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(54) Title: STEAM CRACKING PROCESS FOR CONVERTING CRUDE OILS TO PITCH COMPOSITIONS SPINNABLE INTO CARBON ARTICLES

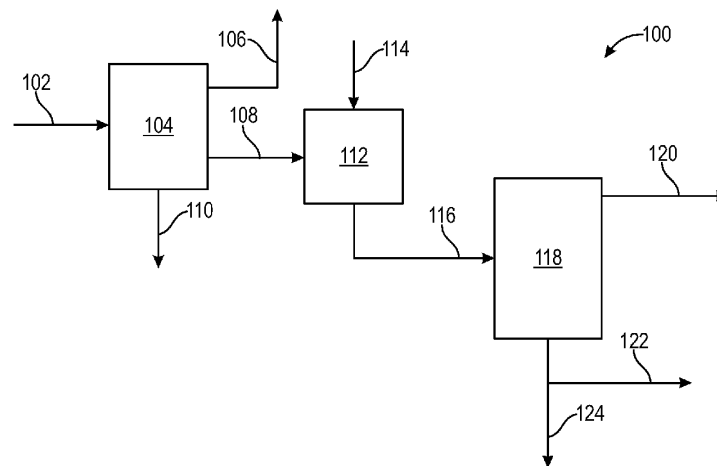


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Pitch compositions may be obtained by subjecting one or more crude oils to steam cracking. Processes for producing pitch compositions suitable for spinning into fibers from steam cracking of crude oils may comprise: steam cracking of one or more crude oils in a steam cracking zone to produce a first effluent comprising a heavy oil mixture comprising a steam cracker tar, a second effluent comprising a mixture of gaseous products and liquid products, and a third effluent comprising one or more bottoms products; pretreating and heat treating the first, second and/or third effluent to produce a pitch composition having a mesophase content from 0 vol% to 100 vol%, based on the total volume of the pitch product, an MCR in the range of about 40 wt% to about 95 wt%, and a softening point T_{sp} in the range of about 50°C to about 400°C.

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