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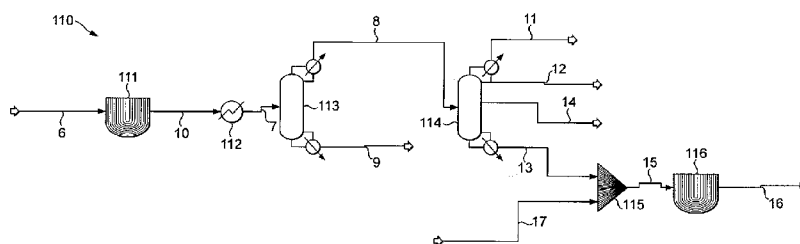


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process for the co-production of acetic acid and dimethyl ether with reduced formic acid content by distilling a mixture comprising dimethyl ether, methanol and methyl formate; separating methyl formate from the mixture to recover dimethyl ether and methanol; and catalytically reacting the methanol and methyl acetate to produce a reaction product of acetic acid and dimethyl ether.