

United States Patent [19]

[11]

4,433,115

Varma et al.

[45]

Feb. 21, 1984[54] **PHOSPHORUS-CONTAINING IMIDE RESINS**[75] Inventors: **Indra K. Varma, New Delhi, India; George M. Fohlen, Millbrae; John A. Parker, Los Altos, both of Calif.**[73] Assignee: **The United States of America as represented by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, D.C.**[21] Appl. No.: **512,795**[22] Filed: **Jul. 11, 1983****Related U.S. Application Data**

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 288,267, Jul. 30, 1981, Pat. No. 4,395,557.

[51] Int. Cl.³ **B32B 7/00; C07D 207/26; C07D 209/34; C08F 283/00**[52] U.S. Cl. **525/417; 428/370; 428/408; 428/902; 428/920; 526/262; 528/228; 528/322; 548/415**[58] Field of Search **525/417**

[56]

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[57]

ABSTRACT

Flame-resistant reinforced bodies are disclosed which are composed of reinforcing fibers, filaments or fabrics in a cured body of bis- and tris-imide resins derived from tris(m-aminophenyl) phosphine oxides by reaction with maleic anhydride or its derivatives, or of addition polymers of such imides, including a variant in which a mono-imide is condensed with a dianhydride and the product is treated with a further quantity of maleic anhydride.

20 Claims, No Drawings

PHOSPHORUS-CONTAINING IMIDE RESINS

ORIGIN OF THE INVENTION

The invention described herein was made in the performance of work under a NASA contract and is subject to the provisions of Section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, Public Law 85-568 (72 Stat. 435; 42 U.S.C. 2457).

This application is a continuation-in-part of our co-pending application Ser. No. 288,267, filed July 30, 1981, now U.S. Pat. No. 4,395,557 which in turn is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 175,452, filed Aug. 5, 1980, now U.S. Pat. No. 4,276,344 issued June 30, 1981.

TECHNICAL FIELD

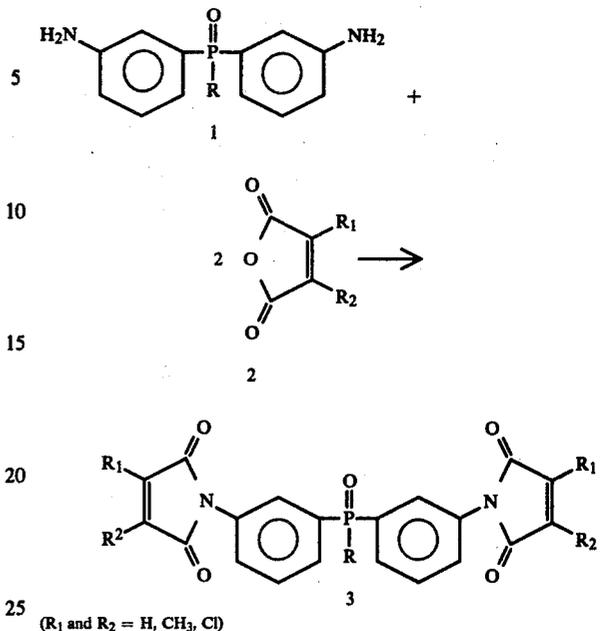
This invention relates to addition polyimide resins and to fiber or fabric-reinforced composites made from them.

BACKGROUND

Strong light-weight composites can be made by embedding various types of fibers or fabrics in a resin matrix. The polymer used for such a matrix is generally an epoxy resin, although several other resins such as phenolic, novolac, poly(ether-sulfone), poly(phenyl-sulfone), and bismaleimide resins have also been used for certain applications. As fibers or fabrics, carbon and graphite products have been quite useful in the composite structures.

The search for flame resistant materials to form laminates that can be used with greater safety in places such as aircraft cabins, has led to the selection of high temperature resins such as bismaleimides which have high anaerobic char yield (*Scientific & Technological Aerospace Reprints*, (1976), 14-16, Abstract N76-25354), and to the inclusion of phosphorus-containing compounds either in a mixture with or as an integral part of the resin used as matrix. Searle, in U.S. Pat. No. 2,444,536, discloses a widely used method for the preparation of maleimide polymers. As to the use of phosphorus-containing compounds, Kourtides et al. (Proceedings of the Adhesives for Industry Conference, El Segundo, CA, June 24-25, 1980) have shown substantial improvement in various properties of certain epoxy resins by preparing them with a bis(3-aminophenyl)methylphosphine oxide or its bisphenol analog, instead of the conventional diamine or phenol monomers or curing agents of the art. In summary, however, it can be stated that while the introduction of phosphorus into organic polymers has generally resulted in reduced flammability, increased adhesion, and better solubility in polar solvents, none of the resins used in the composite art are nonflammable.

