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ODOUR FREE, AIR DRY, DECORATIVE LATEX PAINTS

This invention pertains to air dry emulsion paints based
10 on emulsion polymeric binders and more particularly to odour-
free, consumer latex paints free of polluting offensive
odouriferous coalescing solvents.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Paint coatings are surface protective coatings applied to
substrates, dried to form continuous films for decorative
purposes as well as to protect the substrate. Consumer paint
coatings are air-drying aqueous coatings applied primarily to
architectural interior or exterior surfaces, where the
20 coatings are sufficiently fluid to flow out, form a continuous
paint film, and dry at ambient temperatures to protect the
substrate surface. A paint coating ordinarily comprises an
organic polymeric binder, pigments, and various paint
additives. In dried paint films, the polymeric binder
25 functions as a binder for the pigments and provides adhesion
of the dried paint film to the substrate. The pigments may be
organic or inorganic and functionally contribute to opacity

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and color in addition to durability and hardness, although some paint coatings contain little or no opacifying pigments and are described as clear coatings. The manufacture of paint coatings involves the preparation of a polymeric binder, mixing of
5 component materials, grinding of pigments in a dispersant medium, and thinning to commercial standards.

Latex paints for the consumer market ordinarily are based on polymeric binders prepared by emulsion polymerization of ethylenic monomers. A typical consumer
10 latex paint binder contains a vinyl acetate copolymer consisting of polymerized vinyl acetate (80%) and butyl acrylate (20%). The hardness of the latex polymer must be balanced to permit drying and film formation at low application temperatures, which requires soft polymer
15 units, while at the same time the polymer must be hard enough in the final film to provide resistance properties which requires hard polymer units. This is conventionally accomplished by designing a latex polymer with a moderately elevated T_g (glass transition temperature) but then
20 lowering the T_g temporarily with a volatile coalescing solvent. Coalescing solvents function to externally and temporarily plasticize the latex polymer for time sufficient to develop film formation, but then diffuse out of the coalesced film after film formation, which permits
25 film formation and subsequent development of the desired film hardness by the volatilization of the coalescent. Internal plasticization is based on coreaction of soft monomers with hard monomers to form a polymeric copolymer



binder, such as 80/20 vinyl acetate/butyl acrylate, to obtain the desired film forming characteristics. If a lower Tg copolymer is used without a coalescing solvent, higher levels of soft comonomer are required leading to lower Tg polymer, and, hence, the final dried film would be undesirably soft, excessively tacky, readily stain, and readily pick up dirt.

A significant source of residual odour in latex consumer paints is directly due to the coalescing solvent. Coalescing solvents are typically linear (or slightly branched) glycol ethers and esters of 7 to 12 carbon atoms in length, which have boiling points typically above 200°C, and solubility parameters appropriate for the latex of interest. One typical coalescing solvent ordinarily contained in commercial latex paints is 2,2,4-trimethylpentanediol monoisobutyrate (Texanol® Eastman Chemical Co.). The odour associated with the gradual volatilization of this solvent is considered objectionable by consumers. Quite often the odour lingers for days or weeks after the paint is applied and dried. All useful coalescing solvents are volatile and have similar objectionable characteristics. An additional deficiency in conventional exterior latex paints is the decline in crack resistance of the dried paint film approximately proportional to the evaporation of the coalescing solvent. While better coalescing solvents have a retention time of

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about one year in dried paint films, cracking starts to progressively appear after one year in dried paint films. Hence, any elimination of coalescing solvents and attendant objectionable odours, along with air pollution caused by
5 volatile organic compounds (VOC), and film cracking deficiencies would represent both a technical and marketing advance in the state of the art of consumer latex paints.

In polymer technologies unrelated to air-dry vinyl acetate latex paints, preformed polymers have been
10 dispersed into monomers and emulsified in water, whereupon the monomers are then polymerized, such as disclosed in U.S. 4,373,054 pertaining to cathodic electrocoating, or in U.S. 4,313,073 pertaining to alkyd prepolymers; U.S. 4,588,757 pertaining to laminating adhesives, or in U.S.
15 3,953,386 and U.S. 4,011,388 pertaining to aqueous emulsion blends containing cellulosic ester/acrylic polymers.

It now has been found that certain non-volatile softening oligomeric modifiers compatible with an aqueous emulsion addition copolymer binder in a consumer latex
20 paint can be retained in the dried paint film permanently. Accordingly this invention provides an aqueous air-dry coating composition including an emulsion polymerised polymeric binder having a T_g below 20°C which binder contains an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerised
25 ethylenic monomers wherein the binder also contains 3 to 70% of a polyurethane and/or a polyester softening oligomer



modifier having a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below -20°C and wherein the oligomer modifier is present in the aqueous composition in a micro-emulsion of droplets having a droplet size of less than 10 microns.

5 Softening oligomer modifiers of this invention can be incorporated into the paint where the oligomer will be retained permanently in the final paint film. Hence, the paint will not generate an odour while drying nor emit a residual odour from the dried paint film or otherwise emit
10 VOC's. The softening oligomeric modifiers of this invention externally modify the emulsion copolymer matrix polymer and are not coreacted with the emulsion copolymer polymeric binder. The softening oligomeric modifiers appear to function by a chain-spacing mechanism to soften
15 the matrix copolymers whereby the oligomeric modifiers provide low temperature film formation and tack-free films less prone to soiling at a given hardness and/or flexibility than ordinarily possible. Particularly preferred emulsion copolymer matrix polymers comprising
20 polyvinyl acetate copolymers. A further advantage of this invention enables the use of essentially all hard polymer units of polyvinyl acetate without the need for internal plasticization (coreaction) with soft butyl acrylate polymeric units.

25 The present invention is based on a softening oligomeric modifiers having a low and narrow molecular

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weight range where the oligomer will not subsequently diffuse out of the matrix polymer when properly dispersed into the polymeric binder phase. Preferred oligomers are non-volatile oligomers having a molecular weight between
5 about 300 and 10,000. Lower molecular weight compounds tend to be volatile and cause excessive plasticizer migration while higher molecular weight polymers lose low temperature film-forming and softening effects, although molecular weights above 10,000 and in some instances up to
10 20,000 can be used with softer matrix polymers.

According to a preferred process of this invention, a low molecular weight oligomer can be surprisingly dispersed by high shear into water under heat and pressure to provide a submicron emulsified aqueous mixture of oligomer stably
15 dispersed in water. The micro-emulsified mixture in turn, can be readily mixed with various emulsion latex polymers to provide a stable mixture of dissimilar emulsions. It was found that micro-emulsions of oligomer in water having an average droplet size less than about one micron enable
20 the oligomer particle to migrate out of the oligomer droplets then through the aqueous phase and into surrounding latex polymer particles if the oligomer is sufficiently low molecular weight oligomer. The lowest molecular weight oligomer particles move faster due to
25 micro small size and have a small but finite solubility in water. A medium range molecular weight fraction of the low

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molecular weight oligomers move through the water phase into the latex particles at a slower rate extending over several hours or even a few days. The higher molecular weight fraction of the low molecular weight oligomer have
5 essentially zero solubility in water and invariably remain within the oligomer emulsion droplets until a paint film dries, at which time these oligomer particles physically contact the latex particles and eventually migrate into the latex polymer particles during drying.

10 According to a desirable process of this invention, a compatible organic solution of oligomeric modifier in ethylenic monomer can be subjected to high energy shear to prepare a sub-micron -size organic phase dispersed into water. Subsequent polymerization of the micronized monomer
15 droplets produces a softened modified latex very different from conventional emulsion or suspension polymerization polymers. The micro aqueous suspension polymerization is generally necessary with the oligomeric modifiers to accomplish the required sub-micron aqueous emulsification
20 of the monomer containing the dissolved oligomeric modifier, since the oligomer will not readily diffuse during polymerization from particle to particle across the aqueous phase.

The principal advantage of this invention is the
25 elimination of the odour and VOC associated with volatile coalescent solvents which are intentionally volatile and



intended to migrate out of the dried paint film. An additional advantage pertains to dried paint films exhibiting superior toughness obtained through the use of a hard polyvinyl acetate matrix polymer balanced with the oligomeric modifier to accommodate softening through the external addition of softening modifier while retaining the desired dried film hardness. A further advantage pertains to lower net cost for both interior and exterior paints since high cost soft monomers can be avoided, volatile coalescing agents can be eliminated and binder volume can be increased by using a permanent non-volatile softening oligomer instead of a volatile coalescent. The resulting dried paint films exhibit a superior balance of hardness and flexibility while maintaining long term flexibility. These and other advantages of this invention will become more apparent by referring to the detailed description and illustrative examples.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly, the air-dry emulsion paint of this invention contains an oligomeric modified binder of polymerized ethylenic monomers to provide an aqueous emulsion addition
5 copolymer binder externally modified with a non-reactive, low molecular weight, compatible oligomer selected from a polyester-urethane copolymer, a polyether-urethane copolymer, a polyurethane-urea copolymer, a polyester-amide, or a polyester, where between about 1% and desirably
10 between 3% and 70% by weight of the binder comprises softening oligomer. Preferred emulsion addition copolymers comprise vinyl acetate copolymers.

In accordance with the preferred process of this invention, low molecular weight oligomer having a preferred
15 number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000 is stably dispersed into water assisted with surfactants by heating a mixture of oligomer and water containing by weight between about 40% and 70% oligomer at temperatures preferably between about 45°C and 60°C, and then
20 micronizing the heated oligomer water mixture under substantial shear to provide the stable microemulsion of oligomer dispersed aqueous emulsion having an average microemulsion droplet size less than about ten microns. The resulting oligomeric preformed microemulsion can be
25 blended with a wide variety of vinyl acetate or acrylic latex polymers to provide a polymeric binder for paint

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coatings.

In accordance with a desirable process of this invention, the low molecular weight softening oligomer has a preferred number average molecular weight between 300 and 5 10,000 and is effectively dissolved in ethylenically unsaturated monomer to form a compatible organic mixture before forming the aqueous emulsion addition matrix polymer containing between 3% and 50% by weight oligomer. The organic mixture is dispersed into water by high shear, 10 whereupon the ethylenic monomer is polymerized to produce a stabilized latex containing the low molecular weight oligomeric modifier.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The air-dry emulsion paint of this invention comprises 15 an emulsion polymer comprising an aqueous emulsion addition copolymer polymeric binder containing a non-volatile oligomeric modifier.

Suitable oligomeric modifiers in accordance with this invention comprise low molecular weight oligomers including 20 urethanes consisting of polyester-urethane copolymers, polyether-urethane copolymers, polyurethane-urea copolymers; polyester polymer comprising polyester-amides and polyester polymers. The foregoing softening oligomeric modifiers function as effective external modifiers for 25 latex emulsion paints, and particularly for the preferred polyvinylacetate binder for interior latex paints.

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Useful non-volatile oligomeric modifiers have a number average molecular weight range between about 200 and 20,000, preferably between 300 and 10,000 and most preferably between 300 and 5,000. A preferred
 5 characterization of the oligomer modifier is in units of degree of polymerization (DP Units) which refers to the repeating monomer units without regard to molecular weight although the molecular weight is maintained relatively low as indicated. DP units defines the approximate chain
 10 length of the oligomers without regard to side units. The oligomeric modifier of this invention should have a DP between about 2 and 100, preferably between 2 and 50 and most preferably between 2 and 20 DP units. Useful oligomer modifiers have low Tg's to sufficiently impart a
 15 plasticizing effect on the matrix emulsion copolymer. Useful Tg's of the oligomeric modifier measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) at 10°C/minute scan rate are less than -20°C, preferably less than -40°C and most preferably below -50°C. The level of oligomer
 20 modifier needed can vary considerably in the final latex. The level required depends on the inherent softening efficiency of the oligomer (estimated by its Tg) and the Tg of the matrix (parent) polymer. The Fox equation is useful for estimating the level needed:

$$25 \quad 1/T_g (\text{mix}) = (W_p/T_{g, p}) + (W_m/T_{g, m})$$

where Tg (mix) = glass transition temperature of the

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modified polymer (which is a mixture);

W_p, W_m = weight fraction of the parent (matrix) polymer and oligomeric modifier, respectively;

5 $T_{g, p} ; T_{g, m}$ = glass transition temperature of the parent (matrix) polymer and the oligomeric modifier, respectively.

Thus, the level of oligomeric modifier required is directly related to the T_g of the parent matrix polymer, and
10 inversely related to the T_g of the oligomer. Hence, the lower oligomer T_g will more efficiently soften the emulsion addition matrix polymer provided the oligomer and matrix polymer are compatible.

Compatibility of a polymeric mixture is commonly said
15 to exist when the mixture remains substantially optically clear, which indicates the two components are mutually soluble. In this invention, compatibility is intended to mean that the oligomeric modifier is soluble in the matrix polymer in the solid state. Complete compatibility is
20 believed to exist when these conditions are met: in the solid state the mixture has a T_g (DSC, DMA) intermediate between the T_g 's of the two components; the absence of component T_g transitions; the mixture T_g is smoothly dependent on level of modifier; and the mixture T_g follows
25 a mixing rule such as the Fox equation. T_g 's of mixtures depend on the T_g 's of the two components, concentrations of



the two components, and compatibility of the two components. The present invention pertains to substantially compatible components.

In accordance with this invention, low molecular weight polyurethane oligomers such as polyester-urethanes, polyether-urethanes, polyether urethane-urea copolymers, and polyester polymers including polyester-amide copolymers can be utilized as external softening oligomers in the polyvinyl acetate binder matrix polymers. Useful polyurethane copolymers typically contain urethane groups in the polymer backbone and are produced by reacting excess equivalents of diol or polyol with lesser equivalents of di- or polyisocyanate. The polyisocyanates can be di- or triisocyanates such as for example 2,4- and 2,6- toluene diisocyanate, phenylene diisocyanate; hexamethylene or tetramethylene diisocyanate, 1,5-naphthalene diisocyanate, ethylene or propylene diisocyanate, trimethylene or triphenyl or triphenylsulfone triisocyanate, and similar di- or triisocyanates. The polyisocyanate can be generally selected from the group of aliphatic, cyclo-aliphatic and aromatic polyisocyanates such as for example hexamethylene 1,6-diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, diisocyanate, 1,4-dimethyl cyclohexane, diphenylmethane diisocyanate 2,4-toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate and mixtures thereof, polymethylene polyphenyl polyisocyanate.

Polyester-urethanes can be produced from diols



comprising hydroxyl functional polyester polymer prepared by conventional esterification polymerization techniques from the common dicarboxylic acids and dihydroxyl functional reactants. Suitable carboxylic acids include
5 adipic acid, succinic acid and anhydride, azelaic acid, maleic acid and anhydride, and other aliphatic carboxylic acids. Aromatic dicarboxylic acids include isophthalic acid, phthalic acid and anhydride, terephthalic acid, trimellitic anhydride and the like. Lesser amounts of mono-
10 functional acids can be included, such as benzoic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, if desired. Suitable dihydroxy functional materials include ethylene and propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, diethylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, trimethylol propane, and lesser amounts of mono-functional
15 alcohols such as benzyl alcohol and hexanol, if desired. Polyester prepolymers are generally prepared with excess hydroxyl functionality at molecular weights ranging from about 100 to 10,000 preferably about 200 to 2,000. Polyester prepolymers can be used alone or in combination
20 with polyethers as hydroxyl functional prepolymers. Suitable hydroxyl functional polyether prepolymers include polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide, polybutylene oxide, and tetramethylene oxide where the polyether prepolymers have a molecular weight between about 100 and
25 10,000. Preferred polyethers used in the preferred process have a number average molecular weight between about 300



and 5,000.

The polyesters and/or polyether prepolymers are then reacted with diisocyanate to advance the prepolymers to a molecular weight of about 200 to 20,000 and preferably
5 between 300 and 10,000, and most preferably between 300 and 5,000, to form polyester or polyether urethane oligomers of this invention. Diisocyanates are used preferably at an equivalent ratio of about 1 isocyanate group to 1.1 to 10 hydroxyl groups. Ratios of about 1.5 to 3 hydroxyl groups
10 per isocyanate group are preferred. Preferred diisocyanates include toluene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, 1,6-hexane diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate, and the like. Catalysts such as dibutyltin dilaurate, tin oxide and the like can be used to
15 increase the isocyanate reaction rate with the hydroxyl polyester or polyether prepolymer at temperatures of about 30 to 120°C and preferably at about 70° to 100°C.

The polyester or polyether urethane copolymers can be further extended with diamine or polyamine, if desired, to
20 produce polyurethane-urea copolymer useful as a softening oligomer modifier in polyvinyl acetate binder matrix polymers in accordance with this invention. In this regard, primary diamine or polyamine can be added to an isocyanate terminated polyurethane intermediate containing
25 unreacted pendant or terminal isocyanate groups obtained by reacting excess equivalents of isocyanate relative to



hydroxyl equivalents in the polyester or polyether prepolymers. The primary diamines readily react with the isocyanate functional intermediate to chain extend the polyurethane to a polyurethane-urea of a higher molecular weight. Alternatively amine can be prereacted with the diisocyanate prior to reacting with polyol. Suitable primary amines for chain extension include hexamethylene diamine, 2-methyl-pentanediamine and similar aliphatic diamines. Polyester and polyether urethane copolymers or polyurethanes extended with diamine to form polyurethane-ureas exhibit excellent compatibility with vinyl acetate monomers as well as the resulting polyvinylacetate polymers. Polyurethane intermediate molecular weights before chain extension can be between 400 and 10,000 while after chain extension with the diamine the final molecular weight of the polyurethane-urea can be between about 800 and 20,000. Preferred polyurethanes used in the preferred process exhibit intermediate molecular weights before chain extension between 200 and 2,000 with chain extended molecular weights between 300 and 5,000.

