgruppen Phenyl und Naphthyl; Aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyl oder substituiertem Aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyl; wobei diese Substituenten der Alkyl- und Cycloalkylgruppen Carboxy, Hydroxy oder C₁-C₃-Alkoxy sind, diese Substituenten der Aryl- und Aryl-(C₁-C₃)alkylgruppen Carboxy, Hydroxy, C₁-C₃-Alkoxy oder C₁-C₃-Alkyl sind.

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4. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 3, worin R₁ Wasserstoff ist; A ausgewählt ist aus C₂-C₁₀-Alkyl, Phenyl, -R-(OR)_m-OH oder -(OR)_m-OH, worin R gleich C₂-C₄-Alkyl ist und m eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 20 ist, wenn n gleich 1 ist, oder, wenn n gleich 2 bis 4 ist, A ausgewählt ist aus C₂-C₁₀-Alkyl, Phenyl, -R-(OR)_m- oder -(OR)_m-, worin R und m dieselben wie oben definiert sind; oder Phthaloyl; B ausgewählt ist aus C₂-C₁₀-Alkyl, Phenyl oder Phenyl(C₁-C₃)alkyl.

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5. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die epoxyhaltige Verbindung ausgewählt ist aus Ethylenglykoldiglycidylether, Propylenglykoldiglycidylether, Glycerinpolyglycidylether, Diglycerinpolyglycidylether, Glycerinpropoxylatriglycidylether, Trimethylolpropantriglycidylether, Sorbitolpolyglycidylether, Butylglycidylether, Phenylglycidylether, Poty (ethylenglykol)diglycidylether, Poly(propylenglykol)diglycidylether, Neopentylglykoldiglycidylether, N,N-Diglycidyl-4-glycidylloxylanilin, Giycidylphthalimid, N,N'-Diglycidyltoluidin, 1,6-Hexandioldiglycidylether, Diglycidyl-1,2-cyclohexandicarboxylat, Bisphenol-A- oder hydriertes Bisphenol-A-propylenoxidaddukt, Diglycidylester von Terephthalsäure, Diglycidyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalat, Spiroglykoldiglycidylether, Hydrochinondiglycidylether oder Mischungen solcher epoxyhaltigen Verbindungen.