In copending application Ser. No. 175,452, filed Aug. 5, 1980, entitled "Phosphorus-Containing Bisimide Resins", now U.S. Pat. No. 4,276,344 issued June 30, 1981, bisimides are prepared from phosphine oxides by a reaction typified by the following:

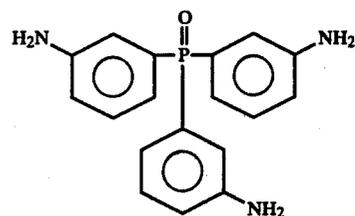


The monomers (bisimides) 3 can be used to impregnate fibers and cloth and, upon curing to rigid composites, confer fire resistant qualities to the fiber or fabric reinforcement present in the composites.

It is an object of the present invention to provide improvements upon such monomers, polymers and impregnated fibers and fabrics.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

We have found that the trisamino precursor typified by the following:

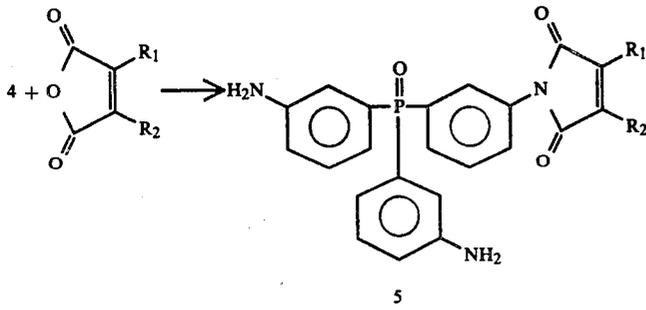


can be used in place of the bisamino precursor. This results in curing at a lower temperature, e.g., 180° C., with good fire resistance. A further advantage is the greater ease of preparing the trisamino precursors.

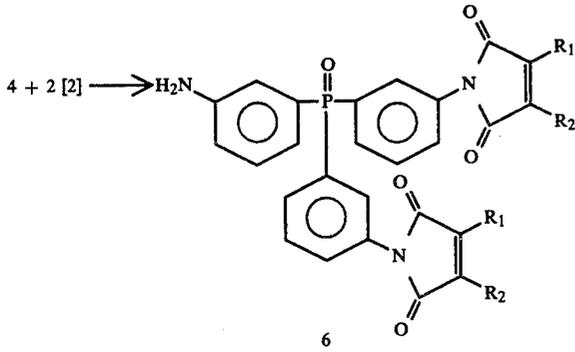
We have found an improved method for reducing the nitro precursors of these trisamino compounds, wherein the nitro groups are reduced using hydrazine hydrate as the reducing agent and palladium/charcoal or Raney nickel as a catalyst.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

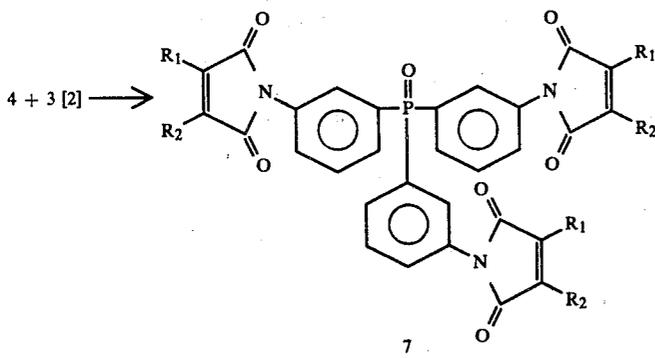
Using the triamino 4 and the anhydride 2 as models, and in a variant using also a coupling agent (a dianhydride), the following monomers result.