A particularly preferred non-reactive oligomer useful as a softening oligomer modifier in this invention comprises a polyester polymer. In accordance with this invention, a low molecular weight ester or polyester can be dissolved in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer, suspended in water, and the aqueous suspension micronized

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prior to polymerization of the monomers. Useful polyester oligomers comprise esterification reaction products of diols with dicarboxylic acids or a functional equivalent with minor amounts of polyol or polyacid if desired, to
5 produce a low acid number polyester polymer. Suitable esters and polyesters for blending have molecular weights between about 200 and 20,000, preferably less than 10,000, and include the linear and branched esters and polyesters formed from saturated dicarboxylic acids such as adipic
10 acid, glutaric acid, succinic acid, and other such linear aliphatic acids, acid anhydrides, and lower alkyl esters thereof; phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, trimellitic anhydride, and other aromatic acids, acid anhydrides, and lower alkyl esters thereof; monoacids such as benzoic acid,
15 2-ethylhexanoic acid and other aromatic and aliphatic acids, which if desired, may be used in minor amounts to end cap and limit molecular weight. Minor amounts of unsaturated dicarboxylic acids such as fumaric or maleic acid can be included, if desired, to enhance grafting with
20 polymerized ethylenic monomers, which promotes compatibility and permanence of the oligomer in the matrix polyvinyl acetate polymer.

Diol functional materials include diethylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, 2-methyl pentane diol, ethylene glycol,
25 butylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol and the like; or mono-functional glycol ether groups, such as



butylcellosolve, butyl carbitol, and the like; as well as hydroxy acids such as lactic acid, and lesser amounts of triols and polyols, such as trimethylol propane and ethane, and pentaerythritol. Acids can be used in carboxyl form, anhydride form, or an ester form, such as the methyl ester form, with the above diols to form linear and branched polyesters desirably having an Acid No. below about 20, and a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000, desirably between 300 and 10,000, and preferably between about 300 and 5,000. Polyesters of diethylene or dipropylene glycol with adipic acid are preferred. The low molecular weight esters and polyesters lower the Tg of the blend and can eliminate the need for expensive comonomers such as butyl acrylate. Thus, low molecular weight esters and polyesters can be effectively used to provide excellent, non-tacky, paint films without the inclusion of coalescing solvents.

Polyester amide oligomeric modifiers are formed by the reaction of diols and diamines with dicarboxylic acids or esters. In a preferred process, methyl esters of adipic, glutaric, isophthalic or other common dicarboxylic acids are transesterified with diols and diamines at about 150°C to 250°C in the presence of common esterification catalysts such as butylstanoic acid. Typically greater amounts of diols, such as diethylene and dipropylene glycol, neopentyl glycol and the like are used with lesser amounts of diamines, such as 1,6-hexanediamine, 2-methyl

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pentanediamine, or the longer chain amines (e.g. Jeffamine-Texaco). Lesser amounts of monoacids, monoesters, alcohols and amines, or polyacid, polyols, or polyamines can be added, if desired.

5 In accordance with preferred aspects of this invention, it has been found that very low molecular weight oligomer modifier can be dispersed into water under high shear at temperatures between about 20°C and 100°C and preferably between about 45°C and 60°C, where the oligomer
10 weight percent and the oligomer weight in the resulting emulsion is between about 40% and 70% by weight and most preferably between about 55% and 65% by weight oligomer. It has been found that high shear of the oligomer in water under these parameters produces micronized emulsion
15 droplets having a micronized particle size below 10 microns will enable the low molecular weight oligomer to diffuse from the preformed emulsion into a preformed latex emulsion polymer. Preferred microemulsions have an average particle droplet size between 0.1 and 1 micron. The rate of
20 diffusion increases considerably by small preemulsion particles where the rate of diffusion is particularly fast and efficient for preformed emulsions having a particle size preferably between 0.1 and 1 micron. It has been found that efficient and complete diffusion of the low
25 molecular weight oligomer particles can be achieved with preferred submicron emulsion particles, whereby oligomer

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present sufficiently diffuses into the latex particles to avoid any residual tackiness which may result from higher molecular weight residues that could not readily diffuse into the latex matrix polymer particles. Accordingly, it

5 has been found that oligomer having a more preferred number average molecular weight below 1500 and most preferably between 500 and 1000 not only increase the quantity of oligomer diffusion, but increases diffusion efficiency into the latex matrix particles and advantageously avoids tacky

10 film forming polymer binders. Thus, direct micronized emulsification of the oligomer into water enables the micronized preemulsion to be easily blended with a wide variety of latex emulsion matrix polymers. The resulting diffused oligomer modified latex matrix polymer comprises

15 a plasticized latex emulsion polymer containing modifying oligomer but contains no volatile organic matter. Paint films are capable of achieving both low temperature film formation below about 10°C and tack free surfaces at ambient room temperature air dry conditions.

20 In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the three-dimensional solubility parameters of the oligomeric modifier must match well with that of the latex polymer in order for plasticization to occur, which may describe a boundary for this invention in term of hydrophobicity. For

25 example, a butyl acrylate/styrene copolymer latex would require a much more hydrophobic modifier than a vinyl



acetate homopolymer. In turn, the ability of the oligomeric modifier to diffuse from the microemulsion to the latex polymer should decline with decreasing hydrophobicity. This could be counteracted to some extent
5 by reducing molecular weight although oligomeric molecular weight above about 300 are needed to maintain permanency and zero VOC conditions. Preferred oligomers are non-volatile oligomers having a molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000. Lower molecular weight compounds tend to be
10 volatile and cause excessive plasticizer migration while higher molecular weight polymers lose low temperature film-forming and softening effects.

The oligomer preemulsion can be formed in accordance with the preferred process of the invention by forming a
15 normally incompatible mixture of water and oligomer comprising between about 40% and 70% by weight oligomer. The oligomer can be suspended in water with mixing to form a coarse suspension using the common latex surfactants or stabilizers, such as the sulfosuccinates, the sulfates,
20 various ethoxylated phenols, and the like. The coarse suspension is then micronized under very high shear to very fine particle size emulsion droplets of average size of less than 10 microns, preferably less than 1 micron, and most preferably less than 0.7 micron. High mechanical
25 shear and/or ultrasound as well as other high shear devices can be used to form the microemulsion. Grinding the



oligomeric modifier into an aqueous mixture of pigments is a satisfactory method of forming the micro-preemulsion. Suitable surfactants are used at about 0.1% to 5% by weight (based on solids) and include the nonionic surfactants such as various ethoxylated phenols, block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, anionic surfactants such as sulfosuccinates, sulfates, and sulfonates, and the like (sulfosuccinates such as hexyl, octyl, and hexadecyl sulfosuccinate are preferred). Suitable surfactants include the various sulfosuccinates such as hexyl, octyl, and hexadecyl sulfosuccinate, the various alkyl and alkyl-aromatic sulfates and sulfonates, as well as the various nonionic ethylene oxide surfactants. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the modifying oligomers are dispersed into water and micronized into a microemulsion, whereupon the oligomer micro-preemulsion can be mixed with a preformed emulsion latex copolymer of copolymerized ethylenic monomers.

In accordance with another aspect of this invention, the oligomers can be solubilized in ethylenic monomer, then dispersed into water and micronized into a microemulsion. The ethylenic monomers are then polymerized to produce a polymeric binder comprising emulsion polymerized ethylenic monomer. The preferred ethylenic monomer is vinyl acetate, although other ethylenic monomers can be copolymerized with the vinyl acetate monomer to produce a preferred copolymer



containing by weight less than 60% and preferably less than 30% and most preferably less than 20% other ethylenic monomer. The oligomers can be dissolved in the ethylenically unsaturated monomers to form a fluid organic solution containing above 1% and desirably between about 3% and 50% and preferably between 10% and 25% by weight oligomer based on the weight of the organic monomer solution. This organic mixture of oligomer and monomer is then suspended in water with high shear mixing to form a coarse suspension using the common latex surfactants as stabilizers. Suitable surfactants are used at about 0.1 to 5% by weight (based on solids) and include the nonionic surfactants such as various ethoxylated phenols, block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, anionic surfactants such as sulfosuccinates, sulfates, and sulfonates, and the like (sulfosuccinates such as hexyl, octyl, and hexadecyl sulfosuccinate are preferred). The coarse suspension is then micronized to very fine particle size emulsion droplets of average size of less than 5 microns, preferably less than 1 micron, and most preferably less than 0.7 micron. High mechanical shear and/or ultrasound can be used to form the microemulsion. Typical additional ingredients include buffers, acrylic acid, sodium salt of acrylamido methyl propane sulfonic acid (NaAMPS) ordinarily added at 0.1% to 5% by weight levels based on solids. Initiators such as persulfate, peroxide,



and azo initiators can be added before or after suspension of the organic mixture in water. Redox catalysts can be added if desired. Polymerization can be accomplished by simply raising the suspension temperature to about 70°C to 80°C using persulfate initiators. Initial reflux of vinyl acetate will be at 67°C, but the temperature will rise with monomer polymerization conversion. Additional ethylenic monomer can be added, preferably after the preformed suspended addition copolymer emulsion and other monomer have polymerized.

In accordance with either process of this invention, the emulsion polymerized ethylenic monomers produce a matrix polymer of polymerized monomer where the most preferred polymeric binders comprise homopolymers of vinyl acetate. On a weight basis, the polymeric binders can comprise between 40% and 100% polymerized vinyl acetate with the balance being other ethylenic monomers. Preferred polymeric binders containing at least 70% by weight polymerized vinyl acetate and most preferred 80% to 100% vinyl acetate. However, exterior latex paints based on acrylic emulsion matrix copolymers predominantly of copolymerized acrylic and styrene monomers comprising between 50% and 100% by weight acrylic monomers are particularly useful for exterior air dry latex paints. Vinyl acetate copolymers are useful for exterior paints although acrylic copolymer are preferred.

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In either vinyl acetate or acrylic copolymers, other copolymerizable ethylenic monomers comprise ethylenically unsaturated monomers containing carbon-to-carbon, allylic monomers, acrylamide monomers, and mono- and dicarboxylic unsaturated acids. Vinyl esters include vinyl propionate, vinyl laurate, vinyl decanoate, vinyl butyrates, vinyl benzoates, vinyl isopropyl acetates and similar vinyl esters; vinyl aliphatic hydrocarbon monomers include vinyl chloride and vinylidene chloride as well as alpha olefins such as ethylene, propylene, isobutylene, as well as conjugated dienes such as 1,3 butadiene, methyl-2-butadiene, 1,3-piperylene, 2,3-dimethyl butadiene, isoprene, cyclohexane, cyclopentadiene, and dicyclopentadiene; and vinyl alkyl ethers include methyl vinyl ether, isopropyl vinyl ether, n-butyl vinyl ether, and isobutyl vinyl ether. Acrylic monomers include lower alkyl esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid having an alkyl ester portion containing between 1 to 12 carbon atoms as well as aromatic derivatives of acrylic and methacrylic acid. Useful acrylic monomers include, for example, acrylic and methacrylic acid, methyl acrylate and methacrylate, ethyl acrylate and methacrylate, butyl acrylate and methacrylate, propyl acrylate and methacrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate and methacrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate and methacrylate, decyl acrylate and methacrylate, isodecyl acrylate and methacrylate, benzyl



acrylate and methacrylate, and various reaction products such as butyl, phenyl, and cresyl glycidyl ethers reacted with acrylic and methacrylic acids, hydroxyl alkyl acrylates and methacrylates such as hydroxyethyl and
5 hydroxypropyl acrylates and methacrylates, amino acrylates, methacrylates as well as acrylic acids such as acrylic and methacrylic acid, ethacrylic acid, alpha-chloroacrylic acid, alpha-cyanoacrylic acid, crotonic acid, beta-acryloxy propionic acid, and beta-styryl acrylic acid.

10 Particularly preferred comonomers include acrylates such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl (linear and branched), 2-ethyl hexyl; methacrylates such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl (linear and branched), 2-ethyl hexyl; vinyl esters such as acetate, proprionate, butyrate, pentanoate (neo 5),
15 nonanoate (neo 9), 2-ethyl hexanoate, decanoate (neo 10); and other ethylenic monomers such as ethylene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride and butadiene. Very minor amounts of divinyl monomers such as divinyl benzene can be copolymerized if desired. For exterior latex paints, the
20 matrix copolymer ordinarily comprises copolymerized acrylic monomers where the acrylic copolymer content can be between about 40% and 100% by weight of the copolymer.

The preferred matrix copolymer comprises emulsion polymerized vinyl acetate monomer to produce a matrix
25 polymeric binder of polymerized vinyl acetate where the most preferred polymeric binders comprise homopolymers of

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vinyl acetate. On a weight basis, the preferred polymeric binders comprise between 40% and 100% polymerized vinyl acetate with the balance being other ethylenic monomers. Preferred polymeric binders contain at least 70% by weight
5 polymerized vinyl acetate and most preferred 80% to 100% vinyl acetate. The number average molecular weight of the polymeric vinyl acetate binders should be between about 30,000 and 10,000,000 and preferably between 50,000 and 1,000,000 as measured by GPC (gel permeation
10 chromatography) according to ASTM D3016-78, D3536-76, and D3593-80. The Tg or softening point of the modified polymeric binder particles should be less than 20°C as measured by differential scanning calorimetry, preferably less than 10°C, most preferably <5°C. The MFT (minimum film
15 formation temperature) is an alternative measure of polymer film formation determined on the neat latex on a temperature gradient temperature bar, and is typically a few degrees higher than the Tg of the latex. MFT should be less than 20°C, preferably less than 15°C, most preferred
20 less than 10°C. The LTFF (low temperature film formation) is a film forming test run on the fully formulated paint. LTFF typically is reported as the lowest temperature at which no cracking is observed, or alternatively, the amount of coalescent or oligomer needed to achieve 40°F failure-
25 free coatings. LTFF should be less than 50°F (10°C), preferably less than 40°F (5°C). The distinction with LTFF



is that other paint ingredients may have either an elevating influence (fillers, pigments) or depressing (surfactants, incidental solvents in additives) effect on LTFF relative to the MFT, which is measured on the latex
5 alone. In turn, the MFT is measured from the wet state, and therefore includes the plasticizing effect of water, while the Tg is measured on an anhydrous sample of latex film, which does not include the water plasticizing effect. Latex paints are formulated to achieve LTFF of less than
10 50°F (10°C), preferably less than 40°C (5°C). It is also necessary for the final dried films to not be tacky at normal use temperatures (60-110°F). The polymeric binder contains between about 5% and 45% by weight softening oligomer with the balance being copolymer matrix polymer.

15

The ethylenic monomers can be polymerized in an aqueous polymerization medium by adding other emulsion polymerization ingredients. Initiators can include for example, typical free radical and redox types such as
20 hydrogen peroxide, t-butyl hydroperoxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, benzoyl peroxide, benzoyl hydroperoxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, t-butyl peracetate, azobisisobutyronitrile, ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, potassium persulfate, sodium perphosphate,
25 potassium perphosphate, isopropyl peroxy carbonate, and redox initiators such as sodium persulfate-sodium



formaldehyde sulfoxylate, cumene hydroperoxide-sodium metabisulfite, potassium persulfate-sodium bisulfite, cumene hydroperoxide-iron (II) sulfate. Redox systems consist of oxidants and reductants, which can be mixed in
5 any pair. Transition metals such as iron can be used as accelerators for initiators for redox couples. The polymerization initiators are usually added in amounts between about 0.1 to 2 weight percent based on the monomer additions.

10 Suitable anionic surfactants include for example, salts of fatty acids such as sodium and potassium salts of stearic, palmetic, oleic, lauric, and tall oil acids, salts of sulfated fatty alcohols, salts of phosphoric acid esters of polyethylated long chain alcohols and phenols.

15 Preferred anionic surfactants include for example, alkylbenzene sulfonate salts such as sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate and salts of hexyl, octyl, and higher alkyl diesters of 2-sulfosuccinic acid. Suitable non-ionic surfactants include polyoxyethylene glycols reacted with a
20 lyophilic compound, ethylene oxide condensation products reacted with t-octylphenol or nonylphenol and known as "Triton" surfactants, polymerized oxyethylene (IgepalCA), ethylene oxide reacted with organic acids (Emulfor), or organic acid reacted with polyoxyamylene ether of stearic
25 or oleic acid esters (Tweens).

A paint coating composition can be produced by

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combining the externally modified emulsion polymer of this invention with pigments and other paint additives in a dispersing mill such as a Cowles disperser. A pigment dispersion can be preformed consisting of a dispersant and
5 pigments on a disperser mill, a sand mill, a pebble mill, a roller mill, a ball mill or similar conventional grinding mill for milling the mineral pigments into the dispersion medium. The premix can then be combined under low shear with the polymeric binder of this invention and other paint
10 additives as desired. Useful mineral pigments ordinarily include opacifying pigments such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, titanium calcium, as well as tinting pigments such as carbon black, yellow oxides, brown oxides, tan oxides, raw and burnt sienna or umber, chromium oxide green,
15 phthalocyanine green, phthalonitrile blue, ultramarine blue, cadmium pigments, chromium pigments, and the like. Filler pigments such as clay, silica, talc, mica, wollastonite, wood flower, barium sulfate, calcium carbonate and the like can be added.

20 Historically, prior art paints achieved a balance of properties by making the latex slightly too hard for LTFF to achieve the tack-free character, and then temporarily softening the binder polymer with a coalescing solvent to achieve the desired LTFF. However, by using non-volatile,
25 external softening oligomers in accordance with this invention, the historical relationship between T_g (or MFT)

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and LTFF in the final paint can be changed such that both film formation and tack free character are simultaneously obtained without the need for a volatile coalescing solvent. The softening oligomer is permanent by design and
5 will not volatilize out of the paint film.

The merits of this invention are further supported by the following illustrative examples.

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Comparative Examples A and B

A vinyl acetate and butyl acrylate 80/20 copolymer (Ex. A)
and a vinyl acetate/butyl acrylate 60/40 copolymer (Ex. B)
5 were produced from the following ingredients.

	<u>Ex. A</u>	<u>Ex. B</u>	
10	a) 2022 g 7.2 g 4.3 g 5.4 g	2022 g 7.2 g 4.3 g 5.4 g	deionized water MM-80 ammonium acetate A246L
15	b) 28 g 7.0 g 0.7 g	28 g 7.0 g 0.7 g	vinyl acetate butyl acrylate ammonium persulfate
20	c) 1360 g 340 g 2.4 g	1034 g 677 g 2.4 g	vinyl acetate butyl acrylate acrylic acid
25	d) 5.4 g 21 g 135 g 15 g	5.4 g 21 g 135 g 15 g	ammonium persulfate A246L deionized water NaAMPS

Warm (a) to 71°C under nitrogen with good stirring.
Add (b) and allow exotherm to die (about 15 minutes). Pump
in (c) and (d) in parallel over 5 hours. Hold 1 hour, and
cool.

