

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
DENTURE ADHESIVE

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to denture adhesives and to methods for making and using denture adhesives.

5 2. Description of Related Art

Ordinary removable dentures and dental plates function as a substitute for all or part of missing teeth ordinarily found in the mouth. While dentures are usually carefully fitted for the user, the fit can change over time, causing discomfort and slippage. In order to alleviate the discomfort and to control the slippage, a denture adhesive may be applied to the denture. The denture adhesive acts both as an adherent and as a gasket or cushion between the dentures and the gums of the denture wearer.

15 Denture adhesives are required to provide a diverse range of seemingly contradictory properties in an extraordinarily complex environment: the human mouth. Denture adhesives must develop a quick tack upon contact with the oral mucosa to prevent the denture from coming loose; they must also develop cohesive strength quickly when hydrated with moisture or saliva. They must also hold the denture in place for an

indefinite period of time during use. They should only need to be applied once per day and should be nontoxic and organoleptically acceptable. They must not be easily washed out. But, denture adhesives must also easily release from the
5 dentures and oral mucosa after use.

Several attempts have been made to fashion a denture adhesive using various polymer salts. One preferred polymer from the field is a copolymer of maleic anhydride and alkyl vinyl ether, sold under the Gantrez[®] trade name. This class of
10 polymers was described as a possible denture adhesive in Germann et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,003,988, which issued more than 30 years ago.

That patent describes synthetic, water sensitized but water insoluble, materials comprising mixed partial salts of
15 lower alkyl vinyl ether - maleic anhydride copolymers for stabilizing dentures. The salts mentioned in the patent are a mixture of (a) calcium and (b) alkalies, including sodium, potassium and quaternary ammonium compounds in a 1:1 to 5:1 molar ratio. The calcium and alkali materials are added to the
20 copolymer to form a mixed salt. The use of this class of materials has been described in a variety of other patents. Examples include U.S. Patent Nos. 5,093,387, 5,037,924, 4,980,391 and 4,373,036, European Published Patent Application No. 406,643.

In order to provide additional adhesive and cohesive properties to denture adhesives made from Gantrez® polymers, one approach has been to manipulate the salt form of the copolymer. Examples can be found in WO 92/22280, WO 92/10988, WO 92/10987, and WO 92/10986.

One approach is found in U.S. Patent No. 4,758,630 to Shah et al., issued July 19, 1988. That patent is directed to denture adhesives having partial salts of zinc or strontium.

Another approach is reported in U.S. Patent No. 5,073,604 to Holeva et al., issued December 17, 1991. That patent is directed to a denture adhesive made from a partial salt of a Gantrez® polymer. The cations are zinc or strontium ions in combination with calcium, and optionally sodium, cations.

U.S. Patent No. 5,298,534 to Prosise et al., issued March 29, 1994 reports using Gantrez® salts of calcium, sodium, strontium, zinc, magnesium and potassium with boron cross-linked guar gum and an oil base as a carrier. The preferred mixed salt is a Ca/Na mixed salt. The guar gum is "critical" to claimed extended holding power and viscosity building properties.

Another approach has been to employ an adhesion adjuvant in the formulation or converting the copolymer into a

terpolymer, and examples of these approaches can be found in U.S. Patent 3,736,274, 5,037,924 and 5,093,387. Despite the efforts which have been put into improving the properties of maleic anhydride/alkyl vinyl ether type polymers and their salts, these formulations do not provide the full desired measure of adhesion, cohesion and resistance to washout from beneath the denture.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The principal object of the present invention therefore is to provide a new and improved denture adhesive composition that exhibits sufficient tack initially upon contact with oral mucosa, and builds up a cohesive strength for good hold characteristics when hydrated with moisture or saliva to be able to resist stresses such as those that occur upon mastication.

Another object of the invention is to provide an adhesive in which the improved adhesive retains its adhesive properties for prolonged periods of time and resists wash out.

Additional objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description that follows, and in part will be obvious from this description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the

invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

To achieve the foregoing objects and in accordance
5 with the purpose of the invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, the invention provides a denture adhesive comprising a sodium/magnesium/zinc salt or a magnesium/zinc salt, preferably in the form of partial salts, of a maleic acid/alkyl vinyl ether copolymer.