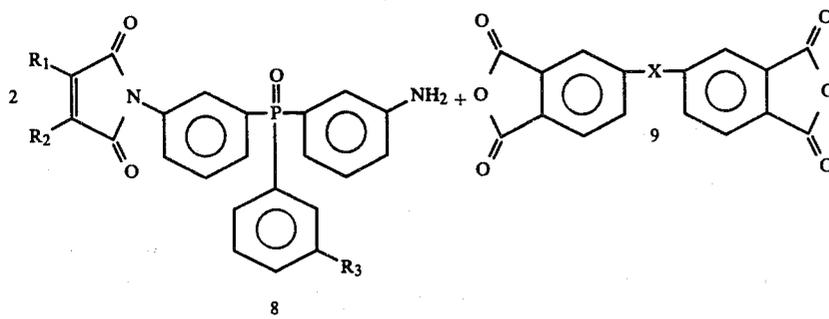
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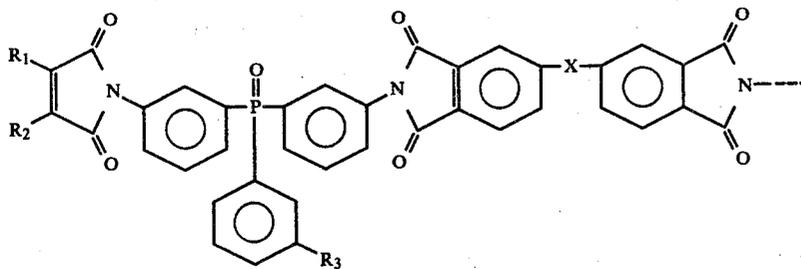
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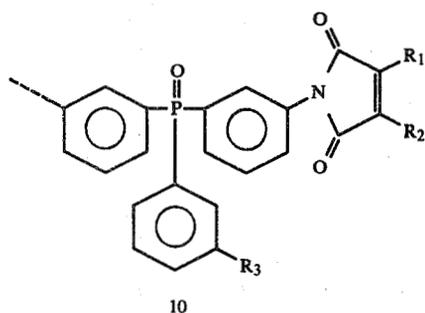
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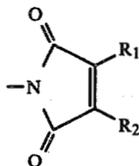


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In the equations above, R_1 and R_2 may be H, methyl, chlorine, or such other atoms or groups as are compatible with the respective reactions and with polymerization of the monomers.

X is a linking entity which may be a valence bond, a bivalent atom (e.g., $>O$ or $>S$ or a bivalent group, [e.g., $-C_nH_{2n}-$ ($n=1, 2, 3$, etc.)], $>C=O$, $>C=S$, $>C(CF_3)_2$, $>SO_2$ or any other bivalent group which is compatible with reaction (4) and with polymerization of the monomers. R_3 is $-NH_2$ or the imide group;

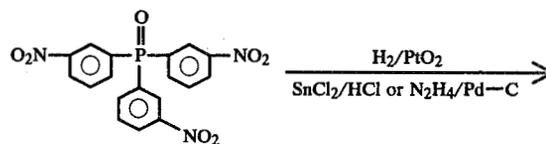
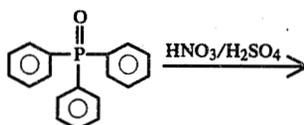


Further, the benzene rings may be substituted by functional and/or non-functional groups provided they do not interfere with the reactions involved in forming the monomers and provided they do not interfere with polymerization and with the thermal stability of the polymers. Examples of substituents are alkyl, e.g., C_1 to C_5 straight and branched chain alkyl; chlorine; aryl, e.g., phenyl and tolyl. Condensed ring phosphine oxides may be used.

Polymerization is accomplished thermally or by means of a catalyst such as cobalt or other metal naphthenates together with peroxides. Partial polymerization may be carried out with the monomer; fibers or fabric may then be impregnated with the resulting oligomer or lower polymer; and the impregnated material may then be cured at a higher temperature. The trisimides polymerize by opening of the olefinic double bonds. With the bisimides, which also contain free primary amine groups, nucleophilic addition of the free amino group to the double bond may also occur.

The linking groups illustrated in 10 above result in polymers having diminished cross linking density, hence composites made with these polymers have greater toughness.

The phosphine oxide component of the imides of this invention can be made from the triphenylphosphine oxide by nitration, followed by reduction of the nitro group to the amino group by, for example, stannous chloride dihydrate and concentrated hydrochloric acid, by hydrazine hydrate and palladized charcoal, or by hydrogen under pressure in the presence of a platinum catalyst.