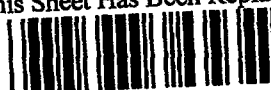
30

Comparative Example

Comparisons of soft copolymer and coalesced hard
copolymer (prior art) with the current invention are as
follows.

Prior art. Conventionally, the balance of low temperature
35 film formation and absence of tack at ambient temperature
is achieved by utilizing a latex composition with an

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elevated Tg, to achieve absence of tack, and then temporarily reducing its Tg with a volatile coalescing solvent such as Texanol, to achieve low temperature film formation. While this works well, it also involves the
5 emission of the coalescing solvent into the atmosphere, which contributes odour and air pollution. A typical copolymer composition comprises by weight 80% vinyl acetate and 20% butyl acrylate, as in Example A above. For this experiment, the latex contained coalescing solvent at the
10 level of 6% to achieve a KMFT of 10°C. A film cast with this coalesced latex was non-tacky at room temperature, but emitted volatile solvent to the atmosphere.

Conversely, if one makes a copolymer with a low enough Tg to achieve low temperature film formation (60/40 VA/BA),
15 as in Example B above, the polymer forms a film which is excessively tacky at ambient use temperature. While this would involve no VOC emissions to the atmosphere, the coating involves a commercially unacceptable balance of properties. This soft copolymer achieves a KMFT of 10°C on
20 its own. A film cast from this latex is extremely tacky at room temperature, but emits no solvents to the atmosphere.

Present Invention. In the present invention, the use of a non-volatile external plasticizer accomplishes all three goals simultaneously: low temperature film formation,
25 tack-free behavior at ambient temperatures, and no volatile organic emissions to the atmosphere.

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Example 1

A low molecular weight dipropylene-adipate oligomer polyester was synthesized in accordance with the preferred process at a -OH/-COOH equivalent ratio of 1.25 as follows:

- 5 1629.9 grams adipic acid
 1870.1 grams dipropylene glycol
 1.1 grams butyl stannic acid

The foregoing materials were charged to a flask equipped with a stirrer and heated up to 240°C maximum
10 under nitrogen along with water of reaction removal and held until a final Acid No. of 4 to 8 was obtained based on solids. The resulting polyester had ICI Cone & Plate viscosity 14-18 poise at 30°C, and a number average molecular weight of 800, and a Tg of -50°C.

- 15 The foregoing polyester was used to make an oligomeric pre-emulsion comprising by weight 62.5% polyester, 3.6% Triton X405 surfactant (70% active nonyl phenol ethoxylate), and 33.9% deionized water. This corresponds to 4% surfactant based on the weight of polyester. The
20 pre-emulsion was formed by adding the polyester to the water/surfactant solution with ordinary agitation to form a premix, heating the premix above 45°C to about 60°C, and then passing the heated premix through a Sonic Triplex Model T02-2A-HP ultrasonic emulsifier equipped with a 0.001
25 square inch orifice at 1000 psi. The resulting mixture was a stable, water dispersed, pre-emulsion of polyester



oligomer having an emulsion particle size less than 0.7 microns. The oligomer pre-emulsion was then blended with 80/20 by weight vinyl acetate butyl acrylate copolymer (Example A above) having a $T_g = 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ at the level of 10% polyester based on the weight of oligomer and latex polymer solids or 800 grams latex 56.5% NV was mixed with 77.3 grams of polyester pre-emulsion. Blending of the oligomer pre-emulsion and latex was at room temperature, mixed thoroughly for about one hour, and then was allowed to set at room temperature for about 24 hours without further mixing. The oligomer modified latex provided an excellent semi-gloss latex paint.

Example 2

In a manner similar to Example 1, a low molecular weight polyester prepolymer was prepared at a -OH/-COOH equivalent ratio of 1.186 as follows:

1675.1 grams adipic acid
1823.4 grams dipropylene glycol
20 0.5 grams triphenyl phosphine
 1.1 grams butyl stannic acid

The polyester was synthesized at less than 240°C to obtain a 4-8 Acid No. along with a 32-38 poise viscosity at 30°C , a number average molecular weight of 970, and a T_g of -
25 50°C . The oligomer pre-mix was micronized through a Sonolator to an emulsion particle size less than 0.7



microns. The oligomer pre-emulsion was mixed with the 80/20 vinyl acetate butyl acrylate copolymer latex in the manner of Example 1.

Example 3

- 5 White semi-gloss latex paints were prepared from any one of the foregoing emulsion polymers described in Examples 1 or 2 from the following ingredients:

PIGMENT GRIND:

	<u>Group</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
10	A	Water	151.68
	A	Thickener	.50
	A	Ammonia (28%)	.01
	B	Surfactant	5.00
	C	Defoamer	2.00
15	C	Surfactant	2.00
	D	TiO ₂ pigment	145.00
	D	Clay extender pigment	50.00

Group A ingredients were added to Cowles dispersing equipment and mixed for 5 minutes. Group B and then C
 20 ingredients were added with continued mixing under slow agitation. Group D ingredients were added under high speed agitation and grind for 15 minutes or until a Hegman 5.5 was attained. The foregoing is the grind portion of the paint.

25 LETDOWN

<u>Group</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
--------------	-------------------	--------------

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	E	Water	33.00
	F	Water	33.00
	F	Thickener	3.50
	F	Ammonia Hydroxide	.01
5	G	Preservative	1.00
	H	Defoamer	5.00
	H	Propylene glycol	40.00
	H	Surfactant	4.50
	H	Rheology Modifier (Ex. 1 or 2)	9.00
10	H	Surfactant	3.00
	I	Latex (Ex. 1 or 2)	393.00
	I	Opacifier latex	105.00

Group E ingredients were added in separate vessel, followed by Premix F added to E ingredients with slow speed agitation. Group G ingredients were added at slow speed. Premix H ingredients were then added to vessel. Premix I ingredients were mixed for 30 minutes and then added to vessel. The final composition was mixed for 1 hour. The foregoing is the letdown portion of the paint.

20 LATEX PAINT

The letdowns above were added to the pigment grind above under slow speed agitation and allowed to mix for 2 hours. Paint films from the foregoing latex paints were drawn down at 1 mil, air dried for at least 24 hours, and then tested for the following results:

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	<u>LTFF</u>	<u>Paint Ex. 1</u>	<u>Paint Ex.</u>
2			
	70°F	pass	pass
	50°F	pass	pass
5	40°F	pass	pass

Dried paint films are considered to pass low temperature film formation (LTFF) if the dried coating has no tacking and is visible under ten-times magnification.

Example 4

10 The following data was generated by blending an emulsion of an MPD/ADA modifier (methyl propane diol/adipic acid polyester of MW ca 1200) with the vinyl acetate homopolymer latex. The MPD/ADA oligomer modifier was prepared as in Example 1 by reacting:

15 877 gms of adipic acid
630.7 gms of 2-methyl-1,3-propane diol
0.2 gms of butylstanoic acid

The emulsion was prepared as in Example 1 with a Ross ME-100L rotor-stator mixer, which produced a sub-micron pre-
20 emulsion in size.

TABLE 1

Effect of Blended Modified on MFT

	<u>PCT Modifier (Ex. 4)</u>	<u>Initial (Ca. 30°C)</u>	<u>After 24 Hours</u>	<u>After 5 Days</u>
25	20	20	13	18
	30	13	9	14
30	40	10	7	10

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As can be seen, oligomeric modifier appears to diffuse into the latex, lowering its MFT. The Fox Equation relationship appears to hold quite well for blends of compatible oligomers with latex, and the estimated fraction of the oligomeric modifier which diffused into the latex. Table 2 summarizes these calculations:

TABLE 2

10

Estimated Extent of Diffusion

<u>PCT Modifier</u>	<u>Pct Diffused</u>
20	65
30	56
40	50

15

It was found that the foregoing MPD/ADA oligomeric modifier is effective as a film-forming modifier in accordance with this invention but is not as effective as the adipic acid dipropylene glycol polyester of Examples 1 and 2.

20

Examples 5 - 8

A series of polyester modifiers were prepared as follows:

TABLE 3

	<u>Ex. 5</u>	<u>Ex. 6</u>	<u>Ex. 7</u>	<u>Ex.</u>
25 <u>8</u>				
Neopentyl glycol	416.8	312.6	---	---
Azelaic acid	564.6	376.4	---	---

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	Adipic acid	---	---	146.2
	584.8			
	Dipropylene glycol	---	---	268.4
	Benzoic acid	---	---	183.2
5	2-methyl-1,3-			
	propane diol	---	---	---
	180.2			
	2-ethyl hexanol	---	---	---
	520.8			
10	Butyl stanoic acid	0.2	0.2	0.2
	0.4			

The polyester oligomers were synthesized as in Example 1.

Example 9

15 A polyester amide was prepared as follows:

13.4 g 2-methyl-1,5-pentane diamine
 100.3 g DBE-3 (DuPont, dimethyl adipate)
 77.4 g dipropylene glycol
 0.1 g butyl stanoic acid

20 Heat under nitrogen with good agitation to about 220°C. Use a glass bead packed column to distill off methanol, keeping column head temperature at 65°C. Switch to a trap when distillation slows down. Cool after 4 hours at 200°C.

25 Emulsions of the modifiers were prepared as in Example 1 and blended with a commercial acrylic latex (8°C

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Tg, DSC, methylmethacrylate-butyl acrylate) and a styrene latex (37°C Tg, DSC, styrene-ethyl-acrylate) as follows:

PAINT FORMULA

A) Premix the following components:

5		<u>Grams</u>
	water	200
	cellulosic thickener	1.0
	preservative	2.0
	defoamer	1.0
10	polymeric dispersant	6.0
	surfactant	4.0

B) Add the following to (A) and disperse 5 minutes at moderate speed:

		<u>Grams</u>
15	titanium dioxide	162.7
	extender pigment	132.65
	crystalline silica	85.65
	colloidal silicate	2.00

C) Add the following to (A) and (B) mixture and mix 15 minutes at high speed:

		<u>Grams</u>
	water	100
	defoamer	2.0

D) Premix the following and then add to the above and mix 15 minutes at low speed:

Grams

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water 60.0

cellulosic thickener 4.5

E) Add the following and mix 15 minutes moderate speed:

Grams

5 modified latex 264

F) Add the following components to the above mixture:

Grams

Water 70

defoamer 3.0

10 polyurethane associative
thickener 10.0

TABLE 4

Acrylic Latex:

	<u>Example</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>40⁰F LTFF</u>
15	10	5% Example 5	pass
	11	5% Example 6	pass
	12	5% Example 7	pass
	13	5% Example 8	pass
	14	5% Example 9	pass
20	15	None	fail

Styrene Latex:

	<u>Example</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>70⁰F LTFF</u>
	16	Example 7	pass
	17	None	fail

25 The following examples illustrate the process of this invention where the oligomer is mixed with ethylenic

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monomer prior to emulsion polymerization. Polyesters with a range of molecular weights and structures can function as effective non-volatile plasticizing and coalescing agents for emulsion addition copolymers, where comonomer is not
5 needed with vinyl acetate polymer and coalescing aid is not required for good film formation. Avoiding the use of coalescing solvents is possible because the higher molecular weight polyesters are dissolved in polyvinyl acetate monomer and then dispersed into water by high shear
10 and/or ultrasound prior to polymerization of the polyvinyl acetate as illustrated in the following examples.

The following examples reflect the process of this invention wherein the oligomer is dispersed into monomer and then micronized into water followed by
15 copolymerization of the monomer.

Example 10

An adipate polyester oligomer was prepared as follows:

	<u>Grams</u>
20 Adipic acid	438.6
Diethylene glycol	382
Butylstanoic acid	0.5

The above raw materials were heated in a 2 liter flask under a nitrogen blanket with mechanical stirring to 170°C
25 while using the head temperature above a column packed with glass beads to regulate the esterification reaction. With



a head temperature of 98°C , the reaction temperature increased slowly to 220°C , where the temperature was held for 2 hours and then cooled.

An aqueous suspension of vinyl acetate monomer and the above adipate polyester was prepared from the following materials.

		<u>Grams</u>
	a) deionized water	2000
	MM-80, Mona Chemical ¹	11.2
10	(NH ₄) HCO ₃	2.5
	NaAMPS, Lubrizol Corp.	2.5
	vinyl acetate monomer	625
	b) polyester from above	312
	MT-70, Mona Chemical ²	5.6
15	c) (NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈	5.0
	d) vinyl acetate monomer	625
	MT-70 ³	5.6
	¹ MM-80 = sodium dihexyl sulfosuccinate	
	² NaAMPS = sodium acrylamide methyl propane sulfonate	
20	³ MT-70 sodium ditridecyl sulfosuccinate	

Organic solution (a) was dispersed in aqueous solution (b) with a prop stirrer at about 5000 rpm for 20 seconds and passed through the flow through cell of a Sonics Corp. model VC-600 ultrasonic device at 85% power.

25 The resulting aqueous emulsion was heated with stirring under a nitrogen blanket to 65°C . Component (c) was added



and 65°C was held for 1.5 hours. Monomer mixture (d) was added over 3 hours at 72°C, held 1 hour, and then cooled.

Example 11

5 In a manner similar to Example 10, a phthalate polyester oligomer was prepared, mixed with vinyl acetate monomer, micronized into water by high shear, and polymerized. The phthalate polyester was as follows:

	<u>Grams</u>
10 phthalic anhydride	593
diethylene glycol	318.3
butyl cellosolve	236.4

The raw materials were heated under nitrogen to 200°C, then slowly raised to 220°C over 2 hours while keeping the head
 15 temperature of the packed distillation column at 98°C. Total distillate was 73 g. A suspension of the above phthalate polyester was prepared as follows:

	<u>Grams</u>
a) deionized water	800
20 MM-80	3.0
NaHCO ₃	2.0
b) vinyl acetate monomer	250
polyester (Ex. 11 above)	80
c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	2.0
25 d) vinyl acetate monomer	250
MT-70	3.0



The procedure for polymerizing the ethylenic monomers was the same as described in Example 10.

Example 12

In a manner similar to Example 11, a polymer was prepared except that the amount of phthalate polyester was increased from 80 grams to 150 grams.

Example 13

In a manner similar to Example 11, a polymer was prepared using the following components using a commercial polyester believed to be a polyether-phthalate-polyester capped with benzoic acid (Hercoflex 900, Hercules Corp.).

		<u>Grams</u>
	a) deionized water	2000
15	MM-80	15
	NaHCO ₃	2.5
	NaHCO ₃	7.5
	NaAMPS	2.5
	b) vinyl acetate monomer	625
20	Hercoflex 900, (Hercules Corp.)	250
	c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	5.0
	d) vinyl acetate monomer	625
	MT-70	7.5

25 The procedure from Example 10 was used to copolymerize the monomers and produce a latex polymer.

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Example 14

In a manner similar to Example 10, a polyester triester was prepared from the following reactants:

	<u>Grams</u>
5 Ektasolve DB, Eastman Chem.	365
(diethylene glycol butyl ether)	
trimelitic anhydride	145
butylstanoic acid	0.1

The water of reaction distilled off was 29 grams.

10

A polymer was prepared according to the polymerization process described in Example 12 but from the following components:

	<u>Grams</u>
15 a) deionized water	800
MM-80	3.0
NaHCO ₃	2.0
b) vinyl acetate monomer	250
triester from above	50
20 MT-70	1.0
c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	2.0
vinyl acetate monomer	250
MT-70	3.0

Example 15

25 Clear unpigmented films were prepared from the polymers prepared in Examples 10-14. Physical properties

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of latex and air dried clear paint films were as follows:

		Min. Film Temp.	Min. Film Temp.
	<u>Suspension</u>	<u>Crack Point</u>	<u>Knife Point</u>
5	<u>Tack</u>		
	Ex. 10	<3	<3
	None		
	Ex. 11	12	24
10	None		
	Ex. 12	3	9
	None		
	Ex. 13	<3	6
	None		
15	Ex. 14	4	15
	None		
	Control *	10	12
	None		

*Control was an unmodified commercial latex typically used
 20 in consumer air-dry paints and comprising 80/20 weight
 ratio of vinyl acetate polymerized with butyl acrylate.

Example 16

White semi-gloss latex paints were prepared from
 25 any one of the foregoing emulsion polymers described in
 Examples 10-14 from the following ingredients:

Pigment Grind:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
A	Water	151.68

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	A	Thickener	.50
	A	Ammonia (28%)	.01
	B	Surfactant	5.00
	C	Defoamer	2.00
5	C	Surfactant	2.00
	D	TiO ₂ pigment	145.00
	D	Clay extender pigment	50.00

Group A ingredients were added to Cowles dispersing equipment and mixed for 5 minutes. Group B and then C ingredients were added with continued mixing under slow agitation. Group D ingredients were added under high speed agitation and grind for 15 minutes or until a Hegman 5.5 was attained. The foregoing is the grind portion of the paint.

15	<u>Letdown</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	E	Water	33.00
	F	Water	33.00
	F	Thickener	3.50
	F	Ammonia Hydroxide	.01
20	G	Preservative	1.00
	H	Defoamer	5.00
	H	Propylene glycol	40.00
	H	Surfactant	4.50
	H	Rheology Modifier	9.00
25	H	Surfactant	3.00
	I	Latex	393.00

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I	Opacifier latex	105.00
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Group E ingredients were added in separate vessel, followed by Premix F added to E ingredients with slow speed agitation. Group G ingredients were added at slow speed.

5 Premix H ingredients were then added to vessel. Premix I ingredients were mixed for 30 minutes and then added to vessel. The final composition was mixed for 1 hour. The foregoing is the letdown portion of the paint.

Latex Paint

10 The letdown above was added to the pigment grind above
under slow speed agitation and allowed to mix for 2 hours.

Example 17

Benzoic acid capped polyester oligomer modifier.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
15	adipic acid	731
	diethylene glycol	637
	butylstanoic acid	0.5
	benzoic acid	244

Heat the above components gradually with adequate stirring
20 under a nitrogen atmosphere to 220°C. (Water will begin to
distill at about 170°C, and about 3 hours will be required
to move the batch from 170°C to 220°C). Using a packed
column, maintain the head temperature at 99°C throughout
this portion of the synthesis. When the head temperature
25 drops below 80°C, remove the column and replace with a
Dean-Stark trap. Fill the trap with xylene, and then add

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just enough additional xylene to give a constant reflux. Allow xylene reflux to azeotrope water out of the batch, and reduce acid number to about 10 mg KOH/g resin. Remove xylene under a vacuum (25 inches Hg). Cool.