10 To further achieve the foregoing objects and in accordance with the purpose of the invention, the invention further provides a method for securing a removable dental device in the mouth comprising applying a denture adhesive comprising a
15 zinc/magnesium salt or a sodium/magnesium/zinc salt, preferably in the form of partial salts, of a maleic acid/alkyl vinyl ether copolymer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

While this specification concludes with claims
particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming that which is
20 regarded as the present invention, the objects and advantages of this invention may be more readily ascertained from the following description of a preferred embodiment when read in

conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 shows the testing apparatus used to measure the adhesion strength of salts made in accordance with the invention.

5 FIG. 2 is a graph of the adhesion strengths of the salts of Example 1 and of Example 2 over time.

FIG. 3 is a graph of the adhesion strengths of the first batch of salts of Example 3 and of Example 4 over time.

10 FIG. 4 is a graph of the adhesion strengths of the second batch of salts of Example 3 and of Example 4 over time.

FIG. 5 is a graph of the adhesion strengths of the third batch of salts of Example 3 and of Example 4 over time.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

15 Reference will now be made in detail to the presently preferred embodiments of the invention.

The polymer salts of the present invention are the mixed partial salts of C1 - C4 alkyl vinyl-ether maleic acid copolymer. Methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride copolymer which

has a specific viscosity larger than 1.2 in methyl ethyl ketone at 25°C is the preferred copolymer. Most preferably, copolymers are selected from the copolymers set forth in (P/1-880)

Patent Application No. _____, entitled "Improved Denture
5 Adhesive Composition,
filed concurrently herewith. the disclosure of that application is incorporated herein by reference, and it lists Synodis, Smetana, Gasman, Wong and Clarke as inventors. While the copolymers of that invention are the preferred copolymers, this
10 invention is not limited to the use of those copolymers.

The degree of substitution limits for alkyl vinyl ether/maleic acid (MVE/MA) partial salts of the invention are:
(a) from about 5% to about 55% magnesium, more preferably from about 15% to about 45% magnesium, and most preferably from about
15 20% to about 40% magnesium; (b) from about 5% to about 65% zinc, more preferably from about 10% to about 60% zinc, and most preferably from about 15% to about 55% zinc; and (c) from about 0% to about 40% sodium, preferably from about 0% to about 35% sodium, and most preferably from about 0% to about 30% sodium.

20 This polymer salt is prepared by the partial neutralization of MVE/MA copolymer with the oxides and hydroxides of magnesium, zinc and sodium. When the salt is prepared, the metal compounds used react with the carboxylic acid groups on the copolymer and neutralize them. Preferably

less than 100% of the carboxylic acid groups on the copolymer chain are neutralized. More preferably, the metal compounds neutralize from about 20% to about 95% of the carboxylic acid groups of the copolymer and most preferably from about 30% to about 90% of the carboxylic acid groups.

In choosing the alkaline, inorganic metal compound used to neutralize the carboxylic acid groups, the anion portion of the compound is not restricted, although it is preferably an oxide, hydroxide, carbonate or halide. Of the halides, chlorides are most preferred. In general, the oxides or hydroxides are preferred because of their ease of handling, availability and the generally innocuous nature of the by-products formed in their reaction with carboxylic acids.

To make the salt of the invention, a solution of the polymer is prepared, usually at an elevated temperature, and a solution or dispersion of the metal compounds is also prepared. After the heated polymer solution has cooled sufficiently, the solution or dispersion of metal compound and the polymer solution are combined and allowed to react. The product salt formed is dried, either in a tray or drum drier and preferably milled to less than about 100 mesh, then dispersed in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier to form the denture adhesive of this invention using techniques well known in the art.

MVE/MA copolymer is available from ISP Corporation in NJ, under the trade name Gantrez®. The polymer is available in a Gantrez-S series which is methyl vinyl ether/maleic acid and in a Gantrez AN series, which is methyl vinyl ether/maleic anhydride.

Denture adhesives of this invention can be formulated in the form of a powder, a liquid or a cream. The compositions also contain other active and non-active ingredients.

The denture adhesive composition of the present invention contains a denture adhesive effective amount of a denture adhesive salt and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier therefor. The denture adhesive salt usually comprises from about 15% to about 55% by weight of the denture adhesive composition. Preferably it is from about 18% to about 52% by weight of the denture adhesive composition, and most preferably from about 27% to about 36% by weight of the composition in a cream formulation and about 45% to about 55% by weight in a powder formulation.

The active ingredients in the adhesive are the Na/Mg/Zn partial salt of MVE/MA copolymer and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose gum. Non-active ingredient may include petrolatum, mineral oil, flavors, colors, preservatives, thickeners and non-toxic anticaking agent such as silica and

talc.