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Imides can be prepared by reacting stoichiometric quantities of the reactants in a polar solvent (e.g., dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide, N-methyl pyrrolidine, etc.) and cyclodehydrating the intermediate amic acid by sodium acetate and acetic anhydride. Alternatively refluxing the reactants in glacial acetic acid or dimethylformamide can also be used to prepare imides. The resulting imides can be cured in the temperature range of 180° – 300° C.

The resins produced according to the process just described are suitable for many applications in which good adhesion and excellent resistance to heat, fire, solvents and chemicals are required. In the aerospace industry, the new resins may be used as adhesives and as matrix materials for fiber-reinforced lightweight composites. The fibers employed in such composites may be selected from the reinforcing fibers known in the art. For example, they may be inorganic fibers such as metal fibers; or ceramic fibers such as alumina fibers, silicon carbide fibers, boron nitride fibers, glass fibers or carbon fibers. They may also be organic fibers such as the aramid fibers (for example the aramids marketed under the names Kevlar[®], Nomex[®], Kevlar[®]-49, "X-500", and the like). These fibers can be in organized form such as fabrics, yarns, tapes, or the like or can be in disorganized forms such as felts, loose fibers, chopped fibers or the like as is known in the art. The exact form of the reinforcing fibers will in part depend upon the method employed to form the finished composite body which can be selected from the methods known in the art for forming bodies from fiber-reinforced resin including laminating, filament-winding,

molding, pultruding, spray-molding, adhesive bonding, mandrel wrapping, vacuum bag forming, and the like. In such applications, conventional resin to reinforcement ratios—e.g. 5:1 to 1:5 by weight are employed so long as adequate resin is present to give a continuous resin phase in the composite. To produce such composites, the imide resin is either dry-mixed as a powder with the reinforcement and then melt-cured or dissolved in an appropriate solvent and applied to the reinforcing fibers as a "varnish" and cured. A suitable solvent for the second mode of application is an organic solvent such as a ketone, for example acetone, methyl ethyl ketone or methyl isobutyl ketone or the like or an aprotic organic liquid such as methylene chloride, dimethylformamide (DMF), dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), or dimethylacetamide (DMAC). Preferred solvents are the aprotic solvents, especially DMF, DMSO and DMAC. When using the "varnish" method, the solution is applied to the reinforcing fibers, generally in an amount sufficient to at least impregnate the fiber. This prepreg material is formed into the shape desired for the finished article. This may be done by molding, laminating, pressing, winding, laying up or the like technique appropriate for the particular form of reinforcement employed.

The solvent is removed from the resin solution either before or after the resin/reinforcement material is formed into the desired shape. This can be accomplished by evaporation effected by heat, vacuum or a combination thereof. If heat is employed, it is generally desirable to employ a temperature below the temperature to be used to cure the resin, i.e. a temperature of from about 50° C. to about 150° C., preferably about 75° C. to about 145° C. and more preferably about 100° C. to 140° C. In a typical preparation, the solvent is removed by evaporation in an air oven at 125°–135° C. and layers of the impregnated fiber materials are formed by means of pressure and high temperature into the desired molded laminate. The laminate is then cured at an elevated temperature, for example 150°–300° C., preferably 160°–270° C. and especially 180°–250° C. The cure can be done in stages, as is known in the art.

The imide resins according to the present invention have noteworthy advantages over the imide resins of the aforesaid now-issued application. The curing of these resins can be done at relatively low temperatures while retaining the outstanding flame resistant properties of the laminates. Furthermore, the tris(aminophenyl)phosphine oxide is more easily obtained than the bis(aminophenyl)-methylphosphine oxide.

The following examples serve to illustrate the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Tris(m-aminophenyl) phosphine oxide, 24.25 g, was placed in a flask with 110 ml dimethyl formamide (DMF). Maleic anhydride was added (7.35 g) in two portions over a period of ten minutes. The solution was stirred at 50° C. for one hour. Benzophenone tetracarboxylic dianhydride (BTDA) (12.15 g) was then introduced and stirring was continued overnight. The solution was then heated at 145° C. ± 2° C. for one hour and then refluxed for 30 minutes. The polymerization product obtained in this manner can further be processed as follows:

The graphite fabric (8 harness satin-weave designated as style 133 fabric) is coated with this resin solution. The impregnated fabric is then dried in a circulating air oven

at 125°–135° C. for 20 minutes. Several pre-impregnated graphite fabric pieces are placed one upon the other (4–9 plies) into a platen press and the laminate is hardened under a pressure of 125 psi and a temperature of 180° C. for 150 minutes. Post-curing of the hardened laminate was done at 220° C. for 16 hours. Physical properties of such laminates were tested by an Instron Tensile Tester. A laminate having 21–22% resin was found to have a short beam shear strength of 3300 psi and a flexural strength of 96,040 psi. The laminate did not burn in pure oxygen. The glass transition temperature of a 4-ply laminate was found to be 385° C. No delamination was observed by boiling these laminates in water for 20 hours.

