CLAIMS

1. An elastomeric composition comprising, per 100 parts by weight of rubber (phr):

about 30 to about 50 phr of polybutadiene having a cis-1,4 linkage content of at least 95%;

about 40 to about 70 phr of a styrene/butadiene copolymer;

about 0 to about 20 phr of natural rubber or polyisoprene;

about 0 to about 30 phr of a processing oil;

about 10 to about 30 phr of a hydrocarbon resin;

about 50 to about 75 phr of a filler;

a curative agent;

an antioxidant; and

about 5 to about 40 phr of a butyl copolymer rubber containing about 85 to about 99.5 mol% C_4-C_7 isoolefins and from about 0.5 to about 15 mol% C_4-C_{14} conjugated dienes.

2. The elastomeric composition of claim 1, wherein the filler is a silica-based filler.

3. The elastomeric composition of claim 1, wherein the filler is a carbon black filler.

4. The elastomeric composition of claim 1, wherein the filler is blend of a silica-based filler and a carbon black filler.

5. The elastomeric composition of any preceding claim, wherein the butyl rubber is isobutylene-isoprene rubber.

6. The elastomeric composition of claims 1-4, wherein the butyl copolymer rubber further comprises a styrene based monomer.

7. The elastomeric composition of claim 6, wherein the styrene is methyl-styrene.

8. The elastomeric composition of any preceding claim, wherein the butyl copolymer rubber is present in the amount of about 5 phr to about 25 phr.

9. The elastomeric composition of any preceding claim, wherein the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the butyl copolymer rubber is from about 0°C to about -80°C.

10. A tire tread composition comprising the elastomeric composition of any one of the preceding claims.

11. An article comprising the tire tread composition of claim 10.

12. A method of making the elastomeric composition of claims 1-9, comprising the steps of:

(a) blending the polybutadiene, the styrene/butadiene copolymer, natural rubber or polyisoprene, the filler, the processing oil, and the butyl copolymer rubber to form a first component at a temperature in the range from about 110°C to about 200°C;

(b) blending the curative agent with the first component at a temperature in the range of about less than 110°C; and

(c) recovering the elastomeric composition.

13. A method of balancing the wet traction performance and rolling resistance in a tire tread comprising the elastomeric composition of any one of claims 1-9:

combining at least the filler, the polybutadiene, the styrene/butadiene copolymer, natural rubber or polyisoprene, and the curative agent with one or more of the butyl copolymer rubbers to form the tire tread; and

effecting a cure of the components to form a tire tread,

wherein the level of the butyl copolymer rubber(s) relative to the other components, and its comonomer content, can be varied to improve the balance of wet traction and rolling resistance of a tire tread.