In addition to the denture adhesive, the composition contains a pharmacologically acceptable carrier. The pharmacologically acceptable carrier contains conventional materials and if desired, can contain any adhesive adjuvants which have heretofore been used. For instance, the carrier may contain a carboxymethyl cellulose gum which is used for sensitizing the adhesive to moisture and enhancing the cohesive properties of the formulation and improving gel strength.

Carboxyethyl cellulose and carboxypropyl cellulose materials may also be used. When present, the cellulose gum preferably comprises from about 10% to about 30% by weight of the denture adhesive cream composition, more preferably from about 15% to about 25% and most preferably from about 20% to about 22% of the composition for a cream formula. In a powder formula, the cellulose gum preferably comprises from about 45% to about 55% of the composition. The cellulose gum may be present in the form of a full or partial salt, preferably a sodium salt.

Non-active ingredients that may be present in the carrier portion of the denture adhesive composition include thickening agents such as petrolatum, waxes, mineral oil and other oils; flavors such as synthetic flavor oils and/or oils

derived from plants and fruits; colors suitable for food, drug and cosmetic use and known as FD&C colors; preservatives such as the parabens, benzoic acid and benzoates and the like; viscosity modifiers; and non-toxic anti-caking agents such as silica, magnesium stearate and talc.

In a cream formulation, the mineral oil or the like preferably comprises from about 10% to about 35%, preferably from about 12% to about 17% by weight of the composition, and petrolatum and the like preferably comprise from about 20% to about 50%, preferably from about 25% to about 45% by weight of the composition.

Preferred compositions for denture adhesive creme formulations using a 20% Mg / 40% Zn / 5% Na salt are as follows:

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Cream Weight %</u>	<u>Cream Weight %</u>	<u>Cream Weight %</u>
	Mg/Zn/Na Salt	30%	30%	30%
	CMC	24%	24%	24%
	Flavorant	0.4%	---	0.35%
20	Petrolatum	29%	29.45%	29.05%
	Mineral Oil	16%	16%	16%
	Preservative	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%
	Colorants	0.05%	---	0.05%
	Fumed Silica	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%

Preferred compositions for a denture adhesive cream specially formulated to be compatible with a pump container and a powder formulation, both using a 20% Mg / 40% Zn / 5% Na salt,

are as follows: *

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Pump Cream Weight %</u>	<u>Powder Weight %</u>
5	Mg/Zn/Na Salt	30%	49.25%
	CMC	24%	49.25%
	Flavorant	---	0.4%
	Petrolatum	3%	---
	Mineral Oil	40.90%	---
	Preservative	0.05%	0.1%
10	Colorants	0.05%	---
	Fumed Silica	0.5%	1%
	AC Polyethylene 6A	1.5%	---

EXAMPLE 1

900.40 grams of room temperature purified water were charged into a main reaction kettle equipped with a high speed stirrer. 73.38 g. of anhydrous MVE/MA copolymer were slowly added to the main mix kettle, with continuous mixing. The batch was heated to 85°- 95°C.

250.11 grams of purified room temperature water was charged into a secondary kettle, and 7.52 grams of NaOH, 17.21 grams of ZnO and 1.89 grams of MgO were added slowly. All inorganic materials used as ingredients in the examples herein are USP grade anhydrous raw materials, unless otherwise noted. The secondary kettle was well mixed to form a homogeneous slurry. This slurry was slowly added into the main reaction kettle while mixing at high speed to prevent localized reaction. The temperature was reduced, and mixing was continued for two hours. The resulting solution was poured into shallow stainless

steel drying trays, and the trays were placed in a hot air convection oven at 70°C for 18-20 hours to give a dried salt. Although trays were used in this example, a drum drier would also be acceptable.

5 The dried Mg/Zn/Na Gantrez salt was then milled through a suitable mill and screened through a #100 mesh sieve. A one percent solution of the resulting powder would have a pH of from about 5 to about 7. This salt is a 10% Mg / 45% Zn / 20% Na salt of MVE/MA copolymer.

10 EXAMPLE 2 (Comparative)

 A comparative salt was prepared by the same process as set forth in Example 1 except that a mole equivalent amount of Ca(OH)_2 was substituted for the amount of MgO used in Example 1. The resulting salt is a 10% Ca / 45% Zn / 20% Na salt of MVE/MA
15 copolymer.

EXAMPLE 3

 900.40 grams of room temperature purified water were charged into a main reaction kettle equipped with a high speed stirrer. 76.26 grams of anhydrous MVE/MA copolymer were slowly
20 added to the main mix kettle, with continuous mixing. The batch was heated to 85°- 95°C.

