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(54) **Title:** PROCESS PROVIDING IMPROVED BASE OIL YIELD

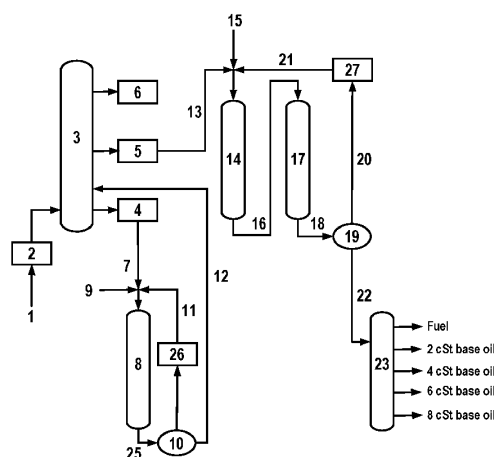


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A process for preparing a base oil from a waxy hydrocarbon feedstock is provided. The process comprises passing the hydrocarbon feedstock to a distillation column prior to dewaxing in order to recover a heavy wax cut. The heavy wax is then hydrocracked to lower boiling compounds which can be better isomerized to a base oil with an acceptable cloud point. The base oil yield is also increased.

[Continued on next page]

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