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(54) Title: LAUNDRY ARTICLE HAVING CLEANING PROPERTIES

(57) Abstract: The invention discloses a laundry article used for cleaning fabrics comprising a water-insoluble nonwoven substrate and coated thereon into at least one zone each a detergent composition and an enzyme-containing composition. The enzyme-containing composition comprises an enzyme embedded in a thickened matrix.

LAUNDRY ARTICLE HAVING CLEANING PROPERTIES

The present invention relates to an article of manufacture used for cleaning fabrics. More specifically the article comprises a water-insoluble substrate coated with detergent and enzymes. The invention also relates to a method of manufacturing and to a method of using such articles.

Laundry detergents are available in several different product formats like powders, granulates, liquids, gels or unit dose items such as tablets or pouches.

Especially unit dose items comply with consumer's desire for simplified dosage. But, laundry tablets and pouches exhibit a few drawbacks. Especially tablets show due to their high densification only a delayed dissolution and, thus, a delayed release of their ingredients. In order to improve dissolution rates without being detrimental to tablet strength several technical solutions have been found such as the use of disintegration aids. Since integration aids usually do not show further cleaning or conditioning properties, complexity and manufacturing costs are raised.

The disadvantage of pouches comprising liquid detergent is that incompatible ingredients cannot be formulated in one detergent. Additionally, the wrapping material such as polyvinyl alcohol often does not dissolve completely during the washing process and residues can be found on the fabrics.

Another alternative unit dose item comprises laundry detergents that are coated on water-insoluble substrates. The laundry article is added together with the laundry to the washing machine. During the washing process the coating dissolves and thereby releases its ingredients to the wash liquor.

WO 07/120867 A2 provides a laundry article which functions as a single product for washing and conditioning fabrics when added to the washing machine and then carried along with the wet clothes into the clothes dryer. The laundry article comprises a water-insoluble substrate onto which a minimum of two compositions is applied in "zones". The water-insoluble substrate for the laundry article of the present invention is coated with a detergent composition and a fabric conditioning composition. In order to manufacture such a laundry article preferably a heated molten mixture of the particular compositions is coated onto the water-insoluble substrate.

Proteins, fats and starch often form constituents of persistent stains. In order to improve removal of such stains enzymes are commonly used in laundry detergents.

Especially due to high temperatures (70 °C to 80 °C) during the manufacturing process of such laundry articles enzymes cannot be present in the molten mixture of a detergent composition since enzymes are sensitive to temperature.

This problem can be solved by coating an extra enzyme-containing composition on the substrate of a laundry article. The enzyme-containing composition comprises an enzyme embedded in a matrix and wherein the matrix is composed of a material having a lower melting point as the detergent composition solidified on the substrate. Possible matrix materials comprise fatty acids, fatty acid soaps, polyols and mixtures thereof.

One problem associated with such a molten enzyme-containing composition, especially when the matrix material is a fatty acid soap, is its low viscosity. Due to the low viscosity of the molten enzyme-containing composition, the composition is difficult to apply to the substrate because the molten composition penetrates through the substrate and is discharged on the other side of the substrate. Additionally, such a coating is not aesthetically appealing to the user of the laundry article.

Usually, the viscosity can be adjusted with the help of a thickener. Since the molten enzyme-containing compositions have a low free water activity conventional thickeners such as poly(meth)acrylic acid based thickeners do not provide a sufficient high thickening effect.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a laundry article comprising a water-insoluble substrate coated with a detergent composition and an enzyme-containing composition, wherein the enzyme-containing composition can be applied to the substrate without any difficulties.

This object is achieved by a laundry article used for cleaning fabrics comprising:

- a. a water-insoluble nonwoven substrate;
- b. a detergent composition solidified on the substrate in at least one zone; and,
- c. an enzyme-containing composition solidified on the substrate in at least one zone,

wherein the enzyme-containing composition comprises an enzyme embedded in a matrix and wherein the matrix comprises a fatty acid soap and a shear activated thickener.

It has surprisingly been found that the use of a thickener that exerts its thickening power after the composition comprising said thickener was subjected to shear forces leads to an aesthetically appealing laundry article with good cleaning properties, especially with regard to enzyme specific stains. Additionally, such a laundry article can be manufactured without any difficulty.

