

# Polycarbonate modified by Thermosetting resin

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## Introduction:

Polycarbonate (PC) is one of the most widely used plastic in the world due to its favourable mechanical property and heat resisting, however, it is difficult to process—usually the molding temperature is also very high due to its high melt viscosity.

In this study small amounts of crosslinkable monomer, diallyl orthophthalate (DAOP) were used as a free-radical crosslinkable reactive plasticizer to low down the temperature during processing. There are several reasons for this:

- (1) DAOP has a high boiling temperature (290 °C), so, it can be used under the processing temperature of PC.
- (2) DAOP can be polymerized, but it does not form net structure during the processing of PC therefore it would not influence the processability of mixture.
- (3) A structural similarity to PC which should result in the high compatibility. What's more, after curing, DAOP can compensate thermal and mechanical properties of PC which was lost in the blending process.

Considering the processing temperature (reach to 200 °C or even higher),

2,3-dimethyl-2,3-diphenylbutane (DMDPB) was chosen as initiator of DAOP because of high pyrolysis temperature which can be used over 200 °C.

In this paper curing process of 2,3-dimethyl-2,3-diphenylbutane (DMDPB)/diallyl orthophthalate (DAOP) curing system and processing performance of PC/ DAOP / DMDPB system were discussed.

## Experimental:

- 1) study of DMDPB/ DAOP curing system

### (1) Sample preparation

Samples for curing studies were prepared by dissolving various amounts of the initiators into the monomers by solvent blending method. In this method, DAOP was mixed with 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 wt% of DMDPB solution in dichloromethane at room

temperature. After dissolving completely, the mixtures were dried at 80 °C for 12h to evaporate most of the solvent for use. According to different DMDPB contents, the samples were named number 1, 2, 3 and 4 as Table 1, respectively.

Table 1 number of sample

Number	1	2	3	4
Sample	DMDPB/DAOP=1/99	DMDPB/DAOP=1.5/98.5	DMDPB/DAOP=2/98	DMDPB/DAOP=2.5/97.5

### (2) Sample treatment

Table 2 displays curing the samples in the oven under the certain temperature and time. Gel contents in the cured DAOP/DMDPB samples were determined by solvent extraction and gravimetry. Samples with various DMDPB contents were cut into small pieces, and subjected to Soxhlet extraction for 3-4 h refluxing with dichloromethane. The insoluble gel was dried in a vacuum oven to remove the residual solvent and then was weighed.

Table 2 Curing the sample

Curing environment	Curing environment					
	Time (min)	Temperature (°C)	Samples	Time (min)	Temperature (°C)	Samples
60	180	180	No1, No2 No3, No4	150	180	No1, No2, No3, No4
	190			190		
	200			200		
90	180	180	No1, No2 No3, No4	200	180	No1, No2, No3, No4
	190			190		
	200			200		
120	180	180	No1, No2 No3, No4	200	180	No1, No2, No3, No4
	190			190		
	200			200		

- 2) Study of processability of uncured PC/ DAOP/ DMDPB system

It is glass transition temperature who is one of most important parameters to measure mixtures processability. Various amounts of DAOP were mixed with PC in internal mixer by melt blending method, DMDPB was also added. A Rheometric Scientific Mark IV model dynamic mechanical thermal analyser (DMTA) was used in dual cantilever bending mode to measure the glass transition temperature of uncured mixtures, over the temperature range from 100 to 150 °C at 2 °C per min at 1 Hz with bar-type specimens of dimension 20 mm×5 mm×1.5 mm. The T<sub>g</sub> was defined as the temperature corresponding to the maximum in tanδ.

## Conclusion:

### 1) Study of DMDPB/ DAOP curing system

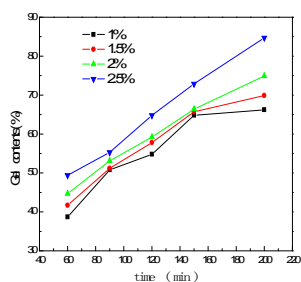


Fig 1 Gel contents of the cured DAOP/DMDPB blend and in various presentage of the DMDPB in blend as a function of the heating time

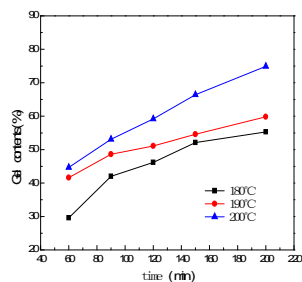


Fig.2 Gel contents of the cured DAOP/DMDPB blend and in various heating temperature as a function of the heating time

Gel contents given in Fig.1 appears to rapidly rise with increasing initiator content. Considering the explosive polymerization, the content of initiator should be controlled. So in this experiment we select 2% DMDPB as the optimum initiator content. As curing temperature increases from 180°C to 200°C given in Fig.2, gel contents rise gradually. Once the temperature rises to more than 200 °C explosive polymerization were found. Fig.2 also shows that the rising rate of gel contents is reduced when heating more than 200min. Thus we draw the conclusion

that gel contents were the most high when DAOP/DMDPB(98/2) were heating 200min under 200 °C.

### 2) Study of PC/DAOP/DMDPB system

During preparation of the samples by the melt blending method, it was found that DAOP very effectively decreases the processing temperature: for example, a transparent and homogeneous sample with 70 wt% PC and 3 wt% DAOP was obtained at 50°C. Fig. 3 shows the DMTA curves of uncured PC/DAOP samples prepared by melt blending, from which it T<sub>g</sub> of blend appears to decrease with increasing DAOP content effectively.

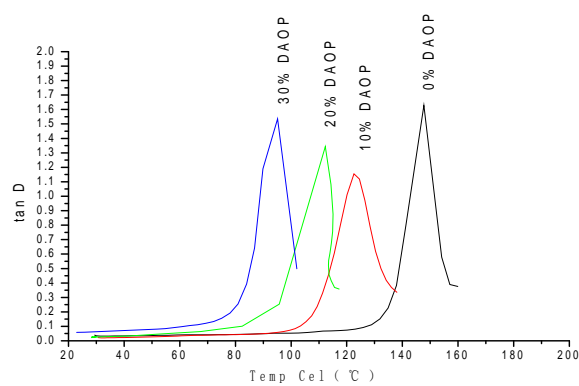


Fig. 3. The tan δ curves showing T<sub>g</sub> of PC/DAOP/DMDPB blends

## References:

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