250.11 grams of purified room temperature water was charged into a secondary kettle, and 3.91 grams of NaOH, 15.89 grams of ZnO, and 3.94 grams of MgO were added slowly to the water. The secondary kettle was well mixed to form a homogeneous slurry. This slurry was then slowly added into the main reaction kettle while mixing at high speed to prevent localized reaction. The temperature was reduced, and mixing was continued for two hours. The resulting solution was poured into shallow stainless steel drying trays, and the trays were placed in a hot air convection oven at 70°C for 18-20 hours to give a dried salt.

The dried Mg/Zn/Na Gantrez salt was then milled through a suitable mill and screened through a #100 mesh sieve. A one percent solution of the resulting powder would have a pH of from about 5 to about 7. This salt is a 20% Mg / 40% Zn / 10% Na salt of MVE/MA copolymer.

EXAMPLE 4 (Comparative)

A comparative salt was prepared by the same process as set forth in Example 3 except that a molar equivalent amount of $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$ was substituted for the amount of MgO used in Example 3. The resulting salt is a 20% Ca / 40% Zn / 10% Na salt of MVE/MA copolymer.

EXAMPLE 5

900.40 grams of room temperature purified water were charged into a main reaction kettle equipped with a high speed stirrer. 82.37 g. of MVE/MA copolymer were slowly added to the
5 main mix kettle, with continuous mixing. The batch was heated to 85°- 95°C.

250.11 grams of purified room temperature water was charged into a secondary kettle, and 7.52 grams of ZnO and 10.11 grams of MgO were added slowly to the water. The secondary
10 kettle was well mixed to form a homogeneous slurry. This slurry was then slowly added into the main reaction kettle while mixing at high speed to prevent localized reaction. The temperature was reduced and mixing was continued for two hours. The resulting solution was poured into shallow stainless steel
15 drying trays, and the trays were placed in a hot air convection oven at 70°C for 18-20 hours to give a dried salt.

The dried Mg/Zn Gantrez salt was then milled through a suitable mill and screened through a #100 mesh sieve. A one percent solution of the resulting powder would have a pH of from
20 about 4.5 to about 6.5. This salt is a 47.5% Mg / 17.5% Zn salt of MVE/MA copolymer.

EXAMPLES 6-9

Denture adhesive compositions were prepared from the finely milled salts of Examples 1-4 and were tested for adhesion strength using the mechanism shown in Figure 1 in the following manner:

(a) 0.15 g of sample were placed on top of lower acrylic block 1;

(b) the sample was spread to cover the top of lower acrylic block 1, which had a diameter of 1.5 inches;

(c) upper block 2 was placed on top of lower block 1;

(d) water was placed in water bath 3 to just cover lower block 1 (the water will slowly penetrate between the blocks to hydrate the salt; a cloth 4 on the top of lower block 1 absorbs water during the test to hydrate the salts. The cloth is made from cotton and rayon and is commercially available from Mark V Laboratory);

(e) the sample was left for 10 minutes;

(f) 20 lbs. pressure was then applied for 5 seconds to upper block 2;

(g) the force required to separate the upper block 2 from lower block 1 was measured using an Instron Model #1122;

(h) after the blocks separated, they were left submerged in water for 10 seconds before replacing the upper
5 block back on to the lower block so that the sample can absorb more water; and

(i) steps (f), (g) and (h) were repeated after the times shown in the Tables.

The results are shown in Tables 1-7. In comparing the
10 salt of Example 3 with the salt of Example 4, three different batches of each salt were tested.

Table 1

Example 1 Salt vs. Example 2 Salt

Time (min.)	Adhesion Strength (units: g/3.14 in. ²)	
	Example 1 Salt	Example 2 Salt
10	4086	2769
40	5448	6220
70	6855	6992
100	6492	7899
130	6084	7582
160	5403	8081
220	2361	7082
250	1362	5630
280	499	2906
310	454	1589

Table 2

Adhesion Strength of Example 3 Salt (1st batch)

Time (minutes)	Adhesion Strength (units: g/3.14 in. ²)		
	1st run	2nd run	Average
10	3405	3223	3314
40	2815	4585	3700
70	3904	4767	4336
100	4994	4994	4994
130	5857	4767	5312
160	5811	4540	5176
220	4631	1725	3178
250	1589	499	1044
280	227	227	227
310	182	227	230

Table 3

Adhesion Strength of Example 4 Salt (1st batch)