A matrix made of a fatty acid soap only shows little water absorption during storage, even when stored at 35 °C and a humidity of 80 °C. The melting point of such a matrix can be easily adjusted to 40 to 56 °C, so that the enzymes are not deteriorated during the manufacturing process. Most preferred the melting point of the matrix is between 50 and 56 °C. Additionally, the solidified enzyme-containing composition is firm but shows good water solubility so that the enzymes are quickly and completely released during the washing process.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the matrix is at a level from 50 % by weight to 99.9 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition and more preferred from 85 % by weight to 99.5 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention the enzyme is at a level from 0.1 % by weight to 50 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition and more preferred from 0.5 % by weight to 15 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.

Furthermore, it is preferred that the enzyme-containing composition additionally comprises an ingredient selected from enzyme stabilizers, polyols, buffer substances and mixtures thereof.

Additionally, it is preferred that the fatty acid soap is selected from the metal salts and ammonium salts of caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, (hydrogenated) erucaic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, oleic acid, (hydrogenated) behenic acid, coconut fatty acid, palm kernel fatty acid, olive oil fatty acid, and tallow fatty acid.

The present invention also relates to a method of producing a laundry article used for cleaning fabrics comprising a water-insoluble nonwoven substrate, a detergent composition and a enzyme-containing composition comprising the steps of:

- a. melting a detergent composition;
- b. melting a matrix material comprising a fatty acid soap;
- c. adding an enzyme and a shear activated thickener to the molten matrix material;
- d. shearing the molten enzyme-containing composition,
- e. supplying a length of nonwoven substrate; and,
- f. coating said substrate with both the molten detergent composition and the molten enzyme-containing composition into at least one zone each and allowing the resulting detergent and enzyme-containing composition zones to cool and solidify on the substrate.

Additionally, the invention relates to a method of washing fabrics comprising the steps of:

- a. supplying the laundry article according to the present invention; and
- b. washing a load of fabrics in a laundry machine with said article.

The invention is described in greater detail below on the basis of examples, among other things.

In general, the present invention is a laundry article comprising a water-insoluble substrate onto which a minimum of two compositions is applied in "zones". The laundry article of the present invention comprises a water-insoluble substrate with one zone of detergent composition, plus one zone of enzyme-containing composition, arranged in geographical areas, or patterns or

regions, (called "zones"), on the water-insoluble substrate. Optional perforations on the article allow the consumer to break apart the article along defined lines to customize the product for the specific laundering requirements, customizing the amounts and the formulas used for a particular laundry load.

The enzyme-containing composition comprises a matrix and an enzyme embedded in the matrix.

Suitable enzymes are, in particular, proteases, (poly)esterases, lipases or lipolytically active enzymes, amylases, cellulases, hemicellulases, cutinases, β -glucanases, oxidases, peroxidases, mannanases, tannases, perhydrolases, and/or laccases, and mixtures of the aforesaid enzymes. All these enzymes contribute, in the laundry, to the removal of stains such as protein-, fat-, or starch-containing stains, and to anti-graying.

The enzymes are preferably added as liquid formulations.

The enzymes may be protected, particularly during storage, from damage such as for example inactivation, denaturation or degradation for instance due to physical influences, oxidation or proteolytic cleavage. Therefore, the enzyme-containing composition preferably additionally comprises enzyme stabilizers for this purpose. Suitable enzyme stabilizers comprise for example benzamidine hydrochloride, borax, boric acids, boronic acids, boronic acid salts, boronic acid esters, 4-formylphenyl boronic acid, peptide aldehydes, aliphatic carboxylic acids, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), propyl gallate, t-butylhydroquinone, phosphonates, calcium lactate, calcium chloride and sodium formate and amino alcohols. The enzyme stabilizers may be incorporated via the liquid enzyme formulations or separately into the enzyme-containing composition.