5

Example 18

Benzoic acid capped polyester urethane oligomer modifier
As in Example 17, but use only 122 g benzoic acid, then cool batch to 60°C at the end of the synthesis, and add 111 g isophorone diisocyanate. Allow the exotherm to carry the
10 temperature (with gentle heating) to 90°C, and hold for 2 hours. Cool.

Example 19

Polyester urethane oligomeric external modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
15	adipic acid	731
	diethylene glycol	636
	butylstanoic acid	0.5

Synthesize a polyester from the above ingredients in the same manner as in Example 17, and then add 111 g isophorone
20 diisocyanate to form a polyester urethane as in Example 18.

Example 20

Polyester urethane external modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	adipic acid	366
25	dipropylene glycol	403
	butylstanoic acid	0.2

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Form a polyester from the above ingredients as in Example 17, and then add 56 g isophorone diisocyanate to form a urethane as in Example 18.

5

Example 21

Polyester urethane urea oligomeric external modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	adipic acid	731
	dipropylene glycol	805
10	butylstanoic acid	0.5

Synthesize a polyester from the above as in Example 17, and place 300 g of the product in a separate flask at 20°C. Add 29 g isophorone diisocyanate and 30 g Jeffamine ED-2001 polyethylene oxide diamine, 2000 mol. wt. no. ave. -
 15 Texaco. The Jeffamine is predissolved in 30 g vinyl acetate to enhance miscibility. Slowly warm to 40°C to allow amine reaction with isocyanate, hold 1 hour, and then heat to 90°C. Hold 2 hours, and then cool.

Example 22

20 Polyester amide external oligomer modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	DBE-5 (dimethyl ester of glutaric acid, DuPont)	481
	dipropylene glycol	268
25	Dytek A (2-methylpentane diamine)	58

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butylstanoic acid 0.2

Warm with good agitation under nitrogen to about 190°C and distill off methanol with a good packed column. Keep column head temperature at 64°C, and gradually warm batch to 210°C. Cool after 160 g of methanol is removed.

Example 23

Polyester amide external oligomer modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
10	DBE-5	481
	dipropylene glycol	268
	Jeffamine D-230	115
	(polypropylene oxide diamine)	
	butylstanoic acid	0.5

15 Synthesized by same procedure as in Example 22.

Example 24

Polyester external oligomer modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	dipropylene glycol	4717
20	adipic acid	4283
	triphenyl phosphine	1.2
	butylstanoic acid	3.0

Synthesize as in Example 17, but do not use xylene. When column head temperature drops to 80°C acid number is about 20 mg KOH/g resin. Pull a vacuum of about 10 inches of Hg, and then gradually increase vacuum to pull off remaining

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water. Final acid number is 3 mg KOH/g resin.

Example 25

Latexes were prepared with the following generalized formula and synthesized as described below.

5	a)	2122 g	deionized water
		8.5 g	MA-80 (dihexyl sulfosuccinate, Mona Chem.)
		5.4 g	ammonium acetate
		8.1 g	Na AMPS, 48% (Lubrizol Chemical)
10	Poulenc)	10.5 g	A246L (Na olefin sulfonate, Rhone
	b)	7.4 g	Na formaldehyde sulfoxylate
		10 ml	FeSO ₄ aqueous solution, 1000 ppm
15	c)	869 g	vinyl acetate
		370 g	modifier as above from Examples 8 to 16
		3.1 g	acrylic acid
20	d)	6.3 g	ammonium persulfate
		14 g	A246L
		159 g	deionized water
25	e)	874 g	vinyl acetate
		3.1 g	acrylic acid
	f)	2.0 g	ammonium persulfate
		27 g	deionized water

30 Weigh and mix thoroughly groups (a) and (c). Combine groups (a) and (c), stir with a spatula to disperse, and then emulsify for 5 minutes at 10,000 rpm in a Ross ME 100L emulsifier. Add (b) ingredients to the emulsion, and warm in a 5 liter Morton flask to 50°C with good agitation under
35 nitrogen. Pump in 40 ml of (d) over 2.5 hours, adjusting pumping rate to give a reaction temperature of about 55°C. Pump in the rest of (d) and all of (e) over 3 hours. Pump in (f) over 1 hour. Cool.

Examples 26-33

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Latexes approximately equivalent were prepared as in Example 25 and mixed with modifiers identified in the following Table.

TABLE

5	<u>Ex.</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>DSC Tg</u>	<u>Knife Point MFFT</u>	<u>Dry Film</u>
	<u>Tack</u>				
	26	Ex. 17	0	8.2	None
	27	Ex. 18	11	8.8	None
	28	Ex. 19	11	12.5	None
10	29	Ex. 20	10	13.7	None
	30	Ex. 21	13	19.5	None
	31	Ex. 22	6	7.6	None
	32	Ex. 23	-5	10.0	Tacky
	33	Ex. 24	--	16.5	None

15 *DSC Tg's in degrees C (single, distinct transitions are noted). MFFT = minimum film formation temperature in degree C (knife point). Tack and MFFT were measured for dry latex films (only DSC Tg was measured for modifiers).

20 The film from Example 32 is tacky at room temperature, while the other latexes form good, tack free films. Generally, Tg's in the 5-10°C range are preferred. MFFT's of 20°C or less are preferred, indicating that good ambient and low temperature film formation will occur.

25 Example 32 was marginally tacky due to low Tg of the film.

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CLAIMS

1. An aqueous air-dry coating composition including an emulsion polymerised polymeric binder having a Tg below 20°C which binder contains an addition copolymer
5 of aqueous polymerised ethylenic monomers wherein the binder also contains 3 to 70% of a polyurethane and/or a polyester oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below -20°C and wherein the oligomer modifier is present in the aqueous composition as
10 a micro-emulsion of droplets having a droplet size of less than 10 microns.

2. An aqueous air-dry coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 containing an emulsion polymerized polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the
15 polymeric binder comprising:

an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerized ethylenic monomers containing an oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between about 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below about -20°C, the oligomer selected from a
20 polyurethane and a polyester, where the oligomer is dispersed into water by high shear mixing to provide a micro-emulsion having a droplet size less than 10 microns, where the polymeric binder comprises by weight between 3% and 70% of said oligomer with the balance being said
25 addition copolymer, where the Tg of the polymeric binder is less than 20°C.

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3. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 containing the low molecular weight oligomeric modifier in an aqueous micro-emulsion having an organic phase emulsion droplet size less than 10 microns and
5 produced by high shear mixing at temperatures between 20°C and 100°C of an aqueous mixture of the oligomer and water where the mixture contains between 40% and 70% oligomer, and the oligomer has a number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000 and a Tg less than -20°C.

10 4. A coating composition as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims containing between 3% and 50% by weight of the oligomer modifier, where said polymeric binder is produced by mixing the oligomer in the ethylenic monomer to provide an organic solution of oligomer and
15 ethylenic monomer, where said organic solution is dispersed into and polymerized in water to produce an oligomer modified addition copolymer emulsion polymer where the oligomer is soluble in the polymerized monomer.

5. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 3
20 where the oligomeric modifier has a molecular weight between 500 and 2,000.

6. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4 where the oligomeric modifier has a molecular weight between 500 and 1,000.

25 7. A coating composition of anyone of Claims 3 to 6 where the aqueous mixture comprises by weight between



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about 55% and 65% oligomer modifier forming the micro-emulsion.

8. A coating composition of anyone of the preceding Claims where the micro-emulsion was produced by
5 high shear mixing of the aqueous mixture of oligomer at temperatures between 45°C and 60°C.

9. A coating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the micro-emulsion droplet size is on average between 0.1 and 1 micron.

10 10. A coating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the average emulsion droplet size is below 0.7 microns.

11. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 where the oligomer has a Tg less than about
15 -40°C.

12. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 where the oligomer has a Tg less than about -50°C.

13. A coating composition according to any one of
20 Claims 3 to 12 where the oligomer has a molecular weight between about 300 and 10,000.

14. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 3 to 13 where the oligomer has a molecular weight between about 500 and 5,000.

25 15. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 3 to 14 where the polymeric binder is produced by



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micronizing the aqueous dispersion with high shear to a micronized aqueous dispersion having organic phase particle size droplets less than 5 microns.

16. A coating composition according to any one of
5 the preceding claims where the oligomer is a polyurethane.

17. A coating composition according to Claim 16 where the polyurethane oligomer comprises a polyester-urethane copolymer.

18. A coating composition according to Claim 16
10 where the polyurethane oligomer comprises a polyurethane-urea copolymer.

19. A coating composition according to any of the the preceding Claims where the oligomer is a polyester polymer.

15 20. A coating composition of Claim 19 where the polyester oligomer comprises a polyester-amide copolymer.

21. A coating composition according to any one of the preceding Claims where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized vinyl acetate monomer.

20 22. A coating composition according to any one of the preceding Claims where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized acrylic monomer.

23. A coating composition according to Claim 22 where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized
25 acrylic monomer and styrene.

24. A coating composition according to Claim 4



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where the polymeric binder contains between 10% and 25% of said oligomer.

25. A process for producing an aqueous ambient dry coating composition containing a polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the process steps for producing the polymeric binder comprising:

producing a micronized, aqueous pre-emulsion of oligomer modifier selected from a polyurethane and a polyester having an organic phase droplet size less than 10 microns by high shear mixing at temperatures between 20°C and 100°C of an aqueous mixture of the oligomer containing by weight between 40% and 70% oligomer, where the oligomer has a Tg less than -20°C and number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000;

15 mixing the pre-emulsion with an emulsion copolymerized addition polymer comprising ethylenically unsaturated monomers to produce a polymeric binder containing by weight between about 3% and 30% oligomer, where the polymeric binder has a Tg less than 20°C.

20 26. A process according to Claim 25 where micronizing produces a micro-emulsion having an organic phase particle size droplet less than 1 micron.

27. A process according to Claim 24 or Claim 25 where the micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets less than 0.7 microns.

28. A process according to any one of Claims 25



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to 27 where the micro-emulsion is formed at temperatures between about 45°C and 60°C.

29. A process according to any one of Claims 25 to 28 where the oligomer has a molecular weight between 500
5 and 2,000.

30. A process for producing an aqueous ambient dry paint coating containing a polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the process steps for producing the polymeric binder comprising:

10 providing an organic solution comprising vinyl acetate monomer and oligomer having a number average molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and selected from a polyurethane or a polyester having a Tg below about -20°C, where the organic solution contains at least 3% by
15 weight of said oligomer;

dispersing the organic solution into water to produce an aqueous dispersion;

micronizing the aqueous dispersion under high
20 shear to produce a micro-dispersion having organic phase particle size droplets less than 5 microns; and

polymerizing the vinyl acetate monomer to produce a polymeric binder having a Tg less than 20°C comprising an emulsion vinyl acetate polymer containing said oligomer.

25 31. A process according to Claim 30 where micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets



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less than 1 micron.

32. A process according to Claim 30 or Claim 31 where the micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets less than 0.7 microns.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aqueous ambient dry paint coating based on an addition copolymer matrix polymer containing an oligomer selected from a polyurethane or a polyester having a Tg
5 below -20°C and a number average molecular weight between 200 and 20,000, where the coating is free of organic coalescing solvents. The matrix polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized ethylenic monomers. In a preferred process, the oligomer is produced by forming an aqueous micro-
10 preemulsion of oligomer in water by high shear mixing of oligomer and water containing 40% to 70% by weight oligomer and at temperatures between about 20°C and 100°C to provide an aqueous pre-emulsion having an organic phase droplet size less than 10 microns. The polymeric binder can be
15 produced also by mixing the oligomer with the ethylenic monomers to form an organic mixture of monomer and oligomer, providing an aqueous micro dispersion of the organic mixture phase droplet size less than 5 microns, and copolymerizing the monomer to produce a vinyl acetate
20 polymer containing oligomer. The polymeric binder system is free of coalescing organic solvent.

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ODOUR FREE, AIR DRY, DECORATIVE LATEX PAINTS

This invention pertains to air dry emulsion paints based
10 on emulsion polymeric binders and more particularly to odour-
free, consumer latex paints free of polluting offensive
odouriferous coalescing solvents.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Paint coatings are surface protective coatings applied to
substrates, dried to form continuous films for decorative
purposes as well as to protect the substrate. Consumer paint
coatings are air-drying aqueous coatings applied primarily to
architectural interior or exterior surfaces, where the
20 coatings are sufficiently fluid to flow out, form a continuous
paint film, and dry at ambient temperatures to protect the
substrate surface. A paint coating ordinarily comprises an
organic polymeric binder, pigments, and various paint
additives. In dried paint films, the polymeric binder
25 functions as a binder for the pigments and provides adhesion
of the dried paint film to the substrate. The pigments may be
organic or inorganic and functionally contribute to opacity

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and color in addition to durability and hardness, although some paint coatings contain little or no opacifying pigments and are described as clear coatings. The manufacture of paint coatings involves the preparation of a polymeric binder, mixing of
5 component materials, grinding of pigments in a dispersant medium, and thinning to commercial standards.

Latex paints for the consumer market ordinarily are based on polymeric binders prepared by emulsion polymerization of ethylenic monomers. A typical consumer
10 latex paint binder contains a vinyl acetate copolymer consisting of polymerized vinyl acetate (80%) and butyl acrylate (20%). The hardness of the latex polymer must be balanced to permit drying and film formation at low application temperatures, which requires soft polymer
15 units, while at the same time the polymer must be hard enough in the final film to provide resistance properties which requires hard polymer units. This is conventionally accomplished by designing a latex polymer with a moderately elevated T_g (glass transition temperature) but then
20 lowering the T_g temporarily with a volatile coalescing solvent. Coalescing solvents function to externally and temporarily plasticize the latex polymer for time sufficient to develop film formation, but then diffuse out of the coalesced film after film formation, which permits
25 film formation and subsequent development of the desired film hardness by the volatilization of the coalescent. Internal plasticization is based on coreaction of soft monomers with hard monomers to form a polymeric copolymer binder, such as 80/20 vinyl acetate/butyl acrylate, to

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obtain the desired film forming characteristics. If a lower Tg copolymer is used without a coalescing solvent, higher levels of soft comonomer are required leading to lower Tg polymer, and, hence, the final dried film would be
5 undesirably soft, excessively tacky, readily stain, and readily pick up dirt.

A significant source of residual odour in latex consumer paints is directly due to the coalescing solvent. Coalescing solvents are typically linear (or slightly
10 branched) glycol ethers and esters of 7 to 12 carbon atoms in length, which have boiling points typically above 200°C, and solubility parameters appropriate for the latex of interest. One typical coalescing solvent ordinarily contained in commercial latex paints is 2,2,4-
15 trimethylpentanediol monoisobutyrate (Texanol® Eastman Chemical Co.). The odour associated with the gradual volatilization of this solvent is considered objectionable by consumers. Quite often the odour lingers for days or weeks after the paint is applied and dried. All useful
20 coalescing solvents are volatile and have similar objectionable characteristics. An additional deficiency in conventional exterior latex paints is the decline in crack resistance of the dried paint film approximately proportional to the evaporation of the coalescing solvent.
25 While better coalescing solvents have a retention time of about one year in dried paint films, cracking starts to

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progressively appear after one year in dried paint films. Hence, any elimination of coalescing solvents and attendant objectionable odours, along with air pollution caused by volatile organic compounds (VOC), and film cracking
5 deficiencies would represent both a technical and marketing advance in the state of the art of consumer latex paints.

In polymer technologies unrelated to air-dry vinyl acetate latex paints, preformed polymers have been dispersed into monomers and emulsified in water, whereupon
10 the monomers are then polymerized, such as disclosed in U.S. 4,373,054 pertaining to cathodic electrocoating, or in U.S. 4,313,073 pertaining to alkyd prepolymers; U.S. 4,588,757 pertaining to laminating adhesives, or in U.S. 3,953,386 and U.S. 4,011,388 pertaining to aqueous emulsion
15 blends containing cellulosic ester/acrylic polymers.

It now has been found that certain non-volatile softening oligomeric modifiers compatible with an aqueous emulsion addition copolymer binder in a consumer latex paint can be retained in the dried paint film permanently.
20 Accordingly this invention provides an aqueous air-dry coating composition including an emulsion polymerised polymeric binder having a T_g below 20°C which binder contains an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerised ethylenic monomers wherein the binder also contains 3 to
25 70% of a polyurethan and/or a polyester softening oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000



and a Tg below -20°C and wherein the oligomer modifier is present in the aqueous composition in a micro-emulsion of droplets having a droplet size of less than 10 microns. Softening oligomer modifiers of this invention can be
5 incorporated into the paint where the oligomer will be retained permanently in the final paint film. Hence, the paint will not generate an odour while drying nor emit a residual odour from the dried paint film or otherwise emit VOC's. The softening oligomeric modifiers of this
10 invention externally modify the emulsion copolymer matrix polymer and are not coreacted with the emulsion copolymer polymeric binder. The softening oligomeric modifiers appear to function by a chain-spacing mechanism to soften the matrix copolymers whereby the oligomeric modifiers
15 provide low temperature film formation and tack-free films less prone to soiling at a given hardness and/or flexibility than ordinarily possible. Particularly preferred emulsion copolymer matrix polymers comprising polyvinyl acetate copolymers. A further advantage of this
20 invention enables the use of essentially all hard polymer units of polyvinyl acetate without the need for internal plasticization (coreaction) with soft butyl acrylate polymeric units.

The present invention is based on a softening
25 oligomeric modifiers having a low and narrow molecular weight range where the oligomer will not subsequently

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diffuse out of the matrix polymer when properly dispersed into the polymeric binder phase. Preferred oligomers are non-volatile oligomers having a molecular weight between about 300 and 10,000. Lower molecular weight compounds
5 tend to be volatile and cause excessive plasticizer migration while higher molecular weight polymers lose low temperature film-forming and softening effects, although molecular weights above 10,000 and in some instances up to 20,000 can be used with softer matrix polymers.

