

ABSTRACT

IMPROVED CATALYSTS FOR THE HYDROGENATION OF
MALEIC ACID TO 1,4-BUTANEDIOL

An improved catalyst for the hydrogenation of maleic acid, maleic anhydride or other hydrogenatable precursor are catalytically hydrogenated to 1,4-butanediol and tetrahydrofuran has been discovered. This hydrogenation catalyst comprises palladium, silver, rhenium and at least one of iron, aluminum, cobalt and mixtures thereof, all on a carbon support.

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