Additionally, polyols may serve to stabilize enzymes and/or to improve the aesthetics of the solidified enzyme-containing composition. It is preferred that the polyol is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, glycerin, sucrose, propylene glycol, sorbitol, glucose and mixtures thereof. These polyols are commercially available. Most preferred polyols for use in the enzyme-containing composition are non-polymeric polyols such as glycerin, sucrose, propylene glycol, sorbitol, glucose and mixtures thereof. The polyols may be incorporated via the liquid enzyme formulation or separately into the enzyme-containing composition. Polyols may be present in the enzyme-containing composition in an amount up to 50 % by weight and preferably up to 40 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition. In particular it is preferred that polyols are present in an amount of 5 to 30 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.

Additionally, liquid enzyme formulations may comprise a buffer substance.

The matrix comprises a fatty acid soap as matrix material. It is preferred that the matrix comprises a mixture of two or more fatty acid soaps as matrix material.

Suitable fatty acids include caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, (hydrogenated) erucaic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, oleic acid, (hydrogenated) behenic acid, coconut fatty acid, palm kernel fatty acid, olive oil fatty acid, or tallow fatty acid.

It is preferred that the fatty acid soap is selected from the metal salts and ammonium salts of caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, (hydrogenated) erucaic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, oleic acid, (hydrogenated) behenic acid, coconut fatty acid, palm kernel fatty acid, olive oil fatty acid, and tallow fatty acid. Preferred metal salts comprise sodium salts, potassium salts, zinc salts or aluminum salts of the above mentioned fatty acids.

Fatty acid soaps comprising at least 16 carbon atoms may also serve as suds compressors.

It is preferred that the enzyme-containing composition exhibits an absorption of water of less than 15 % by weight and more preferred less than 5 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition when stored in relative humidity of 80 % at 35 °C.

In addition to the optional enzyme stabilizers, the optional polyols and the optional buffer substances the enzyme-containing composition may additionally contain further additives in an amount of usually up to 20 % by weight, preferably 1 % to 15 % by weight, in particular 2 % to 10 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.

It is preferred that the matrix contains the fatty acid soap in an amount of at least 20 % by weight of the matrix.

Other suitable further additives may comprise other optional ingredients such as solvents, solubilizers, fragrances, fragrance vehicles, fluorescent agents, dyestuffs, foam inhibitors, silicone oils, anti-redeposition agents, graying inhibitors, shrinkage preventers, antiwrinkle agents, dye transfer inhibitors, antimicrobial active ingredients, germicides, fungicides, antioxidants, corrosion inhibitors, antistatics, ironing aids, phobizing and impregnating agents, swelling and nonslip agents, water and UV absorbers as long as the additives are not detrimental to the stability of the enzyme and to the delivery of the enzyme during the washing process.

It is preferred that enzyme-containing composition additionally contains an enzyme stabilizer. It is also preferred that enzyme-containing composition additionally contains an enzyme stabilizer and a solubilizer such as an anionic and/or nonionic surfactant. In another also preferred embodiment

does the enzyme-containing composition additionally contain an enzyme stabilizer, a solubilizer and a polyol.

One essential ingredient of the enzyme-containing composition is the shear activated thickener. A shear activated thickener according to the present invention is a thickener that evolves its main thickening properties only after shear forces have been applied to the composition comprising the shear activated thickener.

It is preferred that the shear activated thickener is a polysaccharide biopolymer. It is more preferred that the shear activated thickener is a polysaccharide biopolymer selected from xanthan gum, locust bean gum, gum arabic, guar gum, gellan and mixtures thereof. In a particular preferred embodiment xanthan gum is used as shear activated thickener.

The shear activated thickener is preferably present at a level from 0.05 % to 2 % by weight, preferably from 0.1 to 1 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.

The detergent composition applied to the substrate may comprise anionic surfactant, nonionic surfactant, builder, chelant and further adjuvant ingredients such as but not limited to bleaches, bleach catalysts, bleach activators, fragrances, fragrance vehicles, fluorescent agents, dyestuffs, foam inhibitors, silicone oils, anti-redeposition agents, graying inhibitors, shrinkage preventers, antiwrinkle agents, dye transfer inhibitors, antimicrobial active ingredients, germicides, fungicides, antioxidants, preservatives, corrosion inhibitors, antistatics, and UV absorbers and is preferably a co-melt of mostly anhydrous waxy ingredients (materials normally solids or waxes at ambient temperature), or low-water content slurry or paste. The detergent composition even if a co-melt of waxy ingredients may preferably contain insoluble particles agglomerated into the melt, either for performance or aesthetic reasons.