10 According to a preferred process of this invention, a low molecular weight oligomer can be surprisingly dispersed by high shear into water under heat and pressure to provide a submicron emulsified aqueous mixture of oligomer stably dispersed in water. The micro-emulsified mixture in turn,
15 can be readily mixed with various emulsion latex polymers to provide a stable mixture of dissimilar emulsions. It was found that micro-emulsions of oligomer in water having an average droplet size less than about one micron enable the oligomer particle to migrate out of the oligomer
20 droplets then through the aqueous phase and into surrounding latex polymer particles if the oligomer is sufficiently low molecular weight oligomer. The lowest molecular weight oligomer particles move faster due to micro small size and have a small but finite solubility in
25 water. A medium range molecular weight fraction of the low molecular weight oligomers move through the water phase

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into the latex particles at a slower rate extending over several hours or even a few days. The higher molecular weight fraction of the low molecular weight oligomer have essentially zero solubility in water and invariably remain
5 within the oligomer emulsion droplets until a paint film dries, at which time these oligomer particles physically contact the latex particles and eventually migrate into the latex polymer particles during drying.

According to a desirable process of this invention, a
10 compatible organic solution of oligomeric modifier in ethylenic monomer can be subjected to high energy shear to prepare a sub-micron size organic phase dispersed into water. Subsequent polymerization of the micronized monomer droplets produces a softened modified latex very different
15 from conventional emulsion or suspension polymerization polymers. The micro aqueous suspension polymerization is generally necessary with the oligomeric modifiers to accomplish the required sub-micron aqueous emulsification of the monomer containing the dissolved oligomeric
20 modifier, since the oligomer will not readily diffuse during polymerization from particle to particle across the aqueous phase.

The principal advantage of this invention is the elimination of the odour and VOC associated with volatile
25 coalescent solvents which are intentionally volatile and intended to migrate out of the dried paint film. An

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additional advantage pertains to dried paint films exhibiting superior toughness obtained through the use of a hard polyvinyl acetate matrix polymer balanced with the oligomeric modifier to accommodate softening through the external addition of softening modifier while retaining the desired dried film hardness. A further advantage pertains to lower net cost for both interior and exterior paints since high cost soft monomers can be avoided, volatile coalescing agents can be eliminated and binder volume can be increased by using a permanent non-volatile softening oligomer instead of a volatile coalescent. The resulting dried paint films exhibit a superior balance of hardness and flexibility while maintaining long term flexibility. These and other advantages of this invention will become more apparent by referring to the detailed description and illustrative examples.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly, the air-dry emulsion paint of this invention contains an oligomeric modified binder of polymerized ethylenic monomers to provide an aqueous emulsion addition. 5 copolymer binder externally modified with a non-reactive, low molecular weight, compatible oligomer selected from a polyester-urethane copolymer, a polyether-urethane copolymer, a polyurethane-urea copolymer, a polyester-amide, a polyester, a chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbon and 10 a chlorinated fatty acid or ester, where between about 1% and desirably between 3% and 70% by weight of the binder comprises softening oligomer. Preferred emulsion addition copolymers comprise vinyl acetate copolymers.

In accordance with the preferred process of this 15 invention, low molecular weight oligomer having a preferred number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000 is stably dispersed into water assisted with surfactants by heating a mixture of oligomer and water containing by weight between about 40% and 70% oligomer at temperatures 20 preferably between about 45°C and 60°C, and then micronizing the heated oligomer water mixture under substantial shear to provide the stable microemulsion of oligomer dispersed aqueous emulsion having an average microemulsion droplet size less than about ten microns. 25 The resulting oligomeric preformed microemulsion can be blended with a wide variety of vinyl acetate or acrylic

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latex polymers to provide a polymeric binder for paint coatings.

In accordance with a desirable process of this invention, the low molecular weight softening oligomer has
5 a preferred number average molecular weight between 300 and 10,000 and is effectively dissolved in ethylenically unsaturated monomer to form a compatible organic mixture before forming the aqueous emulsion addition matrix polymer containing between 3% and 50% by weight oligomer. The
10 organic mixture is dispersed into water by high shear, whereupon the ethylenic monomer is polymerized to produce a stabilized latex containing the low molecular weight oligomeric modifier.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 The air-dry emulsion paint of this invention comprises an emulsion polymer comprising an aqueous emulsion addition copolymer polymeric binder containing a non-volatile oligomeric modifier.

Suitable oligomeric modifiers in accordance with this
20 invention comprise low molecular weight oligomers including urethanes consisting of polyester-urethane copolymers, polyether-urethane copolymers, polyurethane-urea copolymers; polyester polymer comprising polyester-amides and polyester polymers. The foregoing softening oligomeric
25 modifiers function as effective external modifiers for latex emulsion paints, and particularly for the preferred

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polyvinylacetate binder for interior latex paints.

Useful non-volatile oligomeric modifiers have a number average molecular weight range between about 200 and 20,000, preferably between 300 and 10,000 and most preferably between 300 and 5,000. A preferred characterization of the oligomer modifier is in units of degree of polymerization (DP Units) which refers to the repeating monomer units without regard to molecular weight although the molecular weight is maintained relatively low as indicated. DP units defines the approximate chain length of the oligomers without regard to side units. The oligomeric modifier of this invention should have a DP between about 2 and 100, preferably between 2 and 50 and most preferably between 2 and 20 DP units. Useful oligomer modifiers have low Tg's to sufficiently impart a plasticizing effect on the matrix emulsion copolymer. Useful Tg's of the oligomeric modifier measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) at 10°C/minute scan rate are less than -20°C, preferably less than -40°C and most preferably below -50°C. The level of oligomer modifier needed can vary considerably in the final latex. The level required depends on the inherent softening efficiency of the oligomer (estimated by its Tg) and the Tg of the matrix (parent) polymer. The Fox equation is useful for estimating the level needed:

$$1/T_g (\text{mix}) = (W_p/T_{g, p}) + (W_m/T_{g, m})$$

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where $T_g(\text{mix})$ = glass transition temperature of the modified polymer (which is a mixture);

W_p, W_m = weight fraction of the parent (matrix) polymer and oligomeric modifier, respectively;

$T_{g, p} ; T_{g, m}$ = glass transition temperature of the parent (matrix) polymer and the oligomeric modifier, respectively.

Thus, the level of oligomeric modifier required is directly related to the T_g of the parent matrix polymer, and inversely related to the T_g of the oligomer. Hence, the lower oligomer T_g will more efficiently soften the emulsion addition matrix polymer provided the oligomer and matrix polymer are compatible.

Compatibility of a polymeric mixture is commonly said to exist when the mixture remains substantially optically clear, which indicates the two components are mutually soluble. In this invention, compatibility is intended to mean that the oligomeric modifier is soluble in the matrix polymer in the solid state. Complete compatibility is believed to exist when these conditions are met: in the solid state the mixture has a T_g (DSC, DMA) intermediate between the T_g 's of the two components; the absence of component T_g transitions; the mixture T_g is smoothly dependent on level of modifier; and the mixture T_g follows a mixing rule such as the Fox equation. T_g 's of mixtures

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depend on the Tg's of the two components, concentrations of the two components, and compatibility of the two components. The present invention pertains to substantially compatible components.

5 In accordance with this invention, low molecular weight polyurethane oligomers such as polyester-urethanes, polyether-urethanes, polyether urethane-urea copolymers, and polyester polymers including polyester-amide copolymers can be utilized as external softening oligomers in the
10 polyvinyl acetate binder matrix polymers. Useful polyurethane copolymers typically contain urethane groups in the polymer backbone and are produced by reacting excess equivalents of diol or polyol with lesser equivalents of di- or polyisocyanate. The polyisocyanates can be di- or
15 triisocyanates such as for example 2,4- and 2,6- toluene diisocyanate, phenylene diisocyanate; hexamethylene or tetramethylene diisocyanate, 1,5-naphthalene diisocyanate, ethylene or propylene diisocyanate, trimethylene or triphenyl or triphenylsulfone triisocyanate, and similar
20 di- or triisocyanates. The polyisocyanate can be generally selected from the group of aliphatic, cyclo-aliphatic and aromatic polyisocyanates such as for example hexamethylene 1,6-diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, diisocyanate, 1,4-dimethyl cyclohexane, diphenylmethane diisocyanate 2,4-
25 toluene diisocyanate, 2,6-toluene diisocyanate and mixtures thereof, polymethylene polyphenyl polyisocyanate.

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Polyester-urethanes can be produced from diols comprising hydroxyl functional polyester polymer prepared by conventional esterification polymerization techniques from the common dicarboxylic acids and dihydroxyl functional reactants. Suitable carboxylic acids include adipic acid, succinic acid and anhydride, azelaic acid, maleic acid and anhydride, and other aliphatic carboxylic acids. Aromatic dicarboxylic acids include isophthalic acid, phthalic acid and anhydride, terephthalic acid, trimelitic anhydride and the like. Lesser amounts of mono-functional acids can be included, such as benzoic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid, if desired. Suitable dihydroxy functional materials include ethylene and propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, diethylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, trimethylol propane, and lesser amounts of mono-functional alcohols such as benzyl alcohol and hexanol, if desired. Polyester prepolymers are generally prepared with excess hydroxyl functionality at molecular weights ranging from about 100 to 10,000 preferably about 200 to 2,000. Polyester prepolymers can be used alone or in combination with polyethers as hydroxyl functional prepolymers. Suitable hydroxyl functional polyether prepolymers include polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide, polybutylene oxide, and tetramethylene oxide where the polyether prepolymers have a molecular weight between about 100 and 10,000. Preferred polyethers used in the preferred process

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have a number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000.

The polyesters and/or polyether prepolymers are then reacted with diisocyanate to advance the prepolymers to a molecular weight of about 200 to 20,000 and preferably between 300 and 10,000, and most preferably between 300 and 5,000, to form polyester or polyether urethane oligomers of this invention. Diisocyanates are used preferably at an equivalent ratio of about 1 isocyanate group to 1.1 to 10 hydroxyl groups. Ratios of about 1.5 to 3 hydroxyl groups per isocyanate group are preferred. Preferred diisocyanates include toluene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, 1,6-hexane diisocyanate, diphenylmethane diisocyanate, and the like. Catalysts such as dibutyltin dilaurate, tin oxide and the like can be used to increase the isocyanate reaction rate with the hydroxyl polyester or polyether prepolymer at temperatures of about 30 to 120°C and preferably at about 70° to 100°C.

The polyester or polyether urethane copolymers can be further extended with diamine or polyamine, if desired, to produce polyurethane-urea copolymer useful as a softening oligomer modifier in polyvinyl acetate binder matrix polymers in accordance with this invention. In this regard, primary diamine or polyamine can be added to an isocyanate terminated polyurethane intermediate containing unreacted pendant or terminal isocyanate groups obtained by

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reacting excess equivalents of isocyanate relative to hydroxyl equivalents in the polyester or polyether prepolymers. The primary diamines readily react with the isocyanate functional intermediate to chain extend the
5 polyurethane to a polyurethane-urea of a higher molecular weight. Alternatively amine can be prereacted with the diisocyanate prior to reacting with polyol. Suitable primary amines for chain extension include hexamethylene diamine, 2-methyl-pentanediamine and similar aliphatic
10 diamines. Polyester and polyether urethane copolymers or polyurethanes extended with diamine to form polyurethane-ureas exhibit excellent compatibility with vinyl acetate monomers as well as the resulting polyvinylacetate polymers. Polyurethane intermediate molecular weights
15 before chain extension can be between 400 and 10,000 while after chain extension with the diamine the final molecular weight of the polyurethane-urea can be between about 800 and 20,000. Preferred polyurethanes used in the preferred process exhibit intermediate molecular weights before chain
20 extension between 200 and 2,000 with chain extended molecular weights between 300 and 5,000.

A particularly preferred non-reactive oligomer useful as a softening oligomer modifier in this invention comprises a polyester polymer. In accordance with this
25 invention, a low molecular weight ester or polyester can be dissolved in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer,

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suspended in water, and the aqueous suspension micronized prior to polymerization of the monomers. Useful polyester oligomers comprise esterification reaction products of diols with dicarboxylic acids or a functional equivalent
5 with minor amounts of polyol or polyacid if desired, to produce a low acid number polyester polymer. Suitable esters and polyesters for blending have molecular weights between about 200 and 20,000, preferably less than 10,000, and include the linear and branched esters and polyesters
10 formed from saturated dicarboxylic acids such as adipic acid, glutaric acid, succinic acid, and other such linear aliphatic acids, acid anhydrides, and lower alkyl esters thereof; phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, trimellitic anhydride, and other aromatic acids, acid anhydrides, and
15 lower alkyl esters thereof; monoacids such as benzoic acid, 2-ethylhexanoic acid and other aromatic and aliphatic acids, which if desired, may be used in minor amounts to end cap and limit molecular weight. Minor amounts of unsaturated dicarboxylic acids such as fumaric or maleic
20 acid can be included, if desired, to enhance grafting with polymerized ethylenic monomers, which promotes compatibility and permanence of the oligomer in the matrix polyvinyl acetate polymer.

Diol functional materials include diethylene glycol,
25 neopentyl glycol, 2-methyl pentane diol, ethylene glycol, butylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol and

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the like; or mono-functional glycol ether groups, such as butylcellosolve, butyl carbitol, and the like; as well as hydroxy acids such as lactic acid, and lesser amounts of triols and polyols, such as trimethylol propane and ethane, and pentaerythritol. Acids can be used in carboxyl form, anhydride form, or an ester form, such as the methyl ester form, with the above diols to form linear and branched polyesters desirably having an Acid No. below about 20, and a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000, desirably between 300 and 10,000, and preferably between about 300 and 5,000. Polyesters of diethylene or dipropylene glycol with adipic acid are preferred. The low molecular weight esters and polyesters lower the Tg of the blend and can eliminate the need for expensive comonomers such as butyl acrylate. Thus, low molecular weight esters and polyesters can be effectively used to provide excellent, non-tacky, paint films without the inclusion of coalescing solvents.

Polyester amide oligomeric modifiers are formed by the reaction of diols and diamines with dicarboxylic acids or esters. In a preferred process, methyl esters of adipic, glutaric, isophthalic or other common dicarboxylic acids are transesterified with diols and diamines at about 150°C to 250°C in the presence of common esterification catalysts such as butylstanoic acid. Typically greater amounts of diols, such as diethylene and dipropylene glycol, neopentyl glycol and the like are used with lesser amounts of

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diamines, such as 1,6-hexanediamine, 2-methyl pentanediamine, or the longer chain amines (e.g. Jeffamine-Texaco). Lesser amounts of monoacids, monoesters, alcohols and amines, or polyacid, polyols, or polyamines can be
5 added, if desired.

Suitable chlorinated aliphatic modifiers useful as external plasticizers in accordance with this invention include chlorinated hydrocarbon materials selected from chlorinated paraffins, chlorinated fatty acids, and
10 chlorinated fatty acid esters. Useful molecular weights of the chlorinated materials range from about 150 to about 5,000, and chlorine contents can range from 5% to 70% by weight. Industrially produced chlorinated materials generally are not pure compounds, but comprise a mixture of
15 compounds with chlorine atoms substituted at various positions on the paraffin and fatty acid chain. Chlorinated paraffins for instance are chlorinated hydrocarbons having a chlorine content between about 20% and 70% by weight and preferably between 30% and 50% by
20 weight. Chlorinated paraffins ordinarily are miscible with organic solvent including liquid ethylenic monomers, but are insoluble in water and hence will not migrate into polymer particles if added to the aqueous phase of a latex. Chlorinated fatty acids comprise chlorinated unsaturated
25 fatty acid such as lauroleic, myristoleic, palmitoleic, oleic, recinoleic, linoleic, eleostearic, liconic, and

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similar fatty acid derived from linseed oil, tung oil, soybean oil, and safflower oil, and similar unsaturated vegetable oils. Chlorinated fatty acid esters are chlorinated fatty acids esterified with low molecular weight alcohols. In accordance with the process of this invention, the chlorinated compounds are soluble in the vinyl acetate monomer whereby a solution of monomer containing chlorinated paraffin or fatty acid or fatty acid esters can be suspended in water with the aid of common surfactants and very high mechanical shear or ultrasound. The chlorinated modifier can be dissolved in vinyl acetate monomer at weight levels of 1% to 90%, desirably between 3% and 50%, and preferably between 10% and 25% by weight chlorinated modifier based on the modifier and monomeric mixture.

In accordance with preferred aspects of this invention, it has been found that very low molecular weight oligomer modifier can be dispersed into water under high shear at temperatures between about 20°C and 100°C and preferably between about 45°C and 60°C, where the oligomer weight percent and the oligomer weight in the resulting emulsion is between about 40% and 70% by weight and most preferably between about 55% and 65% by weight oligomer. It has been found that high shear of the oligomer in water under these parameters produces micronized emulsion droplets having a micronized particle size below 10 microns

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will enable the low molecular weight oligomer to diffuse from the preformed emulsion into a preformed latex emulsion polymer. Preferred microemulsions have an average particle droplet size between 0.1 and 1 micron. The rate of
5 diffusion increases considerably by small preemulsion particles where the rate of diffusion is particularly fast and efficient for preformed emulsions having a particle size preferably between 0.1 and 1 micron. It has been found that efficient and complete diffusion of the low
10 molecular weight oligomer particles can be achieved with preferred submicron emulsion particles, whereby oligomer present sufficiently diffuses into the latex particles to avoid any residual tackiness which may result from higher molecular weight residues that could not readily diffuse
15 into the latex matrix polymer particles. Accordingly, it has been found that oligomer having a more preferred number average molecular weight below 1500 and most preferably between 500 and 1000 not only increase the quantity of oligomer diffusion, but increases diffusion efficiency into
20 the latex matrix particles and advantageously avoids tacky film forming polymer binders. Thus, direct micronized emulsification of the oligomer into water enables the micronized preemulsion to be easily blended with a wide variety of latex emulsion matrix polymers. The resulting
25 diffused oligomer modified latex matrix polymer comprises a plasticized latex emulsion polymer containing modifying

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oligomer but contains no volatile organic matter. Paint films are capable of achieving both low temperature film formation below about 10°C and tack free surfaces at ambient room temperature air dry conditions.

5 In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the three-dimensional solubility parameters of the oligomeric modifier must match well with that of the latex polymer in order for plasticization to occur, which may describe a boundary for this invention in term of hydrophobicity. For
10 example, a butyl acrylate/styrene copolymer latex would require a much more hydrophobic modifier than a vinyl acetate homopolymer. In turn, the ability of the oligomeric modifier to diffuse from the microemulsion to the latex polymer should decline with decreasing
15 hydrophobicity. This could be counteracted to some extent by reducing molecular weight although oligomeric molecular weight above about 300 are needed to maintain permanency and zero VOC conditions. Preferred oligomers are non-volatile oligomers having a molecular weight between about
20 300 and 5,000. Lower molecular weight compounds tend to be volatile and cause excessive plasticizer migration while higher molecular weight polymers lose low temperature film-forming and softening effects.