Time (min.)	Adhesion Strength (units: g/3.14 in. ²)		
	1st run	2nd run	Average
10	3450	3360	3405
40	5312	4903	5108
70	4358	2951	3655
100	3269	3405	3337
130	3042	2906	2974
160	2996	N.A.	N.A.
190	3223	3314	3269
220	N.A.	3904	N.A.
250	2588	4540	3564
280	4495	5857	5174
310	5993	8626	7310

Table 4

Adhesion Strength of Example 3 salt (2nd batch)

Time (min.)	Adhesion Strength (units: g/3.14 in. ²)		
	1st run	2nd run	Average
10	3178	2906	3042
40	4994	5130	5062
70	6084	5266	5675
100	6810	7355	7083
130	6084	6946	6515
160	6628	5266	5947
190	N.A.	2724	N.A.
220	5539	1135	3337
250	2633	N.A.	N.A.
280	772	272	522
310	363	227	295

Table 5

Adhesion Strength of Example 4 Salt (2nd batch)

Time (min.)	Adhesion Strength (unit: g/3.14 in. ²)		
	1st run	2nd run	Average
10	2951	3087	3019
40	5630	4858	5244
70	5130	4676	4903
100	4767	5403	5085
130	4495	4540	4518
160	2951	4767	3859
220	3995	4631	4313
250	3768	3541	3655
280	3814	5539	4677
310	5403	5811	5607

Table 6

Adhesion Strength of Example 3 Salt (3rd batch)

Time (min.)	Adhesion Strength (units: g/3.14 in. ²)		
	1st run	2nd run	Average
10	3133	4449	3791
40	3768	5085	4427
70	4631	4812	4722
100	5085	4994	5039
130	5947	5357	5652
160	6265	3723	4994
220	1226	2270	1748
250	409	726	568
280	182	318	250
310	136	227	182

Table 7

Adhesion Strength of Example 4 Salt (3rd batch)

Time (min.)	Adhesion Strength (units: g/3.14 in. ²)		
	1st run	2nd run	Average
10	4812	4812	4812
40	4177	3768	3973
70	3587	3360	3473
100	3133	1589	2361
130	2088	2225	2157
160	2497	2724	2611
220	3541	2633	3087
250	3768	3904	3836
280	4313	3450	3882
310	5221	4676	4949

EXAMPLE 10

900.40 grams of room temperature purified water were charged into a main reaction kettle equipped with a high speed stirrer. 77.80 grams of MVE/MA copolymer were slowly added to the main mix kettle and mixing was continued during addition of the copolymer. The reaction kettle was maintained at 85°-95°C.

250.11 grams of purified room temperature water was added to a second kettle, and 3.99 grams of NaOH, 12.13 grams of ZnO and 6.03 grams of MgO were also added to the second kettle. The combination was mixed well until it formed a homogeneous slurry. The slurry was added slowly to the main reaction kettle while high speed mixing was maintained to prevent localized reaction. The temperature was reduced, and mixing was continued for two hours. The resulting solution was transferred to shallow stainless steel drying trays, and the trays were placed in a hot air convection oven at 70°C for 18-20 hours. The dried Mg/Zn/Na Gantrez salt was then milled through a suitable mill and then screened through a #100 mesh sieve. A one percent solution of the powder would have a pH of from about 5 to about 7. This salt is a 30% Mg/30% Zn/10% Na salt of MVE/MA copolymer.

EXAMPLE 11

900.40 grams of room temperature purified water were charged into a main reaction kettle equipped with a high speed stirrer. 76.27 grams of MVE/MA copolymer were slowly added to the main mix kettle and mixing was continued during addition of the copolymer. The reaction kettle was maintained at 85°-95°C. 250.11 grams of purified room temperature water was added to a second kettle, and 3.91 grams of NaOH, 11.94 grams of ZnO and 7.88 grams of MgO were also added to the second kettle. The combination was mixed well until it formed a homogeneous slurry. The slurry was added slowly to the main reaction kettle while high speed mixing was maintained to prevent localized reaction. The temperature was reduced, and the mixing was continued for two hours. The resulting solution was transferred to shallow stainless steel drying trays, and the trays were placed in a hot air convection oven at 70°C for 18-20 hours. The dried Mg/Zn/Na Gantrez salt was then milled through a suitable mill and then screened through a #100 mesh sieve. A one percent solution of the powder would have a pH of from about 5 to about 7. This salt is a 40% Mg/30% Zn/10% Na salt of MVE/MA copolymer.