Additionally, the laundry article of the present invention may comprise further compositions that are applied in further "zones". A preferred further composition is a fabric conditioning composition comprising a quaternary ammonium cationic surfactant.

A variety of quaternary ammonium cationic surfactant may be utilized; however acyclic quaternary surfactants are preferred. For example, useful quaternary synthetic surfactants that are acyclic include linear alkyl, branched alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, oleylalkyl, acyloxyalkyl, diamidoamine, or diester quaternary ammonium compounds. The preferred quaternary surfactants for use in the present invention are waxy solids or are highly viscous at ambient temperature such that the material can be melted and applied hot to the substrate, and these may include traditional tetraalkyl materials or ester quaternaries, or combinations of the two types. It may be preferred that the quaternary ammonium cationic surfactant is a fabric softening agent. It may also be preferred that the quaternary ammonium cationic surfactant is an anti-static agent.

The quaternary ammonium cationic surfactant in accordance with a preferred embodiment is at a level from 10 % to 80 % by weight of the fabric conditioning composition and more preferred from 25 % to 60 % by weight of the fabric conditioning composition.

A variety of materials may be used as the substrate in the present invention. For example the substrate may be natural pulp based paper or cotton materials, entirely synthetic material (such as melt-blow, spun-laid, air-laid or carded/bonded polypropylene, polyester, or similar synthetic polymer fiber substrates) or combinations of natural and synthetic materials (such as pulp wet-laid onto a nonwoven web). For example, any of the substrates used in the "wet-wipes" hard surface and personal cleansing products, dryer sheets, or personal hygiene products currently on the market may be useful as the substrates for the articles of the present invention. Additionally, materials that are found in liquid and air filtration industries may find use as the substrate.

Suitable substrate sheets may be obtained from any number of various water-insoluble nonwoven fabrics. The term "sheet" is used somewhat loosely here and relates to a preferred shape of an individual article of the present invention, that is, a flat sheet, for example square or rectangular, that is much greater in width and length than thickness and is a single laundry article. Thus the term "sheet" is used as a description of a section of nonwoven that may be used for an individual article of the present invention.

Nonwoven fabrics with their multitude of uses are well known to those skilled in the textiles art. Such fabrics can be prepared by forming a web of continuous filament and/or staple fibers and optionally bonding the fibers at fiber-to-fiber contact points to provide fabrics of the required properties. The term "bonded nonwoven fabric" is used to include nonwoven fabrics where a major portion of the fiber-to-fiber bonding is achieved by either thermal fusion of adjacent fibers, or adhesive bonding that is accomplished through incorporation of adhesives in the web to "glue" fibers together, or by other bonding such as obtained by the use of liquid or gaseous bonding agents (usually in conjunction with heating) to render the fibers cohesive. Chemical bonding may be accomplished through the use of adhesive or latex powders dispersed between the fibers in the web, which is then activated by heat, ultraviolet or infrared radiation, or other suitable activation method. Thermally and/or chemically bonded nonwovens may be used as the substrates within the present invention.

Nonwovens may comprise fibers known as "bi-component fibers", for example "sheath/core bi-component fibers", which are fibers having an outer sheath area or layer with a lower melting point than the inner core area, allowing for efficient and controlled thermal bonding through melting of just the outer layer of each fiber. Additionally, multi-component fibers are similarly known and commercially incorporated into nonwovens.