 The oligomer preemulsion can be formed in accordance
25 with the preferred process of the invention by forming a normally incompatible mixture of water and oligomer

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comprising between about 40% and 70% by weight oligomer. The oligomer can be suspended in water with mixing to form a coarse suspension using the common latex surfactants or stabilizers, such as the sulfosuccinates, the sulfates, various ethoxylated phenols, and the like. The coarse suspension is then micronized under very high shear to very fine particle size emulsion droplets of average size of less than 10 microns, preferably less than 1 micron, and most preferably less than 0.7 micron. High mechanical shear and/or ultrasound as well as other high shear devices can be used to form the microemulsion. Grinding the oligomeric modifier into an aqueous mixture of pigments is a satisfactory method of forming the micro-preemulsion. Suitable surfactants are used at about 0.1% to 5% by weight (based on solids) and include the nonionic surfactants such as various ethoxylated phenols, block copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, anionic surfactants such as sulfosuccinates, sulfates, and sulfonates, and the like (sulfosuccinates such as hexyl, octyl, and hexadecyl sulfosuccinate are preferred). Suitable surfactants include the various sulfosuccinates such as hexyl, octyl, and hexadecyl sulfosuccinate, the various alkyl and alkyl-aromatic sulfates and sulfonates, as well as the various nonionic ethylene oxide surfactants. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the modifying oligomers are dispersed into water and micronized into a microemulsion,

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whereupon the oligomer micro-preemulsion can be mixed with a preformed emulsion latex copolymer of copolymerized ethylenic monomers.

In accordance with another aspect of this invention,
5 the oligomers can be solubilized in ethylenic monomer, then dispersed into water and micronized into a microemulsion. The ethylenic monomers are then polymerized to produce a polymeric binder comprising emulsion polymerized ethylenic monomer. The preferred ethylenic monomer is vinyl acetate,
10 although other ethylenic monomers can be copolymerized with the vinyl acetate monomer to produce a preferred copolymer containing by weight less than 60% and preferably less than 30% and most preferably less than 20% other ethylenic monomer. The oligomers can be dissolved in the
15 ethylenically unsaturated monomers to form a fluid organic solution containing above 1% and desirably between about 3% and 50% and preferably between 10% and 25% by weight oligomer based on the weight of the organic monomer solution. This organic mixture of oligomer and monomer is
20 then suspended in water with high shear mixing to form a coarse suspension using the common latex surfactants as stabilizers. Suitable surfactants are used at about 0.1 to 5% by weight (based on solids) and include the nonionic surfactants such as various ethoxylated phenols, block
25 copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, anionic surfactants such as sulfosuccinates, sulfates, and

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sulfonates, and the like (sulfosuccinates such as hexyl, octyl, and hexadecyl sulfosuccinate are preferred). The coarse suspension is then micronized to very fine particle size emulsion droplets of average size of less than 5
5 microns, preferably less than 1 micron, and most preferably less than 0.7 micron. High mechanical shear and/or ultrasound can be used to form the microemulsion. Typical additional ingredients include buffers, acrylic acid, sodium salt of acrylamido methyl propane sulfonic acid
10 (NaAMPS) ordinarily added at 0.1% to 5% by weight levels based on solids. Initiators such as persulfate, peroxide, and azo initiators can be added before or after suspension of the organic mixture in water. Redox catalysts can be added if desired. Polymerization can be accomplished by
15 simply raising the suspension temperature to about 70°C to 80°C using persulfate initiators. Initial reflux of vinyl acetate will be at 67°C, but the temperature will rise with monomer polymerization conversion. Additional ethylenic monomer can be added, preferably after the preformed
20 suspended addition copolymer emulsion and other monomer have polymerized.

In accordance with either process of this invention, the emulsion polymerized ethylenic monomers produce a matrix polymer of polymerized monomer where the most
25 preferred polymeric binders comprise homopolymers of vinyl acetate. On a weight basis, the polymeric binders can

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comprise between 40% and 100% polymerized vinyl acetate with the balance being other ethylenic monomers. Preferred polymeric binders containing at least 70% by weight polymerized vinyl acetate and most preferred 80% to 100% vinyl acetate. However, exterior latex paints based on acrylic emulsion matrix copolymers predominantly of copolymerized acrylic and styrene monomers comprising between 50% and 100% by weight acrylic monomers are particularly useful for exterior air dry latex paints. Vinyl acetate copolymers are useful for exterior paints although acrylic copolymer are preferred.

In either vinyl acetate or acrylic copolymers, other copolymerizable ethylenic monomers comprise ethylenically unsaturated monomers containing carbon-to-carbon, allylic monomers, acrylamide monomers, and mono- and dicarboxylic unsaturated acids. Vinyl esters include vinyl propionate, vinyl laurate, vinyl decanoate, vinyl butyrates, vinyl benzoates, vinyl isopropyl acetates and similar vinyl esters; vinyl aliphatic hydrocarbon monomers include vinyl chloride and vinylidene chloride as well as alpha olefins such as ethylene, propylene, isobutylene, as well as conjugated dienes such as 1,3 butadiene, methyl-2-butadiene, 1,3-piperylene, 2,3-dimethyl butadiene, isoprene, cyclohexane, cyclopentadiene, and dicyclopentadiene; and vinyl alkyl ethers include methyl vinyl ether, isopropyl vinyl ether, n-butyl vinyl ether,

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and isobutyl vinyl ether. Acrylic monomers include lower alkyl esters of acrylic or methacrylic acid having an alkyl ester portion containing between 1 to 12 carbon atoms as well as aromatic derivatives of acrylic and methacrylic acid. Useful acrylic monomers include, for example, acrylic and methacrylic acid, methyl acrylate and methacrylate, ethyl acrylate and methacrylate, butyl acrylate and methacrylate, propyl acrylate and methacrylate, 2-ethyl hexyl acrylate and methacrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate and methacrylate, decyl acrylate and methacrylate, isodecyl acrylate and methacrylate, benzyl acrylate and methacrylate, and various reaction products such as butyl, phenyl, and cresyl glycidyl ethers reacted with acrylic and methacrylic acids, hydroxyl alkyl acrylates and methacrylates such as hydroxyethyl and hydroxypropyl acrylates and methacrylates, amino acrylates, methacrylates as well as acrylic acids such as acrylic and methacrylic acid, ethacrylic acid, alpha-chloroacrylic acid, alpha-cyanoacrylic acid, crotonic acid, beta-acryloxy propionic acid, and beta-styryl acrylic acid. Particularly preferred comonomers include acrylates such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl (linear and branched), 2-ethyl hexyl; methacrylates such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl (linear and branched), 2-ethyl hexyl; vinyl esters such as acetate, proprionate, butyrate, pentanoate (neo 5), nonanoate (neo 9), 2-ethyl hexanoate, decanoate (neo 10);

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and other ethylenic monomers such as ethylene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride and butadiene. Very minor amounts of divinyl monomers such as divinyl benzene can be copolymerized if desired. For exterior latex paints, the
5 matrix copolymer ordinarily comprises copolymerized acrylic monomers where the acrylic copolymer content can be between about 40% and 100% by weight of the copolymer.

The preferred matrix copolymer comprises emulsion polymerized vinyl acetate monomer to produce a matrix
10 polymeric binder of polymerized vinyl acetate where the most preferred polymeric binders comprise homopolymers of vinyl acetate. On a weight basis, the preferred polymeric binders comprise between 40% and 100% polymerized vinyl acetate with the balance being other ethylenic monomers.
15 Preferred polymeric binders contain at least 70% by weight polymerized vinyl acetate and most preferred 80% to 100% vinyl acetate. The number average molecular weight of the polymeric vinyl acetate binders should be between about 30,000 and 10,000,000 and preferably between 50,000 and
20 1,000,000 as measured by GPC (gel permeation chromatography) according to ASTM D3016-78, D3536-76, and D3593-80. The Tg or softening point of the modified polymeric binder particles should be less than 20°C as measured by differential scanning calorimetry, preferably
25 less than 10°C, most preferably <5°C. The MFT (minimum film formation temperature) is an alternative measure of polymer

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film formation determined on the neat latex on a temperature gradient temperature bar, and is typically a few degrees higher than the Tg of the latex. MFT should be less than 20°C, preferably less than 15°C, most preferred 5 less than 10°C. The LTFF (low temperature film formation) is a film forming test run on the fully formulated paint. LTFF typically is reported as the lowest temperature at which no cracking is observed, or alternatively, the amount of coalescent or oligomer needed to achieve 40°F failure-free coatings. 10 LTFF should be less than 50°F (10°C), preferably less than 40°F (5°C). The distinction with LTFF is that other paint ingredients may have either an elevating influence (fillers, pigments) or depressing (surfactants, incidental solvents in additives) effect on 15 LTFF relative to the MFT, which is measured on the latex alone. In turn, the MFT is measured from the wet state, and therefore includes the plasticizing effect of water, while the Tg is measured on an anhydrous sample of latex film, which does not include the water plasticizing effect. 20 Latex paints are formulated to achieve LTFF of less than 50°F (10°C), preferably less than 40°C (5°C). It is also necessary for the final dried films to not be tacky at normal use temperatures (60-110°F). The polymeric binder contains between about 5% and 45% by weight softening 25 oligomer with the balance being copolymer matrix polymer.

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The ethylenic monomers can be polymerized in an aqueous polymerization medium by adding other emulsion polymerization ingredients. Initiators can include for example, typical free radical and redox types such as

5 hydrogen peroxide, t-butyl hydroperoxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, benzoyl peroxide, benzoyl hydroperoxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, t-butyl peracetate, azobisisobutyronitrile, ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, potassium persulfate, sodium perphosphate,

10 potassium perphosphate, isopropyl peroxy carbonate, and redox initiators such as sodium persulfate-sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate, cumene hydroperoxide-sodium metabisulfite, potassium persulfate-sodium bisulfite, cumene hydroperoxide-iron (II) sulfate. Redox systems

15 consist of oxidants and reductants, which can be mixed in any pair. Transition metals such as iron can be used as accelerators for initiators for redox couples. The polymerization initiators are usually added in amounts between about 0.1 to 2 weight percent based on the monomer

20 additions.

Suitable anionic surfactants include for example, salts of fatty acids such as sodium and potassium salts of stearic, palmitic, oleic, lauric, and tall oil acids, salts of sulfated fatty alcohols, salts of phosphoric acid esters

25 of polyethylated long chain alcohols and phenols. Preferred anionic surfactants include for example,

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alkylbenzene sulfonate salts such as sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate and salts of hexyl, octyl, and higher alkyl diesters of 2-sulfosuccinic acid. Suitable non-ionic surfactants include polyoxyethylene glycols reacted with a lyophilic compound, ethylene oxide condensation products reacted with t-octylphenol or nonylphenol and known as "Triton" surfactants, polymerized oxyethylene (IgepalCA), ethylene oxide reacted with organic acids (Emulfor), or organic acid reacted with polyoxyamylene ether of stearic or oleic acid esters (Tweens).

A paint coating composition can be produced by combining the externally modified emulsion polymer of this invention with pigments and other paint additives in a dispersing mill such as a Cowles disperser. A pigment dispersion can be preformed consisting of a dispersant and pigments on a disperser mill, a sand mill, a pebble mill, a roller mill, a ball mill or similar conventional grinding mill for milling the mineral pigments into the dispersion medium. The premix can then be combined under low shear with the polymeric binder of this invention and other paint additives as desired. Useful mineral pigments ordinarily include opacifying pigments such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, titanium calcium, as well as tinting pigments such as carbon black, yellow oxides, brown oxides, tan oxides, raw and burnt sienna or umber, chromium oxide green, phthalocyanine green, phthalonitrile blue, ultramarine

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blue, cadmium pigments, chromium pigments, and the like. Filler pigments such as clay, silica, talc, mica, wollastonite, wood flower, barium sulfate, calcium carbonate and the like can be added.

5 Historically, prior art paints achieved a balance of properties by making the latex slightly too hard for LTFF to achieve the tack-free character, and then temporarily softening the binder polymer with a coalescing solvent to achieve the desired LTFF. However, by using non-volatile,
10 external softening oligomers in accordance with this invention, the historical relationship between Tg (or MFT) and LTFF in the final paint can be changed such that both film formation and tack free character are simultaneously obtained without the need for a volatile coalescing
15 solvent. The softening oligomer is permanent by design and will not volatilize out of the paint film.

The merits of this invention are further supported by the following illustrative examples.

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Comparative Examples A and B

A vinyl acetate and butyl acrylate 80/20 copolymer (Ex. A) and a vinyl acetate/butyl acrylate 60/40 copolymer (Ex. B)

5 were produced from the following ingredients.

	<u>Ex. A</u>	<u>Ex. B</u>	
10	a) 2022 g 7.2 g 4.3 g 5.4 g	2022 g 7.2 g 4.3 g 5.4 g	deionized water MM-80 ammonium acetate A246L
15	b) 28 g 7.0 g 0.7 g	28 g 7.0 g 0.7 g	vinyl acetate butyl acrylate ammonium persulfate
20	c) 1360 g 340 g 2.4 g	1034 g 677 g 2.4 g	vinyl acetate butyl acrylate acrylic acid
25	d) 5.4 g 21 g 135 g 15 g	5.4 g 21 g 135 g 15 g	ammonium persulfate A246L deionized water NaAMPS

Warm (a) to 71°C under nitrogen with good stirring. Add (b) and allow exotherm to die (about 15 minutes). Pump in (c) and (d) in parallel over 5 hours. Hold 1 hour, and cool.

Comparative Example

Comparisons of soft copolymer and coalesced hard copolymer (prior art) with the current invention are as follows.

Prior art. Conventionally, the balance of low temperature film formation and absence of tack at ambient temperature is achieved by utilizing a latex composition with an

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elevated Tg, to achieve absence of tack, and then temporarily reducing its Tg with a volatile coalescing solvent such as Texanol, to achieve low temperature film formation. While this works well, it also involves the
5 emission of the coalescing solvent into the atmosphere, which contributes odour and air pollution. A typical copolymer composition comprises by weight 80% vinyl acetate and 20% butyl acrylate, as in Example A above. For this experiment, the latex contained coalescing solvent at the
10 level of 6% to achieve a KMFT of 10°C. A film cast with this coalesced latex was non-tacky at room temperature, but emitted volatile solvent to the atmosphere.

Conversely, if one makes a copolymer with a low enough Tg to achieve low temperature film formation (60/40 VA/BA),
15 as in Example B above, the polymer forms a film which is excessively tacky at ambient use temperature. While this would involve no VOC emissions to the atmosphere, the coating involves a commercially unacceptable balance of properties. This soft copolymer achieves a KMFT of 10°C on
20 its own. A film cast from this latex is extremely tacky at room temperature, but emits no solvents to the atmosphere.

Present Invention. In the present invention, the use of a non-volatile external plasticizer accomplishes all three goals simultaneously: low temperature film formation,
25 tack-free behavior at ambient temperatures, and no volatile organic emissions to the atmosphere.

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Example 1

A low molecular weight dipropylene-adipate oligomer polyester was synthesized in accordance with the preferred process at a -OH/-COOH equivalent ratio of 1.25 as follows:

- 5 1629.9 grams adipic acid
- 1870.1 grams dipropylene glycol
- 1.1 grams butyl stannic acid

The foregoing materials were charged to a flask equipped with a stirrer and heated up to 240°C maximum
10 under nitrogen along with water of reaction removal and held until a final Acid No. of 4 to 8 was obtained based on solids. The resulting polyester had ICI Cone & Plate viscosity 14-18 poise at 30°C, and a number average molecular weight of 800, and a Tg of -50°C.

15 The foregoing polyester was used to make an oligomeric pre-emulsion comprising by weight 62.5% polyester, 3.6% Triton X405 surfactant (70% active nonyl phenol ethoxylate), and 33.9% deionized water. This corresponds to 4% surfactant based on the weight of polyester. The
20 pre-emulsion was formed by adding the polyester to the water/surfactant solution with ordinary agitation to form a premix, heating the premix above 45°C to about 60°C, and then passing the heated premix through a Sonic Triplex Model T02-2A-HP ultrasonic emulsifier equipped with a 0.001
25 square inch orifice at 1000 psi. The resulting mixture was a stable, water dispersed, pre-emulsion of polyester

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oligomer having an emulsion particle size less than 0.7 microns. The oligomer pre-emulsion was then blended with 80/20 by weight vinyl acetate butyl acrylate copolymer (Example A above) having a $T_g = 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ at the level of 10% polyester based on the weight of oligomer and latex polymer solids or 800 grams latex 56.5% NV was mixed with 77.3 grams of polyester pre-emulsion. Blending of the oligomer pre-emulsion and latex was at room temperature, mixed thoroughly for about one hour, and then was allowed to set at room temperature for about 24 hours without further mixing. The oligomer modified latex provided an excellent semi-gloss latex paint.

Example 2

In a manner similar to Example 1, a low molecular weight polyester prepolymer was prepared at a $-\text{OH}/-\text{COOH}$ equivalent ratio of 1.186 as follows:

1675.1 grams adipic acid
1823.4 grams dipropylene glycol
0.5 grams triphenyl phosphine
1.1 grams butyl stannous acid

The polyester was synthesized at less than 240°C to obtain a 4-8 Acid No. along with a 32-38 poise viscosity at 30°C , a number average molecular weight of 970, and a T_g of 50°C . The oligomer pre-mix was micronized through a Sonolator to an emulsion particle size less than 0.7

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microns. The oligomer pre-emulsion was mixed with the 80/20 vinyl acetate butyl acrylate copolymer latex in the manner of Example 1.

Example 3

- 5 White semi-gloss latex paints were prepared from any one of the foregoing emulsion polymers described in Examples 1 or 2 from the following ingredients:

PIGMENT GRIND:

	<u>Group</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
10	A	Water	151.68
	A	Thickener	.50
	A	Ammonia (28%)	.01
	B	Surfactant	5.00
	C	Defoamer	2.00
15	C	Surfactant	2.00
	D	TiO ₂ pigment	145.00
	D	Clay extender pigment	50.00

- Group A ingredients were added to Cowles dispersing equipment and mixed for 5 minutes. Group B and then C
- 20 ingredients were added with continued mixing under slow agitation. Group D ingredients were added under high speed agitation and grind for 15 minutes or until a Hegman 5.5 was attained. The foregoing is the grind portion of the paint.

