Process for the Preparation of Dialkyl Succinate from Maleic Anhydride

Abstract

A process for the production of dialkyl succinate from a feedstock comprising maleic anhydride, said process comprising the steps of providing the feed in the liquid phase to a reactor operated at a temperature of at least about 150°C; contacting said feed with hydrogen at a pressure of at least about 300 psig in the presence of an acid tolerant catalyst and an alkanol wherein at least some of the carbon carbon double bonds of the maleic anhydride are hydrogenated to form succinic acid and that the heat generated promotes esterification to dialkyl succinate in situ; and recovering a stream comprising dialkyl succinate from the reactor.

Fig. 1