During the bonding of the fibers, the web may be simultaneously subjected to mechanical compression to obtain the desired bonding, weights and thicknesses in a process known as "thermal compression bonding". Mechanical compression may be used to set the loft or thickness of fabrics with similar basis weights. Normally increasing the basis weight, or the mass per square area increases thickness, and increasing bonding and compression decreases loft. Nonwovens with "sidedness" may be preferred for use in the articles of this invention. Sidedness refers to a nonwoven with a difference in density and/or loft on each side. These preferred nonwovens with sidedness may also be described by looking at the internal cross section through the nonwoven. For example, the preferred nonwovens for use herein have at least one "non-uniform cross-section". That is, if the preferred nonwoven with sidedness is cut, the exposed edge will be seen to be inhomogeneous, or in other words, having a gradient of fiber densities from one side through to the opposite side of the nonwoven. Single or multiple passes of mechanical compression while bonding may be used to produce nonwoven fabric that has sidedness, for example by differing the heating for thermal bonding on each side, along with using differing fibers diameters for each side, and/or by thermal compression bonding a nonwoven that was carded with different groups of fiber types on each side. Sidedness can also be accomplished by using different fiber thicknesses brought together in layers that look much like a laminating process, and allowing the heat/powder adhesive for thermal or powder/thermal bonding to bond the thinner more closely webbed fibers more densely and the thicker less closely webbed fibers lighter and loftier. Laminated as a term used herein should be construed to mean fiber webs that were separately carded brought together to form a single nonwoven. The term laminated should not be construed to mean the gluing to together of layers of material such as gluing or otherwise bonding together a polyurethane scrubbing layer onto a cellulose sponge. Although nonwovens may be constructed by laminating together two or more carded webs of fibers, the net result is a thicker nonwoven wherein it is difficult to discern layers. Depending on how a multi-layered nonwoven is finished (for example, the degree of thermal or chemical/thermal bonding of the fibers), the net resulting laminated nonwoven may appear to be a single layer of fibers. But when looking at a cross section of such a preferred nonwoven, the gradient of density may be visible, even without discerning a discrete transition between the original carded webs.

Nonwoven webs have been formed from many processes, for example, melt-blown, spun-bonded or spun-laid, toe-opened, wet-laid, air-laid, carded, and high pressure hydro-entangled. A preferred nonwoven for use as the substrate for the articles of the present invention are carded thermal bonded, or carded powder/thermal bonded nonwovens, for example, those available from HDK Industries, Inc..

These most preferred substrates have a "non-uniform cross-section" at least somewhere along the nonwoven. For example, the nonwoven may be uniform across its length and width (for example, viewing the top or the bottom surfaces of the substrate), yet still have non-uniform cross-section through its thickness (i.e., when viewing the edge of the substrate either as made

or when cut through a cross-section). Additionally, nonwovens may be layered and in ways where the top layer does not fully cover the bottom layer and an asymmetrical fabric is produced that has part of its width as a single density fabric and an adjacent part of its width as a gradient of fiber densities. These nonwovens have a non-uniform cross-section somewhere on the fabric.

Preferred materials for nonwoven substrates comprise polyesters or polyamides. If a nonwoven substrate comprises polyamide, the polyamide may also function as “dye catcher” by adsorbing dyes released during the washing cycle.

Additionally, it may be preferred that the substrate comprises an antimicrobial active agent such as silver or a silver compound such as SILVERPLUS® (available from Rudolf Chemie).

The dimensions of the sheet cut for the substrate in the article of the present invention should be suitable for easy handling, for example in the range of from about 10 cm x 10 cm to about 20 cm x 20 cm, however sheets of other dimensions may be useful when organized in convenient packaging for the consumer. Of course the sheet does not need to be square or really any particular shape, and any shape such as rectangular, polyhedral, rhomboidal, round, oval, heart- or other decorative-shape, even shaped in a way to identify a particular brand (such as the shape of a letter or word or trademark), will work within the present invention. The substrate for use in the present invention may be colored in any color (vivid colors for example), or may be substantially white, and may be textured from heated rollers that are patterned. The sheets may be rolled up or folded or otherwise intricately compacted in order to fit some unique packaging designs, or may be simply stacked like stiff cards into a suitable carton for merchandising. Also, the aesthetics of the sheet should be pleasing enough so that consumers will want to use it with their laundry chores. Thus, each of the separate composition zones should be individually recognizable to the consumer, for example through color, transparency, gloss, texture, fragrance, or any combinations of these attributes. For example, a sheet within the present invention may have a deep blue detergent zone and an opaque enzyme-containing zone, or perhaps a detergent region that has colored particles embedded within the zone.