25 LETDOWN

<u>Group</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
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	E	Water	33.00
	F	Water	33.00
	F	Thickener	3.50
	F	Ammonia Hydroxide	.01
5	G	Preservative	1.00
	H	Defoamer	5.00
	H	Propylene glycol	40.00
	H	Surfactant	4.50
	H	Rheology Modifier (Ex. 1 or 2)	9.00
10	H	Surfactant	3.00
	I	Latex (Ex. 1 or 2)	393.00
	I	Opacifier latex	105.00

Group E ingredients were added in separate vessel, followed by Premix F added to E ingredients with slow speed agitation. Group G ingredients were added at slow speed. Premix H ingredients were then added to vessel. Premix I ingredients were mixed for 30 minutes and then added to vessel. The final composition was mixed for 1 hour. The foregoing is the letdown portion of the paint.

20 LATEX PAINT

The letdowns above were added to the pigment grind above under slow speed agitation and allowed to mix for 2 hours. Paint films from the foregoing latex paints were drawn down at 1 mil, air dried for at least 24 hours, and then tested for the following results:

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	<u>LTFF</u>	<u>Paint Ex. 1</u>	<u>Paint Ex.</u>
2			
	70°F	pass	pass
	50°F	pass	pass
5	40°F	pass	pass

Dried paint films are considered to pass low temperature film formation (LTFF) if the dried coating has no tacking and is visible under ten-times magnification.

Example 4

10 The following data was generated by blending an emulsion of an MPD/ADA modifier (methyl propane diol/adipic acid polyester of MW ca 1200) with the vinyl acetate homopolymer latex. The MPD/ADA oligomer modifier was prepared as in Example 1 by reacting:

15 877 gms of adipic acid
630.7 gms of 2-methyl-1,3-propane diol
0.2 gms of butylstanoic acid

The emulsion was prepared as in Example 1 with a Ross ME-100L rotor-stator mixer, which produced a sub-micron pre-
20 emulsion in size.

TABLE 1

Effect of Blended Modified on MFT

	<u>PCT Modifier (Ex. 4)</u>	<u>Initial (Ca. 30°C)</u>	<u>After 24 Hours</u>	<u>After 5 Days</u>
25	20	20	13	18
	30	13	9	14
	40	10	7	10
30				

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As can be seen, oligomeric modifier appears to diffuse into the latex, lowering its MFT. The Fox Equation relationship appears to hold quite well for blends of compatible oligomers with latex, and the estimated fraction of the oligomeric modifier which diffused into the latex. Table 2 summarizes these calculations:

TABLE 2

10

Estimated Extent of Diffusion

<u>PCT Modifier</u>	<u>Pct Diffused</u>
20	65
30	56
40	50

15

It was found that the foregoing MPD/ADA oligomeric modifier is effective as a film-forming modifier in accordance with this invention but is not as effective as the adipic acid dipropylene glycol polyester of Examples 1 and 2.

20

Examples 5 - 8

A series of polyester modifiers were prepared as follows:

TABLE 3

	<u>Ex. 5</u>	<u>Ex. 6</u>	<u>Ex. 7</u>	<u>Ex. 8</u>
Neopentyl glycol	416.8	312.6	---	---
Azelaic acid	564.6	376.4	---	---

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	Adipic acid	---	---	146.2
	584.8			
	Dipropylene glycol	---	---	268.4
	Benzoic acid	---	---	183.2
5	2-methyl-1,3-			
	propane diol	---	---	---
	180.2			
	2-ethyl hexanol	---	---	---
	520.8			
10	Butyl stanoic acid	0.2	0.2	0.2
	0.4			

The polyester oligomers were synthesized as in Example 1.

Example 9

- 15 A polyester amide was prepared as follows:
- 13.4 g 2-methyl-1,5-pentane diamine
 - 100.3 g DBE-3 (DuPont, dimethyl adipate)
 - 77.4 g dipropylene glycol
 - 0.1 g butyl stanoic acid
- 20 Heat under nitrogen with good agitation to about 220°C. Use a glass bead packed column to distill off methanol, keeping column head temperature at 65°C. Switch to a trap when distillation slows down. Cool after 4 hours at 200°C.
- 25 Emulsions of the modifiers were prepared as in Example 1 and blended with a commercial acrylic latex (8°C

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Tg, DSC, methylmethacrylate-butyl acrylate) and a styrene latex (37°C Tg, DSC, styrene-ethyl-acrylate) as follows:

PAINT FORMULA

A) Premix the following components:

5		<u>Grams</u>
	water	200
	cellulosic thickener	1.0
	preservative	2.0
	defoamer	1.0
10	polymeric dispersant	6.0
	surfactant	4.0

B) Add the following to (A) and disperse 5 minutes at moderate speed:

		<u>Grams</u>
15	titanium dioxide	162.7
	extender pigment	132.65
	crystalline silica	85.65
	colloidal silicate	2.00

C) Add the following to (A) and (B) mixture and mix 15 minutes at high speed:

		<u>Grams</u>
	water	100
	defoamer	2.0

D) Premix the following and then add to the above and mix 15 minutes at low speed:

Grams

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water	60.0
cellulosic thickener	4.5

E) Add the following and mix 15 minutes moderate speed:

	<u>Grams</u>
5 modified latex	264

F) Add the following components to the above mixture:

	<u>Grams</u>
Water	70
defoamer	3.0
10 polyurethane associative thickener	10.0

TABLE 4

Acrylic Latex:

	<u>Example</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>40°F LTFF</u>
15	10	5% Example 5	pass
	11	5% Example 6	pass
	12	5% Example 7	pass
	13	5% Example 8	pass
	14	5% Example 9	pass
20	15	None	fail

Styrene Latex:

	<u>Example</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>70°F LTFF</u>
	16	Example 7	pass
	17	None	fail

25 The following examples illustrate the process of this invention where the oligomer is mixed with ethylenic

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monomer prior to emulsion polymerization. Polyesters with a range of molecular weights and structures can function as effective non-volatile plasticizing and coalescing agents for emulsion addition copolymers, where comonomer is not
5 needed with vinyl acetate polymer and coalescing aid is not required for good film formation. Avoiding the use of coalescing solvents is possible because the higher molecular weight polyesters are dissolved in polyvinyl acetate monomer and then dispersed into water by high shear
10 and/or ultrasound prior to polymerization of the polyvinyl acetate as illustrated in the following examples.

The following examples reflect the process of this invention wherein the oligomer is dispersed into monomer and then micronized into water followed by
15 copolymerization of the monomer.

Example 10

An adipate polyester oligomer was prepared as follows:

	<u>Grams</u>
20 Adipic acid	438.6
Diethylene glycol	382
Butylstanoic acid	0.5

The above raw materials were heated in a 2 liter flask under a nitrogen blanket with mechanical stirring to 170°C
25 while using the head temperature above a column packed with glass beads to regulate the esterification reaction. With

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a head temperature of 98°C, the reaction temperature increased slowly to 220°C, where the temperature was held for 2 hours and then cooled.

An aqueous suspension of vinyl acetate monomer and the above adipate polyester was prepared from the following materials.

		<u>Grams</u>
	a) deionized water	2000
	MM-80, Mona Chemical ¹	11.2
10	(NH ₄) HCO ₃	2.5
	NaAMPS, Lubrizol Corp.	2.5
	vinyl acetate monomer	625
	b) polyester from above	312
	MT-70, Mona Chemical ²	5.6
15	c) (NH ₄) ₂ S ₂ O ₈	5.0
	d) vinyl acetate monomer	625
	MT-70 ³	5.6
	¹ MM-80 = sodium dihexyl sulfosuccinate	
	² NaAMPS = sodium acrylamide methyl propane sulfonate	
20	³ MT-70 sodium ditridecyl sulfosuccinate	

Organic solution (a) was dispersed in aqueous solution (b) with a prop stirrer at about 5000 rpm for 20 seconds and passed through the flow through cell of a Sonics Corp. model VC-600 ultrasonic device at 85% power.

25 The resulting aqueous emulsion was heated with stirring under a nitrogen blanket to 65°C. Component (c) was added

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and 65°C was held for 1.5 hours. Monomer mixture (d) was added over 3 hours at 72°C, held 1 hour, and then cooled.

Example 11

5 In a manner similar to Example 10, a phthalate polyester oligomer was prepared, mixed with vinyl acetate monomer, micronized into water by high shear, and polymerized. The phthalate polyester was as follows:

	<u>Grams</u>
10 phthalic anhydride	593
diethylene glycol	318.3
butyl cellosolve	236.4

The raw materials were heated under nitrogen to 200°C, then slowly raised to 220°C over 2 hours while keeping the head
15 temperature of the packed distillation column at 98°C. Total distillate was 73 g. A suspension of the above phthalate polyester was prepared as follows:

	<u>Grams</u>
a) deionized water	800
20 MM-80	3.0
NaHCO ₃	2.0
b) vinyl acetate monomer	250
polyester (Ex. 11 above)	80
c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	2.0
25 d) vinyl acetate monomer	250
MT-70	3.0

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The procedure for polymerizing the ethylenic monomers was the same as described in Example 10.

Example 12

In a manner similar to Example 11, a polymer was prepared except that the amount of phthalate polyester was increased from 80 grams to 150 grams.

Example 13

In a manner similar to Example 11, a polymer was prepared using the following components using a commercial polyester believed to be a polyether-phthalate-polyester capped with benzoic acid (Hercoflex 900, Hercules Corp.).

		<u>Grams</u>
	a) deionized water	2000
15	MM-80	15
	NaHCO ₃	2.5
	NaHCO ₃	7.5
	NaAMPS	2.5
	b) vinyl acetate monomer	625
20	Hercoflex 900, (Hercules Corp.)	250
	c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	5.0
	d) vinyl acetate monomer	625
	MT-70	7.5

25 The procedure from Example 10 was used to copolymerize the monomers and produce a latex polymer.

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Example 14

In a manner similar to Example 10, a polyester triester was prepared from the following reactants:

	<u>Grams</u>
5 Ektasolve DB, Eastman Chem.	365
(diethylene glycol butyl ether)	
trimellitic anhydride	145
butylstanoic acid	0.1

The water of reaction distilled off was 29 grams.

10

A polymer was prepared according to the polymerization process described in Example 12 but from the following components:

	<u>Grams</u>
15 a) deionized water	800
MM-80	3.0
NaHCO ₃	2.0
b) vinyl acetate monomer	250
triester from above	50
20 MT-70	1.0
c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	2.0
vinyl acetate monomer	250
MT-70	3.0

Example 15

25 Clear unpigmented films were prepared from the polymers prepared in Examples 10-14. Physical properties

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of latex and air dried clear paint films were as follows:

		Min. Film Temp.	Min. Film Temp.
	<u>Suspension</u>	<u>Crack Point</u>	<u>Knife Point</u>
5	<u>Tack</u>		
	Ex. 10	<3	<3
	None		
	Ex. 11	12	24
10	None		
	Ex. 12	3	9
	None		
	Ex. 13	<3	6
	None		
15	Ex. 14	4	15
	None		
	Control *	10	12
	None		

*Control was an unmodified commercial latex typically used
 20 in consumer air-dry paints and comprising 80/20 weight
 ratio of vinyl acetate polymerized with butyl acrylate.

Example 16

White semi-gloss latex paints were prepared from
 25 any one of the foregoing emulsion polymers described in
 Examples 10-14 from the following ingredients:

Pigment Grind:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
A	Water	151.68

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	A	Thickener	.50
	A	Ammonia (28%)	.01
	B	Surfactant	5.00
	C	Defoamer	2.00
5	C	Surfactant	2.00
	D	TiO ₂ pigment	145.00
	D	Clay extender pigment	50.00

Group A ingredients were added to Cowles dispersing equipment and mixed for 5 minutes. Group B and then C 10 ingredients were added with continued mixing under slow agitation. Group D ingredients were added under high speed agitation and grind for 15 minutes or until a Hegman 5.5 was attained. The foregoing is the grind portion of the paint.

15	<u>Letdown</u>	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	E	Water	33.00
	F	Water	33.00
	F	Thickener	3.50
	F	Ammonia Hydroxide	.01
20	G	Preservative	1.00
	H	Defoamer	5.00
	H	Propylene glycol	40.00
	H	Surfactant	4.50
	H	Rheology Modifier	9.00
25	H	Surfactant	3.00
	I	Latex	393.00

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I Opacifier latex 105.00

Group E ingredients were added in separate vessel, followed by Premix F added to E ingredients with slow speed agitation. Group G ingredients were added at slow speed.

- 5 Premix H ingredients were then added to vessel. Premix I ingredients were mixed for 30 minutes and then added to vessel. The final composition was mixed for 1 hour. The foregoing is the letdown portion of the paint.

Latex Paint

- 10 The letdown above was added to the pigment grind above under slow speed agitation and allowed to mix for 2 hours.

Example 17

Benzoic acid capped polyester oligomer modifier.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
15	adipic acid	731
	diethylene glycol	637
	butylstanoic acid	0.5
	benzoic acid	244

- Heat the above components gradually with adequate stirring under a nitrogen atmosphere to 220°C. (Water will begin to distill at about 170°C, and about 3 hours will be required to move the batch from 170°C to 220°C). Using a packed column, maintain the head temperature at 99°C throughout this portion of the synthesis. When the head temperature drops below 80°C, remove the column and replace with a Dean-Stark trap. Fill the trap with xylene, and then add
- 20
- 25

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just enough additional xylene to give a constant reflux. Allow xylene reflux to azeotrophe water out of the batch, and reduce acid number to about 10 mg KOH/g resin. Remove xylene under a vacuum (25 inches Hg). Cool.

5

Example 18

Benzoic acid capped polyester urethane oligomer modifier
As in Example 17, but use only 122 g benzoic acid, then cool batch to 60°C at the end of the synthesis, and add 111 g isophorone diisocyanate. Allow the exotherm to carry the
10 temperature (with gentle heating) to 90°C, and hold for 2 hours. Cool.

Example 19

Polyester urethane oligomeric external modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
15	adipic acid	731
	diethylene glycol	636
	butylstanoic acid	0.5

Synthesize a polyester from the above ingredients in the same manner as in Example 17, and then add 111 g isophorone
20 diisocyanate to form a polyester urethane as in Example 18.

Example 20

Polyester urethane external modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	adipic acid	366
25	dipropylene glycol	403
	butylstanoic acid	0.2

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Form a polyester from the above ingredients as in Example 17, and then add 56 g isophorone diisocyanate to form a urethane as in Example 18.

5

Example 21

Polyester urethane urea oligomeric external modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	adipic acid	731
	dipropylene glycol	805
10	butylstanoic acid	0.5

Synthesize a polyester from the above as in Example 17, and place 300 g of the product in a separate flask at 20°C. Add 29 g isophorone diisocyanate and 30 g Jeffamine ED-2001 polyethylene oxide diamine, 2000 mol. wt. no. ave. -
 15 Texaco. The Jeffamine is predissolved in 30 g vinyl acetate to enhance miscibility. Slowly warm to 40°C to allow amine reaction with isocyanate, hold 1 hour, and then heat to 90°C. Hold 2 hours, and then cool.

Example 22

20 Polyester amide external oligomer modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	DBE-5 (dimethyl ester of glutaric acid, DuPont)	481
	dipropylene glycol	268
25	Dytek A (2-methylpentane diamine)	58

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butylstanoic acid 0.2

Warm with good agitation under nitrogen to about 190°C and distill off methanol with a good packed column. Keep column head temperature at 64°C, and gradually warm batch to 210°C. Cool after 160 g of methanol is removed.

Example 23

Polyester amide external oligomer modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
10	DBE-5	481
	dipropylene glycol	268
	Jeffamine D-230	115
	(polypropylene oxide diamine)	
	butylstanoic acid	0.5

15 Synthesized by same procedure as in Example 22.

Example 24

Polyester external oligomer modifier

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams</u>
	dipropylene glycol	4717
20	adipic acid	4283
	triphenyl phosphine	1.2
	butylstanoic acid	3.0

Synthesize as in Example 17, but do not use xylene. When column head temperature drops to 80°C acid number is about 20 mg KOH/g resin. Pull a vacuum of about 10 inches of Hg, and then gradually increase vacuum to pull off remaining

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water. Final acid number is 3 mg KOH/g resin.

Example 25

Latexes were prepared with the following generalized formula and synthesized as described below.

- | | | | |
|----|----|--------|--|
| 5 | a) | 2122 g | deionized water |
| | | 8.5 g | MA-80 (dihexyl sulfosuccinate, Mona Chem.) |
| | | 5.4 g | ammonium acetate |
| | | 8.1 g | Na AMPS, 48% (Lubrizol Chemical) |
| 10 | | 10.5 g | A246L (Na olefin sulfonate, Rhone Poulenc) |
| | b) | 7.4 g | Na formaldehyde sulfoxylate |
| 15 | | 10 ml | FeSO ₄ aqueous solution, 1000 ppm |
| | c) | 869 g | vinyl acetate |
| | | 370 g | modifier as above from Examples 8 to 16 |
| | | 3.1 g | acrylic acid |
| 20 | d) | 6.3 g | ammonium persulfate |
| | | 14 g | A246L |
| | | 159 g | deionized water |
| | e) | 874 g | vinyl acetate |
| 25 | | 3.1 g | acrylic acid |
| | f) | 2.0 g | ammonium persulfate |
| | | 27 g | deionized water |

- 30 Weigh and mix thoroughly groups (a) and (c). Combine groups (a) and (c), stir with a spatula to disperse, and then emulsify for 5 minutes at 10,000 rpm in a Ross ME 100L emulsifier. Add (b) ingredients to the emulsion, and warm in a 5 liter Morton flask to 50°C with good agitation under
- 35 nitrogen. Pump in 40 ml of (d) over 2.5 hours, adjusting pumping rate to give a reaction temperature of about 55°C. Pump in the rest of (d) and all of (e) over 3 hours. Pump in (f) over 1 hour. Cool.

Examples 26-33

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Latexes approximately equivalent were prepared as in Example 25 and mixed with modifiers identified in the following Table.

