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(54) Title: ALDEHYDE PROCESS		
(57) Abstract A process for the condensation of aldehydes is disclosed in which an aldehyde containing an α hydrogen atom and having the formula R_1CHO, wherein R_1 is selected from alkyl having one to twelve carbon atoms, and aralkyl having one to fourteen carbon atoms, is combined with hydrated MgO under reaction conditions to form a reaction product mixture comprising an aldol of said aldehyde, the unsaturated aldehyde derived by dehydration of said aldol, or mixtures thereof. In a second embodiment, a first composition selected from aldehydes containing an α hydrogen atom and having the formula R_1CHO, wherein R_1 is selected from alkyl having one to twelve carbon atoms, and aralkyl having one to fourteen carbon atoms, is combined under reaction conditions with a second different composition selected from aldehydes having the formula R_2CHO, wherein R_2 is selected from H, alkyl having one to twelve carbon atoms, and aralkyl having one to fourteen carbon atoms, and with hydrated MgO, to form a reaction product mixture comprising an aldol of said aldehyde, the unsaturated aldehyde derived by dehydration of said aldol, or mixtures thereof. Further according to the invention, the aldol or aldehyde formed may be separated from the reaction product mixture, and recovered or treated as desired, or the reaction product mixture may be further directly treated, such as by hydrogenation, to produce a desired product admixture.		