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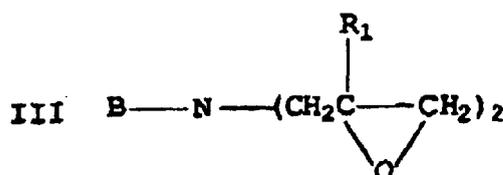
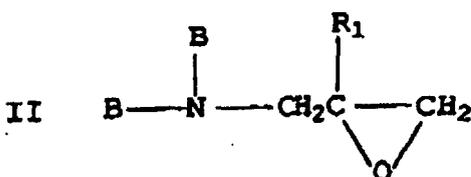
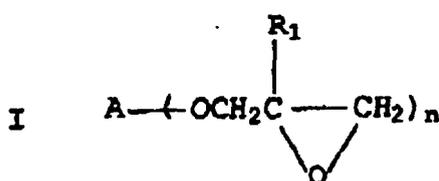
6. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das(die) organische(n) Polyol(e) ausgewählt ist(sind) aus Polyesterpolyolen, Polyetherpolyolen, amidhaltigen Polyolen, Polyhydroxypolyvinylalkoholen oder Mischungen solcher Polyole.
- 5 7. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das die Kinetik verbessernde Additiv ausgewählt ist aus Polyethylenglykoldiglycidylether, Trimethylolpropantriglycidylether, N,N-Diglycidyl-4-glycidylloxylanilin, Diglycidyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydrophthalat, Polycaprolactondiol, Glycerinpropoxylatriglycidylether, Diglycidyl-1,2-cyclohexandicarboxylat, Poly(ethylenglykol), Polytetrahydrofuran diolen oder Mischungen solcher die Kinetik verbessernden Additive.
- 10 8. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die photochrome(n) Verbindung(en) wenigstens ein aktiviertes Absorptionsmaximum im Bereich zwischen 400 und 700 nm aufweist(aufweisen).
9. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 8, wobei die photochrome(n) Verbindung(en) ausgewählt ist(sind) aus Naphthopyranen, Benzopyranen, Indenonaphthopyranen, Chinopyranen, Phenanthropyranen, Oxazinen, Metalldithizonaten, Fulgiden, Fulgimiden oder Mischungen davon.
- 15 10. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Träger ausgewählt ist aus Lösungsmittel(n), polymerem(n) Harz(en) oder einer Mischung davon.
- 20 11. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 10, wobei der Träger ausgewählt ist aus Wasser, Benzol, Toluol, Methylethylketon, Aceton, Ethanol, Tetrahydrofurfurylalkohol, n-Methylpyrrolidon, 2-Ethoxyethylether, 2-Methoxyethylether, Xylol, Cyclohexan, 3-Methylcyclohexanon, Ethylacetat, Tetrahydrofuran, Methanol, Methylpropionat, Ethylenglykol, Hydroxy(C₁-C₃)-alkylcellulose, Poly(vinylpyrrolidon), Polyvinylchlorid, Polyvinylacetat, Polyvinylbutyral, Polyvinylpropionat, Celluloseacetatbutyrat oder einer Mischung solcher Träger.
- 25 12. Verfahren, um einem organischen polymeren Wirtsmaterial photochrome Eigenschaften zu verleihen, wobei organische photochrome Verbindung(en) in das organische polymere Wirtsmaterial aus einer photochromen Zusammensetzung gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 11 imbibiert wird(werden).
- 30 13. Verfahren nach Anspruch 12, wobei das organische polymere Wirtsmaterial ausgewählt ist aus Poly(harnstoffurethan), Poly(C₁-C₁₂-alkylmethacrylaten), Poly(oxyalkylen)dimethacrylaten, poly(alkoxylierten Phenolmethacrylaten), Celluloseacetat, Cellulosetriacetat, Celluloseacetatpropionat, Celluloseacetatbutyrat, Poly(vinylacetat), Poly(vinylalkohol), Poly(vinylchlorid), Poly(vinylidenchlorid), thermoplastischen Polycarbonaten, Polyestern, Polyurethanen, Polythiourethanen, Poly(ethylenterephthalat), Polystyrol, Poly(α -methylstyrol), Copoly(styrol-methylmethacrylat), Copoly(styrol-acrylonitril), Polyvinylbutyral und Polymeren von Polyol(allyl-carbonat)monomeren, polyfunktionellen Acrylatmonomeren, polyfunktionellen Methacrylatmonomeren, Diethylenglykoldimethacrylatmonomeren, Diisopropenylbenzolmonomeren, ethoxylierten Bisphenol-A-dimethacrylatmonomeren, Ethylenglykolbismethacrylatmonomeren, Poly(ethylenglykol)-bismethacrylatmonomeren, ethoxylierten Phenolmethacrylatmonomeren, alkoxylierten Polyhydroxyalkoholacrylatmonomeren, Diallylidenpentaerythritolmonomeren, Urethanacrylatmonomeren, Vinylbenzolmonomeren, Styrolmonomeren und Mischungen solcher Monomere.
- 35 40 14. Photochromer Gegenstand, enthaltend ein polymeres Substrat und
- (a) eine photochrome Menge einer organischen photochromen Verbindung und
- 45 (b) ein die Kinetik verbesserndes Additiv in einer Menge zur Verbesserung der photochromen Leistung, ausgewählt aus epoxyhaltigen Verbindungen, organischen Polyolen und Mischungen davon,
- wobei sowohl (a) als auch (b) sich innerhalb einer unterhalb der Oberfläche liegenden Region des polymeren Substrats befinden.
- 50 15. Photochromer Gegenstand nach Anspruch 14, wobei die organische photochrome Verbindung (a) und/oder das die Kinetik verbessernde Additiv (b) wie in einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 9 definiert ist(sind).