Alternatively, the imide monomer can be isolated from the DMF solution by precipitating it with water and washing with boiling methanol and acetone. Curing of this resin was done thermally at 180° C., 225° C., and 232° C. and an anaerobic char yield of cured resin was found to be 68–70%. Elemental analysis gave the following results: C=65.16%, H=3.54%, N=7.12%, P=4.40%. The values calculated for formula $C_{61}H_{38}P_2O_{11}N_6$ are C=67.03%, H=3.47%, N=7.69%, P=5.67%.

EXAMPLE 2

Tris(m-aminophenyl) phosphine oxide 4.27 g, was dissolved in 25 ml DMF and 2.69 g of maleic anhydride added. The solution was stirred at 50° C. for one hour. BTDA (2.09 g) was then introduced and solution stirred overnight. The solution was heated at 145° C. ± 2° C. for 45 minutes and refluxed for 10 minutes.

A graphite cloth laminate was cured in a manner similar to that described in Example 1. This material had a glass transition temperature of 314° C. as obtained by DMA.

Trisimide monomer could be isolated by precipitation from the DMF solution with water. An anaerobic char yield of 62–69% was obtained. Elemental analysis showed the following results: C=64.40%, H=3.6%, N=6.92%, P=5.14%. The values calculated for formula $C_{69}H_{38}P_2O_{15}N_6$ are C=66.13%, H=3.03%, N=6.71%, P=4.95%.

EXAMPLE 3

Tris(aminophenyl)phosphine oxide 1.615 g and dichloromaleic anhydride 2.48 g were dissolved separately in glacial acetic acid and mixed. This solution was then refluxed gently for 2½ hours. The trisimide was isolated by precipitation in water. The yellow precipitate was dissolved in and recrystallized from chloroform and petroleum ether. The anaerobic char yield of the polymer formed from this monomer by curing at 305° C. for 30 minutes was found to be 65%.

EXAMPLE 4

Tris(aminophenyl)phosphine oxide 1.61 g and citraconic anhydride 1.12 g were separately dissolved in glacial acetic acid. The two solutions were mixed and gently refluxed for 2½ hours. The imide was isolated by precipitation in water. The precipitates were dissolved in acetone and solution was concentrated. The imide was recovered by addition of petroleum ether. Elemental analysis gave the following results: C=65.33%, H=4.45%, N=7.31% and P=5.42%. Calculated values for the formula $C_{28}H_{22}PO_5N_3$ C=65.75%, H=4.30%, N=8.21% and P=6.06%. Anaerobic char yield of resin cured at 232° C. for 2 hours was 62.5%.

EXAMPLE 5

Tris(aminophenyl)phosphine oxide 1.61 g was dissolved in 10 ml DMF and 1.62 g of maleic anhydride added. The solution was stirred overnight and then heated at 135°-145° C. for 50 minutes and refluxed for another 10 minutes. The trismaleimide was isolated by precipitation in water and recrystallized from acetone and petroleum ether. The anaerobic char yield of the imide resin formed by curing at 232° C. for 2 hours was found to be 64.5%.

EXAMPLE 6

Alternatively, the trismaleimide was prepared by dissolving 1.62 g of maleic anhydride and 1.61 g of the triamine 4 separately in 25 ml of glacial acetic acid. The solutions were then mixed and refluxed for 12-15 hours. Imide monomer was isolated by precipitation in water and filtration. The residue was washed several times with sodium bicarbonate solution until free from acid. After drying, the purification was done with chloroform and petroleum ether.

Trismaleimide was also prepared by dissolving 1.61 g of triamine 4 in 10 ml dimethylformamide and adding 1.62 g of maleic anhydride. The solution was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour and then 0.5 g of fused sodium acetate was added followed by 3.5 ml of acetic anhydride. The solution was stirred as mentioned above.