TABLE

5	<u>Ex.</u>	<u>Modifier</u>	<u>DSC Tg</u>	<u>Knife Point MFFT</u>	<u>Dry Film Tack</u>
	26	Ex. 17	0	8.2	None
	27	Ex. 18	11	8.8	None
	28	Ex. 19	11	12.5	None
10	29	Ex. 20	10	13.7	None
	30	Ex. 21	13	19.5	None
	31	Ex. 22	6	7.6	None
	32	Ex. 23	-5	10.0	Tacky
	33	Ex. 24	--	16.5	None

15 *DSC Tg's in degrees C (single, distinct transitions are noted). MFFT = minimum film formation temperature in degree C (knife point). Tack and MFFT were measured for dry latex films (only DSC Tg was measured for modifiers).

20 The film from Example 32 is tacky at room temperature, while the other latexes form good, tack free films. Generally, Tg's in the 5-10°C range are preferred. MFFT's of 20°C or less are preferred, indicating that good ambient and low temperature film formation will occur.

25 Example 32 was marginally tacky due to low Tg of the film.

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Examples 34-38

Polymeric binders containing chlorinated
5 aliphatic modifier were prepared as follows:-

		<u>Ex.34</u>	<u>Ex.35</u>	<u>EX.36</u>	<u>Ex.37</u>	<u>Ex.38</u>
	a) Deionized water	800	800	800	800	2000
	MM-80, Mona Chem ¹	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	15
10	NaHCO ₃	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5
	NaAMPS Lubrizol ²	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.5
	b) Vinyl acetate					
	monomer	250	250	250	250	625
	DA-8527, Dover ³	-	100	-	-	250
15	DA-8506, Dover ⁴	100	-	-	-	-
	Paroil 10 Dover ⁵	-	-	100	-	-
	Paroil 170-LV Dover ⁶	-	-	-	100	-
	MT-70, Mona Chem. ⁷	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	7.5
	c) K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	5.0
20	d) vinyl acetate					
	monomer	250	250	250	250	625
	MT-70	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	7.5

¹MM-80 is sodium dihexyl sulfosuccinate.

25 ²NaAMPS is sodium acrylamide methyl propane sulfonate.

³DA-8527 is a chlorinated fatty acid with 29% chlorine.

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⁴DA-8506 is a chlorinated fatty acid ester, with 35% chlorine.

⁵Paroil 10 is a chlorinated parafin with 41% chlorine.

⁶Paroil 170-LV is a chlorinated parafin with 67% chlorine.

5 ⁷MT-70 is sodium tridecyl sulfosuccinate

Solution (b) was prepared and dispersed into solution (a) at 5,000 rpm with a lab 1.5 inch prop stirrer. The resulting organic mixture was passed through Sonics Corp. VA-600 ultrasonics unit equipped with a flow through cell,
 10 one pass at 85% power to produce an organic phase dispersed in water. Component (c) was added, heated to 65°C and held 1.5 hours. Monomers (d) were fed in over three hours at 72°C, held 1 hour, and then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature.

15 Clear films were air dried at room temperature for 24 hours. Dried film properties were as set forth in following Table 1:

Table 1

		MFT	MFT	Water	Water	
20	<u>Example</u>	<u>Crack</u>	<u>Knife</u>	<u>Rubs</u>	<u>Whitening</u>	<u>Tack</u>
	1	9C	18C	200+	Moderate	None
	2	<2C	10C	200+	Moderate	v.sl.
	3	<3C	9C	200+	Moderate	None
	4	12C	26C	200+	Moderate	None
25	5	3C	14C	200+	Mild	None

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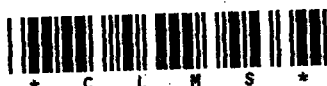
CLAIMS

1. An aqueous air-dry coating composition including an emulsion polymerised polymeric binder having
5 a Tg below 20°C which binder contains an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerised ethylenic monomers wherein the binder also contains 3 to 70% of an oligomer modifier selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid
10 ester, the oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below -20°C and wherein the oligomer modifier is present in the aqueous composition as a micro-emulsion of droplets having a droplet size of less than 10 microns.

15 2. An aqueous air-dry coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 containing an emulsion polymerized polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the polymeric binder comprising:

an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerized
20 ethylenic monomers containing an oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between about 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below about -20°C, the oligomer selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, where the
25 oligomer is dispersed into water by high shear mixing to provide a micro-emulsion having a droplet size less than 10

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microns, where the polymeric binder comprises by weight between 3% and 70% of said oligomer with the balance being said addition copolymer, where the Tg of the polymeric binder is less than 20°C.

5 3. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 containing the low molecular weight oligomeric modifier in an aqueous micro-emulsion having an organic phase emulsion droplet size less than 10 microns and produced by high shear mixing at temperatures between 20°C
10 and 100°C of an aqueous mixture of the oligomer and water where the mixture contains between 40% and 70% oligomer, and the oligomer has a number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000 and a Tg less than -20°C.

 4. A coating composition as claimed in any one
15 of the preceding Claims containing between 3% and 50% by weight of the oligomer modifier, where said polymeric binder is produced by mixing the oligomer in the ethylenic monomer to provide an organic solution of oligomer and ethylenic monomer, where said organic solution is dispersed
20 into and polymerized in water to produce an oligomer modified addition copolymer emulsion polymer where the oligomer is soluble in the polymerized monomer.

 5. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 3 where the oligomeric modifier has a molecular weight
25 between 500 and 2,000.

 6. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 3 or



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Claim 4 where the oligomeric modifier has a molecular weight between 500 and 1,000.

7. A coating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 6 where the aqueous mixture comprises by weight
5 between about 55% and 65% oligomer modifier forming the micro-emulsion.

8. A coating composition as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims where the micro-emulsion was produced by high shear mixing of the aqueous mixture of oligomer at
10 temperatures between 45°C and 60°C.

9. A coating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the micro-emulsion droplet size is on average between 0.1 and 1 micron.

10. A coating composition as claimed in any one
15 of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the average emulsion droplet size is below 0.7 microns.

11. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 where the oligomer has a Tg less than about -40°C.

20 12. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 where the oligomer has a Tg less than about -50°C.

13. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 3 to 12 where the oligomer has a molecular weight
25 between about 300 and 10,000.

14. A coating composition according to any one of



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Claims 3 to 13 where the oligomer has a molecular weight between about 500 and 5,000.

15. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 3 to 14 where the polymeric binder is produced by 5 micronizing the aqueous dispersion with high shear to a micronized aqueous dispersion having organic phase particle size droplets less than 5 microns.

16. A coating composition according to any one of the preceding claims where the oligomer is a polyurethane.

10 17. A coating composition according to Claim 16 where the polyurethane oligomer comprises a polyester-urethane copolymer.

15 18. A coating composition according to Claim 16 where the polyurethane oligomer comprises a polyurethane-urea copolymer.

19. A coating composition according to any of the Claims 1 to 15 where the oligomer is a polyester polymer.

20. A coating composition of Claim 19 where the polyester oligomer comprises a polyester-amide copolymer.

20 21. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 15 where the oligomer is a chlorinated hydrocarbon, a chlorinated fatty acid or a chlorinated fatty acid ester.

25 22. A coating composition according to any one of the preceding Claims where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized vinyl acetate monomer.

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23. A coating composition according to any one of the preceding Claims where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized acrylic monomer.

24. A coating composition according to Claim 23
5 where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized acrylic monomer and styrene.

25. A coating composition according to Claim 4 where the polymeric binder contains between 10% and 25% of said oligomer.

10 26. A process for producing an aqueous ambient dry coating composition containing a polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the process steps for producing the polymeric binder comprising:

producing a micronized, aqueous pre-emulsion of
15 oligomer modifier selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, the pre-emulsion having an organic phase droplet size less than 10 microns by high shear mixing at temperatures between 20°C and 100°C of an
20 aqueous mixture of the oligomer containing by weight between 40% and 70% oligomer, where the oligomer has a Tg less than -20°C and number average molecular weight between about 300 and 5,000;

mixing the pre-emulsion with an emulsion
25 copolymerized addition polymer comprising ethylenically unsaturated monomers to produce a polymeric binder

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containing by weight between about 3% and 30% oligomer, where the polymeric binder has a Tg less than 20°C.

27. A process according to Claim 26 where micronizing produces a micro-emulsion having an organic
5 phase particle size droplet less than 1 micron.

28. A process according to Claim 26 or Claim 27 where the micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets less than 0.7 microns.

29. A process according to any one of Claims 26
10 to 28 where the micro-emulsion is formed at temperatures between about 45°C and 60°C.

30. A process according to any one of Claims 26 to 29 where the oligomer has a molecular weight between 500 and 2,000.

15 31. A process for producing an aqueous ambient dry paint coating containing a polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the process steps for producing the polymeric binder comprising:

providing an organic solution comprising vinyl
20 acetate monomer and oligomer having a number average molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, the oligomer having a Tg below about -20°C, where the organic
25 solution contains at least 3% by weight of said oligomer;



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dispersing the organic solution into water to produce an aqueous dispersion;

micronizing the aqueous dispersion under high shear to produce a micro-dispersion having organic phase
5 particle size droplets less than 5 microns; and

polymerizing the vinyl acetate monomer to produce a polymeric binder having a T_g less than 20°C comprising an emulsion vinyl acetate polymer containing said oligomer.

32. A process according to Claim 30 where
10 micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets less than 1 micron.

33. A process according to Claim 31 or Claim 32 where the micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets less than 0.7 microns.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

ODOUR FREE, AIR DRY, DECORATIVE LATEX PAINTS

An aqueous ambient dry paint coating based on an addition copolymer matrix polymer containing an oligomer selected from a polyurethane or a polyester having a Tg
5 below -20°C and a number average molecular weight between 200 and 20,000, where the coating is free of organic coalescing solvents. The matrix polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized ethylenic monomers. In a preferred process, the oligomer is produced by forming an aqueous micro-
10 preemulsion of oligomer in water by high shear mixing of oligomer and water containing 40% to 70% by weight oligomer and at temperatures between about 20°C and 100°C to provide an aqueous pre-emulsion having an organic phase droplet size less than 10 microns. The polymeric binder can be
15 produced also by mixing the oligomer with the ethylenic monomers to form an organic mixture of monomer and oligomer, providing an aqueous micro dispersion of the organic mixture phase droplet size less than 5 microns, and copolymerizing the monomer to produce a vinyl acetate
20 polymer containing oligomer. The polymeric binder system is free of coalescing organic solvent.

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progressively appear after one year in dried paint films. Hence, any elimination of coalescing solvents and attendant objectionable odours, along with air pollution caused by volatile organic compounds (VOC), and film cracking
5 deficiencies would represent both a technical and marketing advance in the state of the art of consumer latex paints.

In polymer technologies unrelated to air-dry vinyl acetate latex paints, preformed polymers have been dispersed into monomers and emulsified in water, whereupon
10 the monomers are then polymerized, such as disclosed in U.S. 4,373,054 pertaining to cathodic electrocoating, or in U.S. 4,313,073 pertaining to alkyd prepolymers; U.S. 4,588,757 pertaining to laminating adhesives, or in U.S. 3,953,386 and U.S. 4,011,388 pertaining to aqueous emulsion
15 blends containing cellulosic ester/acrylic polymers.

It now has been found that certain non-volatile softening oligomeric modifiers compatible with an aqueous emulsion addition copolymer binder in a consumer latex paint can be retained in the dried paint film permanently.
20 Accordingly this invention provides an aqueous air-dry coating composition including an emulsion polymerised polymeric binder having a Tg below 20°C which binder contains an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerised

ethylenic monomers wherein the binder also contains 3 to 70% by weight of an oligomer modifier selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, the oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000

Claims

1. An aqueous air-dry coating composition including an emulsion polymerised polymeric binder having
5 a Tg below 20°C which binder contains an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerised ethylenic monomers wherein the binder also contains 3 to 70% by weight of an oligomer modifier selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid
10 ester, the oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below -20°C and wherein the oligomer modifier is present in the aqueous composition as a micro-emulsion of droplets having a droplet size of less than 10 microns.

15 2. An aqueous air-dry coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 containing an emulsion polymerized polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the polymeric binder comprising:

an addition copolymer of aqueous polymerized
20 ethylenic monomers containing an oligomer modifier having a molecular weight between substantially 200 and 20,000 and a Tg below substantially -20°C, the oligomer selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, where the
25 oligomer is dispersed into water by high shear mixing to provide a micro-emulsion having a droplet size less than 10



microns, where the polymeric binder comprises by weight between 3% and 70% of said oligomer with the balance being said addition copolymer, where the Tg of the polymeric binder is less than 20°C.

5 3. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 containing the oligomeric modifier in an aqueous micro-emulsion having an organic phase emulsion droplet size less than 10 microns and produced by high shear mixing at temperatures between 20°C
10 and 100°C of an aqueous mixture of the oligomer and water where the mixture contains between 40% and 70% by weight oligomer, and the oligomer has a number average molecular weight between substantially 300 and 5,000 and a Tg less than -20°C.

 4. A coating composition as claimed in any one
15 of the preceding Claims containing between 3% and 50% by weight of the oligomer modifier, where said polymeric binder is produced by mixing the oligomer in the ethylenic monomer to provide an organic solution of oligomer and ethylenic monomer, where said organic solution is dispersed
20 into and polymerized in water to produce an oligomer modified addition copolymer emulsion polymer where the oligomer is soluble in the polymerized monomer.

 5. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 3 where the oligomeric modifier has a molecular weight
25 between 500 and 2,000.

 6. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 3 or



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claim 4 where the oligomeric modifier has a molecular weight between 500 and 1,000.

7. A coating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 6 where the aqueous mixture comprises by weight
5 between substantially 55% and 65% oligomer modifier forming the micro-emulsion.

8. A coating composition as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims where the micro-emulsion was produced by high shear mixing of the aqueous mixture of oligomer at
10 temperatures between 45°C and 60°C.

9. A coating composition as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the micro-emulsion droplet size is on average between 0.1 and 1 micron.

10. A coating composition as claimed in any one
15 of Claims 1 to 9 wherein the average emulsion droplet size is below 0.7 microns.

11. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 where the oligomer has a Tg less than substantially -40°C.

20 12. A coating composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 where the oligomer has a Tg less than substantially -50°C.

13. A modification of a coating composition according to any one of claims 3 to 12 wherein the modification comprises the selection of
25 an oligomer having a molecular weight between substantially 300 and 10,000.

14. A modification according to claim 13 wherein the oligomer



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has a molecular weight between substantially 500 and 5,000.

15. A coating composition according to
Claim 3 where the polymeric binder is produced by
5 micronizing the aqueous dispersion with high shear to a
micronized aqueous dispersion having organic phase particle
size droplets less than 5 microns.

16. A coating composition according to any one of
the preceding claims where the oligomer is a polyurethane.

10 17. A coating composition according to Claim 16
where the polyurethane oligomer comprises a polyester-
urethane copolymer.

18. A coating composition according to Claim 16
where the polyurethane oligomer comprises a polyurethane-
15 urea copolymer.

19. A coating composition according to any one of the
Claims 1 to 15 where the oligomer is a polyester polymer.

20. A coating composition of Claim 19 where the
polyester oligomer comprises a polyester-amide copolymer.

20 21. A coating composition according to any one of
Claims 1 to 15 where the oligomer is a chlorinated
hydrocarbon, a chlorinated fatty acid or a chlorinated
fatty acid ester.

25 22. A coating composition according to any one of
the preceding Claims where the addition polymer comprises
emulsion copolymerized vinyl acetate monomer.



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23. A coating composition according to any one of the preceding Claims where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized acrylic monomer.

24. A coating composition according to Claim 23
5 where the addition polymer comprises emulsion copolymerized acrylic monomer and styrene.

25. A coating composition according to Claim 4 where the polymeric binder contains between 10% and 25% by weight of said oligomer.

10 26. A process for producing an aqueous ambient dry coating composition containing a polymeric binder free of organic coalescing solvent, the process steps for producing the polymeric binder comprising:

producing a micronized, aqueous pre-emulsion of
15 oligomer modifier selected from a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, the pre-emulsion having an organic phase droplet size less than 10 microns, by high shear mixing at temperatures between 20°C and 100°C of an
20 aqueous mixture of the oligomer containing by weight between 40% and 70% oligomer, where the oligomer has a T_g less than -20°C and number average molecular weight between substantially 300 and 5,000;

mixing the pre-emulsion with an emulsion
25 copolymerized addition polymer comprising ethylenically unsaturated monomers to produce a polymeric binder



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containing by weight between substantially 3% and 30% oligomer,
where the polymeric binder has a Tg less than 20°C.

27. A process according to Claim 26 where
micronizing produces a micro-emulsion having an organic
5 phase particle size droplet less than 1 micron.

28. A process according to Claim 26 or Claim 27
where the micronizing produces organic phase particle size
droplets less than 0.7 microns.

29. A process according to any one of Claims 26
10 to 28 where the micro-emulsion is formed at temperatures
between substantially 45°C and 60°C.

30. A process according to any one of Claims 26
to 29 where the oligomer has a molecular weight between 500
and 2,000.

15 31. A process for producing an aqueous ambient
dry paint coating containing a polymeric binder free of
organic coalescing solvent, the process steps for producing
the polymeric binder comprising:

providing an organic solution comprising vinyl
20 acetate monomer and oligomer having a number average
molecular weight between 200 and 20,000 and selected from
a polyurethane, a polyester, a chlorinated hydrocarbon
and/or a chlorinated fatty acid or fatty acid ester, the
oligomer having a Tg below substantially -20°C, where the organic
25 solution contains at least 3% by weight of said oligomer;



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dispersing the organic solution into water to produce an aqueous dispersion;

micronizing the aqueous dispersion under high shear to produce a micro-dispersion having organic phase particle size droplets less than 5 microns; and

polymerizing the vinyl acetate monomer to produce a polymeric binder having a Tg less than 20°C comprising an emulsion vinyl acetate polymer containing said oligomer.

10

32. A process according to Claim 31 where the micronizing produces organic phase particle size droplets less than 0.7 microns.

33. An aqueous air-dry coating composition as defined in claim 1 substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

34. A process as defined in claim 26 for producing an aqueous ambient dry coating composition substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.

35. A process as defined in claim 31 for producing an aqueous ambient dry paint coating substantially as herein described with reference to any example thereof.



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