55 Revendications

1. Composition d'imbibition photochromique comprenant un ou plusieurs composés photochromiques organiques et une quantité, capable d'améliorer la performance photochromique, d'additif d'amélioration de la cinétique, ceci étant

mesuré par le Test de Performance Photochromique, choisis parmi un ou plusieurs composés contenant de l'époxy, un ou plusieurs polyols organiques, ou un mélange de tels additifs améliorant la cinétique, et éventuellement un véhicule, un ou plusieurs stabilisants à la lumière ultraviolette, un ou plusieurs absorbeurs de lumière ultraviolette, un ou plusieurs antioxydants, un ou plusieurs agents de contrôle de la rhéologie et / ou un ou plusieurs agents d'écoulement, la composition d'imbibition photochromique pouvant être éliminée par mise en contact avec un solvant après son application sur un substrat polymère et chauffage à une température inférieure au point d'ébullition du ou des composés photochromique(s) et additif(s) d'amélioration de la cinétique, et pendant un laps de temps suffisant pour permettre le transfert du ou des composés photochromique(s) et additif(s) d'amélioration de la cinétique dans le substrat.

2. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle la composition photochromique peut être éliminée par mise en contact avec un solvant, après son application sur un substrat polymère, et chauffage à une température comprise entre 100°C et 160°C pendant 1 à 12 heures.
3. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le ou les composés contenant de l'époxy sont choisis dans le groupe formé par les formules graphiques I, II, III qui suivent, ou un mélange de ces composés :

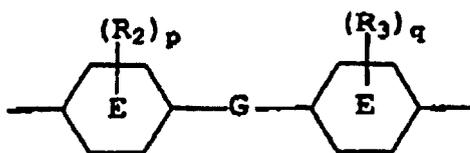


où

- (i) R₁ représente de l'hydrogène ou un radical alkyle en C₁ à C₃,
- (ii) n est un nombre entier choisi parmi un, deux, trois ou quatre, lorsque n vaut un, A est choisi parmi des radicaux alkyle en C₂ à C₂₀, alkyle substitué en C₂ à C₂₀, cydoalkyle en C₃ à C₂₀, cycloalkyle substitué en C₃ à C₂₀, les groupes aryle substitués ou non substitués, phényle et naphthyle, aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyle, aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyle substitué, acryloxy, méthacryloxy, le groupe -C(O)Y, dans lequel Y est un radical alkyle en C₂ à C₂₀, alcoxy en C₁ à C₆ ou aryle, ou le groupe -R-(OR)_m-OH ou -(OR)_m-OH, où R est un radical alkylène en C₂ à C₄ et m est un nombre entier de 1 à 20, lesdits substituants des alkyle et cycloalkyle étant des radicaux carboxy, hydroxy ou alcoxy en C₁ à C₃, lesdits substituants des aryle et aryl(C₁-C₃)alkyle étant des radicaux carboxy, hydroxy, alcoxy en C₁ à C₃ ou alkyle en C₁ à C₃, ou bien, lorsque n vaut de deux à quatre, A est choisi parmi des radicaux alkylène en C₂ à C₂₀, alkylène substitué en C₂ à C₂₀, cycloalkylène en C₃ à C₂₀, cycloalkylène substitué en C₃ à C₂₀, les radicaux arylène substitués ou non substitués, phénylène et naphthylène, aryl(C₁-C₃)alkylène, aryl(C₁-C₃)alkylène substitué, le groupe -C(O)Z(O)C- dans lequel Z est un groupe alkylène en C₂ à C₂₀ ou arylène, le groupe -R-(OR)_m- ou -(OR)_m-, dans lequel R et m sont les mêmes que ceux définis plus haut, phtaloyle,

isophtaloyle, téréphtaloyle, phtaloyle substitué par de l'hydroxy, isophtaloyle substitué par de l'hydroxy, téréphtaloyle substitué par de l'hydroxy, ou un groupe représenté par la formule graphique suivante :

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dans laquelle R_2 et R_3 sont chacun un radical alkyle en C_1 à C_4 , du chlore ou du brome, p et q sont chacun un nombre entier de 0 à 4,