EXAMPLE 7

Triscitraconimide was also prepared by carrying out cyclodehydration with fused sodium acetate and acetic anhydride as in Example 6. Alternatively the condensation reaction of triamine and citraconic anhydride was done in glacial acetic acid by reacting 1.61 g of amine with 1.85 g of citraconic anhydride and refluxing the solution for 12-15 hours. Triscitraconimide was isolated by precipitation in water and filtration. Further processing was similar to Example 6.

As stated above, we have also discovered an improved method of reducing tris(nitrophenyl)phosphine oxides to the triamino compounds. This improved method employs hydrazine hydrate as the reducing agent and a palladium/charcoal or Raney nickel catalyst. These systems have been used heretofore to reduce nitro groups in mono- and dinitroaromatic compounds: see Furst, *Chem Rev*, 65:51 (1965) and Fieser and Fieser, "Reagents for Organic Syntheses" p. 440 (1967), John Wiley. However, as far as we know, such systems have not been employed to reduce nitrophenylphosphine oxides. The system may be used to reduce nitro groups in dinitro compounds such as 1 above or trinitro compounds such as 4 above. The following examples will illustrate this aspect of our invention.

EXAMPLE 8

41.3 g of the trinitro oxide 11 (0.1 mol) (m.p. 244°-245° C.) and 420 ml of 95% ethanol were placed in a 1 l three-necked flask equipped with a reflux condenser, thermometer and dropping funnel. 1.70 g of 10% palladium on carbon was added and the mixture warmed to 35°-40° C. Stirring was done with a magnetic stirrer. About 38 ml of hydrazine hydrate (0.75 mole) (Baker Chem. Co., 99%) was added from the dropping funnel over a 40 minute period. The reaction is exothermic and addition of hydrazine has to be done dropwise. 0.3 g more of Pd/C was then added and

mixture refluxed for 1 h. The hot solution was then filtered with gentle suction through a thin layer of Celite. The flask was rinsed with hot ethanol and the catalyst and Celite were washed with it. The combined filtrates on cooling gave white crystals of triamine which were collected by filtration and suction dried. The precipitates after washing with water were dried in a vacuum oven at 80° C., yield=28-29 g (88-89%, m.p. 258°-263° C.). The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and when the volume was reduced to about 30 ml it was added to water. A second crop of white precipitate of amine was obtained (1-1.5 g).

For easier control the hydrazine hydrate can be diluted with alcohol before addition. The Pd/C can be reused.

Elemental analysis of the amine gave the following results:

C=66.7%, H=5.67%, N=12.95%, P=9.98%

Calculated values for $C_{18}H_{18}N_3PO$: C=66.81%, H=5.61%, N=13.0%, and P=9.6%.

EXAMPLE 9

Bis(m-aminophenyl)methyl phosphine oxide was also prepared in a similar way by reduction of the dinitro compound. The alcoholic filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to a small volume and then amine was precipitated by adding an equal volume of toluene: petroleum ether. (yield=80%, m.p. 145°-149° C.).

In the mass spectra of these amines M-1 ion was the base peak. Eight most intense peaks, i.e., fragment ion values are listed in order to decreasing relative abundances (base peak is given first). Tris(m-aminophenyl)phosphine oxide: 322, 323, 93, 65, 229, 182, 230.

Bis(m-aminophenyl) methylphosphine oxide: 245, 246, 65, 92, 93, 231, 214, 63. The infra-red spectra of the amines showed characteristic absorption due to amino and P=O groups.

The trinitro compound 11 of Example 8 and the dinitro compound of Example 9 were, respectively, the m-nitro compounds.

EXAMPLE 10

The production of a fiber-reinforced composite as shown in Example 1 is repeated eight times with changes. The resin and cure cycle of Example 1 is used. The reinforcement and finished form is varied as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