It is preferred that in an article comprising at least two composition zones that the enzyme-containing composition zone geographically covers 2 – 30 % of the total surface area of the article while the detergent composition zone covers 70 – 98 % of the total surface area of the article. It may also be preferred that the surface of the article is not completely covered with composition-containing zones.

It may also be preferred that the enzyme-containing zone is placed on top of the detergent composition zone and, thus, at least partially covers the detergent composition.

If a further fabric conditioning composition zone is present, it is preferred that the detergent

composition zone and the enzyme-containing composition zone are completely soluble in water while the fabric conditioning composition zone is more than 80 % retained (stable) through a standard wash cycle.

The water-insoluble substrate for the laundry article of the present invention may be impregnated with a detergent composition and an enzyme-containing composition through any suitable processing step, for example a simple spray coating of the nonwoven substrate with a heated molten mixture or an aqueous solution to even dipping of the nonwoven substrate into various mixtures. For example, the molten compositions may be sputter-sprayed from guns with heated nozzles much in the same way that heavy paints, glues and coatings and the like are sprayed onto wide surfaces in many other industries. The impregnation of each composition on the substrate may be conducted either at the same time (in a simultaneous process with parallel feeders or sprayers for example) or in separate operations that are perhaps sequential operations of the same process or separate combinations of different processes. Impregnations may be applied on one side of the substrate, or one or more impregnations (for example the detergent formulation) can be applied on one side, and the other composition (for example the fabric conditioning formulation) may be applied on the other side of the substrate. This is a particularly important option for when a substrate having dissimilar sides is used. A suitable process for impregnation is for example a slot-coating process or a Gravure-coating process.

The form of any of the compositions applied to the substrate may be anything from thin to thick liquid, to slurry or paste, to molten materials that solidify into waxy appearing coatings upon cooling. It is simpler and preferable to apply both the detergent compositions and the enzyme-containing compositions as molten mixtures, even though the detergent compositions may be applied as aqueous solutions or slurries in a spray or dipping operation with a subsequent drying step to remove the excess water from the substrate.

Specific, but non-limiting embodiments of the laundry article of the present invention are delineated in the tables below.

Table 1 shows combinations of the detergent ingredients described above to produce detergent compositions suitable for application to the substrate.

The compositions D1 to D5 listed in Table 1 are heated co-melts and the amounts (amounts of actives in weight percent (wt.)) shown are also the amounts on the substrate since any water in the composition tends to stay within the waxy zone.

Table 1: Example detergent compositions for application to a substrate

Ingredients	Weight Percent (actives %)				
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate	26.09	17.30	15.60	17.70	27.00
Sodium alkyl C ₁₄ -C ₁₅ /7EO ether sulfate	13.80	-	-	-	14.00
Linear alcohol ethoxylate C ₁₄ -C ₁₅ / 7EO	13.44	5.40	14.60	5.50	14.00
Linear alcohol ethoxylate C ₁₂ -C ₂₀ / 7EO	-	-	-	-	23.00
Polyethylene Glycol PEG-75	2.00	1.40	1.30	1.40	2.00
Polyoxyethylene (100) stearyl ether	21.99	15.60	14.10	15.90	-
Sodium Silicate SiO ₂ /Na ₂ O ratio 1.6-1.8	3.72	16.60	15.00	17.00	-
Sodium Silicate (Britesil® C24)	7.00	-	-	-	11.00
Sodium Carbonate	-	6.50	5.90	6.70	-
Sodium tetraborate decahydrate	-	11.90	10.80	12.20	-
Sodium polyacrylate ~4,500 MW	-	1.80	1.70	-	-
EDTA – tetrasodium salt	-	0.10	0.10	0.10	-
Optical brightener (Tinopal® CBS-X)	0.15	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.20
Dyes and fragrances	0.90	0.90	0.81	1.01	0.35
Water	10.92	22.10	19.90	22.40	9.55

Table 2 shows combinations of the ingredients described above to enzyme-containing compositions suitable for application to the substrates.