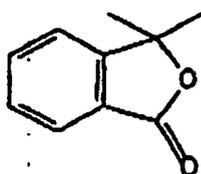
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représente un groupe benzène divalent ou un groupe cyclohexane divalent, G représente $-O-$, $-S-$, $-S(O_2)-$, $-C(O)-$, $-CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C(CH_3)_2-$, $-C(CH_3)(C_6H_5)-$, $-(C_6H_4)-$ ou

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lorsque

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est le groupe benzène divalent, ou bien G représente $-O-$, $-S-$, $-CH_2-$ ou $-C(CH_3)_2-$ lorsque

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est le groupe cyclohexane divalent, lesdits substituants des alkylène et cycloalkylène étant des radicaux carboxy, hydroxy ou alcoxy en C_1 à C_3 , lesdits substituants arylène et aryl(C_1-C_3)alkylène étant des radicaux carboxy, hydroxy, alcoxy en C_1 à C_3 ou alkyle en C_1 à C_3 , et

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(iii) B est choisi parmi des radicaux alkyle en C_2 à C_{20} , alkyle substitué en C_2 à C_{20} , cycloalkyle en C_3 à C_{20} , cycloalkyle substitué en C_3 à C_{20} , les groupes aryle substitués ou non substitués, phényle et naphthyle, aryl (C_1-C_3)alkyle ou aryl(C_1-C_3)alkyle substitué, lesdits substituants des alkyle et cycloalkyle étant des radicaux carboxy, hydroxy ou alcoxy en C_1 à C_3 , lesdits substituants des aryle et aryl(C_1-C_3)alkyle étant des groupes carboxy, hydroxy, alcoxy en C_1 à C_3 , ou alkyle en C_1 à C_3 .

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4. Composition selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle R_1 représente de l'hydrogène, A est choisi parmi des radicaux alkyle en C_2 à C_{10} , phényle, $-R(OH)_n-OH$ ou $-(OR)_m-OH-$, où R est un radical alkylène en C_2 à C_4 et m est un nombre entier de 1 à 20, lorsque n vaut un, ou bien, lorsque n vaut de deux à quatre, A est choisi parmi des radicaux alkylène en C_2 à C_{10} , phénylène, $-R(OH)_m-$ ou $-(OR)_m-$, où R et m sont tels que définis plus haut, ou phtaloyle, B est choisi parmi des radicaux alkyle en C_2 à C_{10} , phényle ou phényl(C_1-C_3)alkyle.

5. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le composé contenant de l'époxy est choisi parmi de l'éther glycidylique d'éthylène glycol, de l'éther glycidylique de propylène glycol, de l'éther polyglycidylique de glycérol, de l'éther polyglycidylique de diglycérol, de l'éther triglycidylique de propoxylate de glycérol, de l'éther triglycidylique de triméthylolpropane, de l'éther polyglycidylique de sorbitol, de l'éther butylglycidylique, de l'éther phénylglycidylique, de l'éther diglycidylique de poly(éthylène glycol), de l'éther diglycidylique de poly(propylène glycol), de l'éther diglycidylique de néopentylglycol, de la N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyloxyaniline, du phtalimide de glycidyle, de la N,N'-diglycidyltoluidine, de l'éther diglycidylique de 1,6-hexanediol, du 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylate de diglycidyle, des produits d'addition de bisphénol A ou bisphénol A hydrogéné et de propylène, des esters diglycidyliques de l'acide téréphtalique, du 1,2,3,6-tétrahydrophthalate de diglycidyle, de l'éther diglycidylique de spiroglycol, de l'éther diglycidylique d'hydroquinone ou des mélanges de tels composés contenant de l'époxy.
6. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le ou les polyols organiques sont choisis parmi des polyester polyols, des polyéther polyols, des polyols contenant de l'amide, des poly(alcools vinyliques) polyvalents ou des mélanges de tels polyols.
7. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'additif d'amélioration de la cinétique est choisi parmi de l'éther diglycidylique de polyéthylène glycol, de l'éther triglycidylique de triméthylolpropane, de la N,N-diglycidyl-4-glycidyloxyaniline, du 1,2,3,6-tétrahydrophthalate de diglycidyle, du polycaprolactone diol, de l'éther triglycidylique de propoxylate de glycérol, du 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylate de diglycidyle, du poly(éthylène glycol), des polytétrahydrofurane diols, ou des mélanges de ces additifs améliorant la cinétique.
8. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le ou les composés photochromiques ont au moins un maximum d'absorption activée dans la plage de 400 et 700 nanomètres.
9. Composition selon la revendication 8, dans laquelle le ou les composés photochromiques sont choisis parmi des naphtopyranes, des benzopyranes, des indénonaphtopyranes, des quinopyranes, des phénanthropyranes, des oxazines, des dithizonates métalliques, des fulgides, des fulgimides ou leurs mélanges.
10. Composition selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le véhicule est choisi parmi des solvants, des résines polymères ou un mélange de ceux-ci.
11. Composition selon la revendication 10, dans laquelle le véhicule est choisi parmi de l'eau, du benzène, du toluène, de la méthyléthylcétone, de l'acétone, de l'éthanol, de l'alcool tétrahydrofurfurylique, de la N-méthylpyrrolidone, de l'éther 2-éthoxyéthylque, de l'éther 2-méthoxyéthylque, du xylène, du cyclohexane, de la 3-méthylcyclohexanone, de l'acétate d'éthyle, du tétrahydrofurane, du méthanol, du propionate de méthyle, de l'éthylène glycol, de l'hydroxy (C₁-C₃)alkylcellulose, de la polyvinylpyrrolidone, du poly(chlorure de vinyle), du poly(acétate de vinyle), du poly(vinylbutyral), du poly(propionate de vinyle), de l'acétate butyrate de cellulose ou un mélange de tels véhicules.
12. Procédé pour rendre photochromique un matériau polymère organique hôte, dans lequel un ou plusieurs composés photochromiques sont imbibés dans le matériau polymère organique hôte à partir d'une composition photochromique selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 11.
13. Procédé selon la revendication 12, dans lequel le matériau polymère organique hôte est choisi parmi du poly(uréthane-urée), des poly(méthacrylates d'alkyle en C₁ à C₁₂), des diméthacrylates de poly(oxyalkylène), des poly(méthacrylates de phénol alcoxylé), de l'acétate de cellulose, du triacétate de cellulose, du propionate acétate de cellulose, du butyrate acétate de cellulose, du poly(acétate de vinyle), du poly(alcool vinylique), du poly(chlorure de vinyle), du poly(chlorure de vinylidène), des polycarbonates thermoplastiques, des polyesters, des polyuréthanes, des polythiouréthanes, du polyéthylène téréphtalate, du polystyrène, du poly(α-méthylstyrène), du copoly(styrène - méthacrylate de méthyle), du copoly(styrène - acrylonitrile), du polyvinylbutyral et des polymères de monomères de polyol (carbonate d'allyle), des monomères acryliques polyfonctionnels, des monomères méthacryliques polyfonctionnels, des monomères de diméthacrylate de diéthylène glycol, des monomères de diisopropénylbenzène, des monomères de diméthacrylate de bisphénol A éthoxylé, des monomères de bisméthacrylate d'éthylène glycol, des monomères de bisméthacrylate de poly(éthylène glycol), des monomères de méthacrylate de phénol éthoxylé, des monomères d'acrylate d'alcool polyvalent alcoxylé, des monomères de diallylidène pentaérythritol des monomères d'acrylate d'uréthane, des monomères de vinylbenzène, des monomères de styrène et des mélanges de tels monomères.
14. Article photochromique comprenant un substrat polymère et

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(a) une quantité photochromique d'un composé photochromique organique, et
(b) une quantité, améliorant la performance photochromique, d'un additif d'amélioration de la cinétique choisi parmi des composés contenant de l'époxy, des polyols organiques, et leurs mélanges,

5 (a) et (b) se trouvant tous deux dans la région sous la surface du substrat polymère.

15. Article photochromique selon la revendication 14, dans lequel le composé photochromique organique (a) et / ou l'additif (b) d'amélioration de la cinétique (b) sont définis comme dans l'une quelconque des revendications 3 à 9.

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