

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
PRODUCTION PROCESS OF POLYPHENYLENE ETHER

A process for producing a polyphenylene ether by oxidative polymerization of a phenol compound using a catalyst and an oxygen-containing gas, wherein said catalyst comprises a copper compound, a bromine compound, a diamine compound of formula (1) as recited in the specification, a tertiary monoamine compound and a secondary monoamine compound, and wherein said process comprises the steps of: preparing a catalyst component (P1) in a container which is under a substantially oxygen-free inert atmosphere by mixing the copper compound and the bromine compound to obtain a mixture and then mixing the mixture with the secondary monoamine compound in an amount of at least 2 times the molar amount of the copper atom; separately preparing a catalyst component (P2) by mixing the diamine compound of formula (1) and the tertiary monoamine compound together with a solvent in an oxidative polymerization vessel; adding a predetermined amount of the catalyst component (P1) to the polymerization vessel containing the catalyst component (P2), and mixing the catalyst components (P1) and (P2); and initiating oxidative polymerization.