Claims:

1. A polymeric compound comprising a blend, the blend comprising:

50 wt% or greater of a thermoplastic polymer having an average melting point (T_m) of less than 300°C; and

less than 50 wt% of an ionomer dispersed in a matrix of the thermoplastic polymer, the ionomer having phosphorus-based or nitrogen-based ionic moieties and comprising a copolymer derived from at least one isoolefin monomer and at least one multiolefin monomer,

based on the total weight of the blend.

2. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer has a T_m of 250°C or less.

3. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer has a T_m of 185°C or less.

4. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the blend comprises 75-99 wt% of the thermoplastic polymer and 1-25 wt% of the ionomer.

5. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the blend comprises 85-90 wt% of the thermoplastic polymer and 10-15 wt% of the ionomer.

6. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the blend does not comprise a compatibilizer for compatibilizing the thermoplastic polymer and ionomer.

7. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the ionomer is dispersed in the thermoplastic polymer matrix as domains having an average diameter of about 5 µm or less.

8. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, further comprising a plasticizer.

9. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises a polyolefin or a polyamide.

10. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene or nylon 12.

11. The polymeric compound according to claim 1, wherein:

the thermoplastic polymer comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene or nylon 12 and has a T_m of 185°C or less;

the blend comprises 85-90 wt% of the thermoplastic polymer and 10-15 wt% of the ionomer;

the ionomer is dispersed in the thermoplastic polymer matrix as domains having an average diameter of about 0.1 to about 5 µm;

the blend does not include a compatibilizer for compatibilizing the thermoplastic polymer and ionomer; and

the blend additionally comprises at least one of: plasticizers, stabilizers, anti-oxidants, tackifiers, nucleating agents, flame retardants, colorants, antistatic agents, slip agents, antiblocking agents, processing aids, fillers, reinforcements and curatives.

12. An article of manufacture comprising the polymeric compound as defined in claim 1.

13. The article according to claim 12, wherein the article is an adhesive, sealant, coating, article for automotive application, hose, tube, sheet, mechanical rubber good, consumer good, architectural good, construction good, electrical good, electronic good, medical and food contact good, seal, gasket, valve, bushing, grommet, appliance good, coupling, vibration isolator, cap, roller, extruded profile, bumper, housing, bellow, shield, toy, sporting good, foamed good, wire, cable, or mechanical good.

14. A process for producing a polymeric compound, the process comprising blending 50 wt% or greater of a thermoplastic polymer having an average melting point (T_m) of less than 300°C with less than 50 wt% of an ionomer, the ionomer having phosphorus-based or nitrogen-based ionic moieties and comprising a copolymer derived from at least one isoolefin monomer and at least one multiolefin monomer, at a temperature of 300°C or less but greater than the T_m of the thermoplastic polymer, to disperse the ionomer in a matrix of the thermoplastic polymer, wherein the weights are based on total weight of the thermoplastic polymer and ionomer.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the blending comprises blending in a mixer, a roll mill, an internal mixer, a continuous mixer, or a single or twin screw extruder.

16. The process according to claim 14, wherein the thermoplastic polymer and ionomer have viscosities within about 10% of each other during blending.

17. The process according to claim 16, further comprising adding a plasticizer to bring the viscosity of the ionomer to within about 10% of the viscosity of the thermoplastic polymer.

18. The process according to claim 14, wherein 85-90 wt% of the thermoplastic polymer is blended with 10-15 wt% of the ionomer.

19. The process according to claim 14, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises a polyolefin or a polyamide.

20. The process according to claim 14, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene or nylon 12.