EXAMPLES 12-19

Salt from the foregoing examples were combined with silica (1% based on the combination) and tested for adhesion as described above. The results are set forth in Figures 2 through 5, respectively, and in each case the salt of the

invention is shown by the dots and the comparative salt is shown by the crosses.

5 The purpose of the above description is to illustrate some embodiments of the present invention without implying a limitation. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations may be made in the apparatus or procedure of the invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention.



What is claimed is:

1. A mixed partial salt of an alkyl vinyl ether and maleic anhydride or maleic acid copolymer, wherein the cations of said salt comprise zinc and magnesium ions.
2. The mixed partial salt of claim 1, wherein said cations further comprise sodium ions.
3. The mixed partial salt of claim 1, wherein from about 20% to about 95% of the carboxylic acid groups of the copolymer are neutralized.
4. The mixed partial salt of claim 1, wherein from about 30% to about 90% of the carboxylic acid groups of the copolymer are neutralized.
5. The mixed partial salt of claim 1, wherein from about 5% to about 55% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by magnesium.
6. The mixed partial salt of claim 5, wherein from about 15% to about 45% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by magnesium.



7. The mixed partial salt of claim 6, wherein from about 20% to about 40% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by magnesium.
8. The mixed partial salt of claim 1, wherein from about 5% to about 65% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by zinc.
9. The mixed partial salt of claim 8, wherein from about 10% to about 60% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by zinc.
10. The mixed partial salt of claim 9, wherein from about 15% to about 55% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by zinc.
11. The mixed partial salt of claim 2, wherein from about 5% to about 55% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by magnesium, and wherein from about 5% to about 65% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by zinc, and wherein about 0% to about 40% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by sodium.
12. The mixed salt of claim 11, wherein from about 0% to about 35% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by sodium.
13. The mixed salt of claim 12, wherein from about 0% to about 30% of the carboxylic acid groups are neutralized by sodium.



14. The mixed partial salt of claim 2, wherein from about 20% to about 95% of the carboxylic acid groups of the copolymer are neutralized.

15. The mixed partial salt of claim 2, wherein from about 30% to about 90% of the carboxylic acid groups of the copolymer are neutralized.

16. A denture adhesive composition comprising a denture adhesive effective amount of a denture adhesive salt and a pharmacologically acceptable carrier therefor in which the denture adhesive salt is a mixed partial salt of a copolymer of maleic acid or anhydride and an alkyl vinyl ether, wherein the cations of said salt comprise zinc and magnesium ions.

17. The denture adhesive of claim 16, wherein said cations further comprise sodium ions.

18. The denture adhesive composition of claim 16, wherein the carboxylic acid groups of said copolymer are not completely neutralized.

19. The denture adhesive composition of claim 16, wherein the alkyl moiety is methyl.



20. The denture adhesive composition of claim 16, wherein said copolymer salt comprises from about 18% to about 52% of said denture adhesive.

21. The denture adhesive composition of claim 16, in the form of a cream.

22. The denture adhesive composition of claim 21, wherein said copolymer salt comprises from about 27% to about 36% by weight of said denture adhesive composition.

23. The denture adhesive composition of claim 16, in the form of a powder.

24. The denture adhesive composition of claim 23, wherein said copolymer salt comprises about 50% of said denture adhesive composition.

25. The denture adhesive composition of claim 16, further comprising from about 10% to about 30% of a carboxymethyl cellulose gum.

26. The denture adhesive composition of claim 25, wherein the gum is sodium carboxymethyl cellulose gum.



27. The denture adhesive composition of claim 26, wherein said sodium carboxymethyl cellulose gum comprises from about 15% to about 53% of said denture adhesive composition.

28. The denture adhesive of claim 16 in the form of a liquid.

29. The denture adhesive of claim 16 in the form of a pump compatible fluid.

30. A method of adhering a denture to the oral mucosa by employing a denture adhesive composition comprising the polymer salt of claim 1.

31. A method of adhering a denture to the oral mucosa by employing a denture adhesive composition comprising the denture adhesive composition of claim 2.

32. A method of adhering a denture to the oral mucosa by employing a denture adhesive composition of claim 16.

33. A method of making a mixed partial salt of a maleic anhydride or maleic acid and an alkyl vinyl ether, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a copolymer of maleic anhydride or maleic acid and an alkyl vinyl ether for reaction with cations



of magnesium and zinc; and

(b) exposing said copolymer to said cations.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said cations further comprise sodium cations.