

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING LOW-MOLECULAR POLYPHENYLENE ETHER

ABSTRACT

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A process for producing a low-molecular polyphenylene ether having a content of components with molecular weights of 20,000 or more of 10 mass% or less and a number average molecular weight of 4,000 or less by a redistribution reaction which involves reacting a raw polyphenylene ether having a number average
10 molecular weight of 10,000 or more with a polyphenol compound and a radical initiator, characterized in that the redistribution reaction step is a step conducted in a solvent; the ratio of the raw polyphenylene ether to the solvent (raw polyphenylene ether : solvent) (mass ratio) is provided at 0.4 : 100 to 40 : 100 (mass ratio); and the
15 ratio of the radical initiator to the solvent (radical initiator : solvent) (mass ratio) is provided at 0.5 : 100 to 5 : 100 (mass ratio).