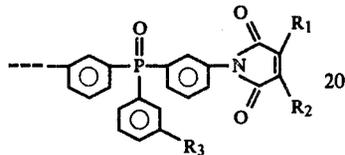
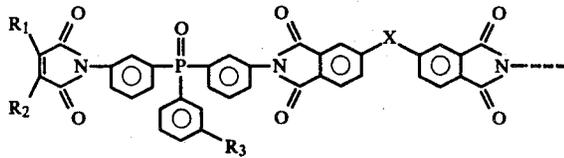
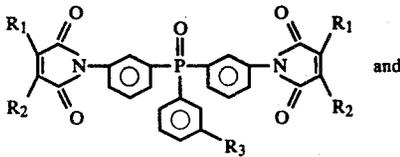
Repeat Number	Reinforcement	Product Form
A	Fiberglass Cloth	Hard-laid housing
B	Kevlar ® Aramid Cloth	Laminate
C	Kevlar ® Aramid Fiber Yarn	Filament-wound cylinder
D	Boron Filament Cloth	Laminate
E	Chopped Fiber Glass	Cured molded parts
F	Aramid Felt	Laminate
G	Silicon Carbide Chopped Fiber	Molded parts

We claim:

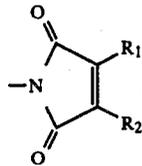
1. A fiber-reinforced imide polymer composite comprising reinforcing fiber in a cured polymer of an imide have a structure selected from

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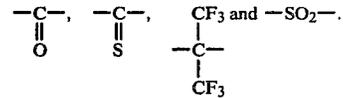
wherein R_1 and R_2 are selected from the group consisting of chlorine, methyl and hydrogen; R_3 is the amino group or an imide group



X is a linking entity selected from the group consisting of a valence bond, $-O-$, $-S-$, $-C_nH_{2n}-$ wherein n is 1, 2, or 3,

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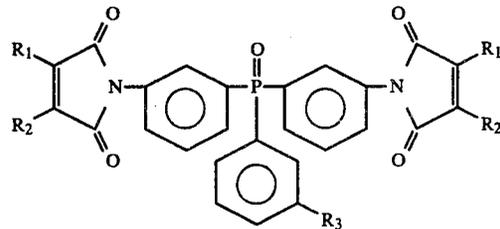
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2. The polymer composite of claim 1 wherein said fiber is selected from glass fibers, carbon fibers, boron nitride fibers, aramid fibers, alumina fibers, and silicon carbide fibers.

3. The polymer composite of claim 1 wherein said imide has the structure



4. The polymer composite of claim 3 wherein R_3 is the amino group.

5. The polymer composite of claim 4 wherein said fiber is selected from glass fibers, carbon fibers, boron nitride fibers, aramid fibers, alumina fibers, and silicon carbide fibers.

6. The polymer composite of claim 5 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each H.

7. The polymer composite of claim 6 wherein the fiber is aramid fiber.

8. The polymer composite of claim 3 wherein R_3 is the imide group.

9. The polymer composite of claim 8 wherein said fiber is selected from glass fibers, carbon fibers, boron nitride fibers, aramid fibers, alumina fibers, and silicon carbide fibers.

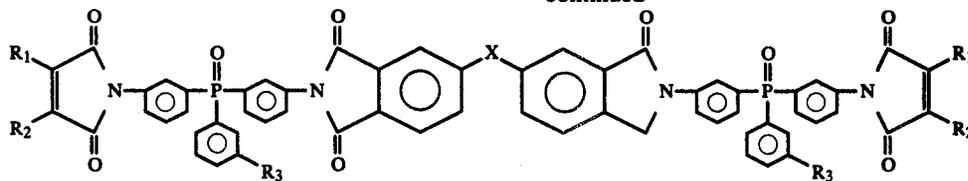
10. The polymer composite of claim 9 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each H.

11. The polymer composite of claim 10 wherein the fiber is aramid fiber.

12. The polymer composite of claim 1 wherein said imide has the structure

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13. The polymer composite of claim 12 wherein R₃ is the amino group.

14. The polymer composite of claim 13 wherein X is

17. The polymer composite of claim 12 wherein R₃ is the imide group.

18. The polymer composite of claim 17 wherein X is



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and said fiber is selected from glass fibers, carbon fibers, boron nitride fibers, aramid fibers, alumina fibers, and silicon carbide fibers.

15. The polymer composite of claim 14 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each H and the benzene rings are not substituted.

16. The polymer composite of claim 15 wherein the fiber is aramid fiber.

and said fiber is selected from glass fibers, carbon fibers, boron nitride fibers, aramid fibers, alumina fibers, and silicon carbide fibers.

19. The polymer composite of claim 18 wherein R₁ and R₂ are each H and the benzene rings are not substituted.

20. The polymer composite of claim 19 wherein the fiber is aramid fiber.

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