Table 2: Example enzyme-containing compositions for application to a substrate

Ingredients	Weight Percent (actives%)				
	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5
Fatty acid soap based matrix 1	97.30	97.55	-	-	-
Fatty acid soap based matrix 2	-	-	97.58	-	-
Fatty acid soap based matrix 3	-	-	-	97.46	97.55
Xanthan gum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Protease	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Mannanase	0.02	-	0.02	0.02	-

Amylase	0.12	0.25	0.10	0.12	0.25
Cellulase	0.08	-	0.10	0.08	-
Lipase	0.08	-	-	0.08	-
Pectate lyase	-	-	-	0.05	-
4-Formylphenylboronic acid	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Melting point (°C)	40 °C	45 °C	45 °C	56 °C	56 °C

Fatty acid soap based matrix 1 is comprised of 20 wt.% of the sodium salt of coconut fatty acid, 50 wt.% of nonpolymeric polyols (sorbitol, glycerin, propylene glycol, sucrose and glucose), 15 wt.% of anionic and nonionic surfactants, and 15 wt.% of water.

Fatty acid soap based matrix 2 is comprised of 20 wt.% of the sodium salt of stearic acid, 3 wt. % of the sodium salt of lauric acid, 3 wt. % of the sodium salt of myristic acid, 50 wt. % of nonpolymeric polyols (sorbitol, glycerin, and propylene glycol), 2 wt.% of lauric acid, 2 wt.% of stearic acid, 10 wt. % of anionic surfactant, and 10 wt. % of water.

Fatty acid soap based matrix 3 is comprised of 20 wt. % of the sodium salt of stearic acid, 3 wt. % of the sodium salt of lauric acid, 3 wt. % of the sodium salt of myristic acid, 30 wt. % of nonpolymeric polyols (sorbitol, glycerin, sucrose and propylene glycol), 1 wt. % of lauric acid, 1 wt. % of stearic acid, 8 wt. % of anionic surfactant, and 34 wt. % of water.

Table 3: Laundry Article Examples

Ingredients	Weight composition (g) of compositions loaded on the particular substrate indicated				
	A	B	C	D	E
Detergent composition	D5 (8 g)	D5 (8 g)	D5 (8 g)	D5 (8 g)	D5 (8 g)
Enzyme-containing composition	E1 (3.9 g)	E2 (3.2 g)	E3 (3.9 g)	E4 (3.9 g)	E5 (3.2 g)
Nonwoven*	PES	PES	PES	PES	PES

* non-woven polyester fiber from HDK Industries

Laundry articles A to E were stored at 30 °C for eight weeks and afterwards the laundry articles were subjected to standard wash cycle using a top loader washing machine or a front loader washing, each being loaded with 3.5 kg of fabrics comprised of different materials (polyester, polyester/cotton, polyamide/elasthane, polyamide/Micro Modal/elasthane, and viscose). The fabrics had been soiled with 92 different stains that comprised bleachable, enzyme-specific and fat-pigment-cosmetic stains.

All laundry articles A to E showed a very good cleaning performance especially with regard to the enzyme-specific stains. These results show that the enzyme-containing compositions do not only effectively release the enzymes in the washing liquor but that the enzymes can be stably coated onto the laundry article. No or only little deterioration of the enzyme activity occurs during manufacture and during storage of the laundry article according to the present invention.

For manufacturing molten enzyme-containing composition having a sufficient high viscosity to be coated on non-woven substrate a melt of the matrix, enzymes and enzyme stabilizers is prepared that is subsequently subjected to shear forces.

Table 4: Viscosity data of an example and a comparative molten enzyme-containing composition

Ingredients	Weight Percent (actives %)	
	V1	E4
Fatty acid based matrix 3	98.46	97.46
Xanthan gum	--	1.00
Protease	1.00	1.00
Mannanase	0.02	0.02
Amylase	0.12	0.12
Cellulase	0.08	0.08
Lipase	0.08	0.08
Pectate lyase	0.05	0.05
4-Formylphenylboronic acid	0.20	0.20
Melting point (°C)	56 °C	56 °C
Viscosity* before shear activation [mPas]	100	100
Viscosity* after shear activation** [mPas]	200	5000

* Brookfield HBDV II, 20 rpm, spindle 2, 43 °C

** Ultra Turrax, 6500 rpm, 60 seconds

After shearing molten enzyme-containing composition E4 a sharp increase of the viscosity of the composition was observed. The sheared molten enzyme-containing composition E4 was applied to nonwoven polyester substrate without any difficulties whereas comparative enzyme-containing composition V1 and the unsheared molten enzyme-containing composition E4 penetrated through the non-woven substrate and discharged on the back side of the substrate thereby soiling the rolls guiding the substrate length.

We claim:

1. A laundry article used for cleaning fabrics comprising:
 - a. a water-insoluble nonwoven substrate;
 - b. a detergent composition solidified on the substrate in at least one zone; and,
 - c. an enzyme-containing composition solidified on the substrate in at least one zone, wherein the enzyme-containing composition comprises an enzyme embedded in a matrix and wherein the matrix comprises a fatty acid soap and a shear activated thickener.
2. The article of Claim 1, wherein the matrix is at a level from 50 % by weight to 99.9 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition and more preferred from 85 % by weight to 99.5 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.
3. The article of any of Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the enzyme is at a level from 0.1 % by weight to 50 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition and more preferred from 0.5 % by weight to 15 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.
4. The article of any of the Claims 1 to 3, wherein the enzyme-containing composition additionally comprises an ingredient selected from enzyme stabilizers, polyols, buffer substances and mixtures thereof.
5. The article of any of the Claims 1 to 4, wherein the enzyme is selected from proteases, lipases, amylases, cellulases, cutinases, oxidases, peroxidases, mannanases, tannases, perhydrolases, laccases, and mixtures thereof.
6. The article of any of the Claims 1 to 5, wherein the shear activated thickener is a polysaccharide biopolymer.
7. The article Claim 6, wherein the shear activated thickener is a polysaccharide biopolymer selected from xanthan gum, locust bean gum, gum arabic, guar gum, gellan and mixtures thereof.
8. The article of any of the Claims 1 to 7, wherein the shear activated thickener is present at a level from 0.05 % to 2 % by weight and more preferred from 0.1 to 1 % by weight of the enzyme-containing composition.
9. The article of any of the Claims 1 to 8, wherein the fatty acid soap is selected from the metal salts and ammonium salts of caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, (hydrogenated) erucaic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, oleic acid, (hydrogenated) behenic acid, coconut fatty acid, palm kernel fatty acid, olive oil fatty acid, and tallow fatty acid.

10. A method of producing a laundry article used for cleaning fabrics comprising a water-insoluble nonwoven substrate, a detergent composition and an enzyme-containing composition comprising the steps of:
- a. melting a detergent composition;
 - b. melting a matrix material comprising;
 - c. adding an enzyme to the molten matrix material;
 - d. shearing the molten enzyme-containing composition,
 - e. supplying a length of nonwoven substrate; and,
 - f. coating said substrate with both the molten detergent composition and the molten enzyme-containing composition into at least one zone each and allowing the resulting detergent and enzyme-containing composition zones to cool and solidify on the substrate.
11. A method of washing fabrics comprising the steps of:
- a. supplying the laundry article of any of the Claims 1 to 9; and
 - b. washing a load of fabrics in a laundry machine with said article.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2011/068401

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. C11D3/22 C11D3/386 C11D17/04
 ADD.
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 C11D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	GOTO K: "Detergent for cleaning surface such as ventilating fan, refrigerator, microwave oven, glass, enamel and mirror, contains surface-active component such as fatty acid potassium as essential component and water-soluble solvent", WPI / THOMSON,, vol. 2005, no. 56, 4 August 2005 (2005-08-04), XP002655623, the whole document	1-11
A	US 2010/175209 A1 (GORMLEY DEIRDRE M [US] ET AL) 15 July 2010 (2010-07-15) paragraph [0058]; claims; examples	1-11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 January 2012	Date of mailing of the international search report 03/02/2012
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Pffannenstein, Heide
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2011/068401

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2010175209 A1	15-07-2010	US 2010175209 A1	15-07-2010
		WO 2010083088 A2	22-07-2010
