



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁷ : C07C 67/46, 69/76, 63/64, 51/09, C08L 35/06	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/35850 (43) International Publication Date: 22 June 2000 (22.06.00)						
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/29547 (22) International Filing Date: 14 December 1999 (14.12.99) (30) Priority Data: <table border="0"><tr><td>60/112,398</td><td>15 December 1998 (15.12.98)</td><td>US</td></tr><tr><td>09/358,776</td><td>22 July 1999 (22.07.99)</td><td>US</td></tr></table> (71) Applicant: EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY [US/US]; 100 N. Eastman Road, P.O. Box 511, Kingsport, TN 37662-5075 (US). (72) Inventors: HEIDT, Philip, C.; 1121 Fiddlers Way, Kingsport, TN 37664-5470 (US). ELLIOT, Matthew, L.; 131 Arnott Drive, Mount Carmel, TN 37645 (US). SHARMA, Mahendra, Kumar; 2600 Brighton Court, Kingsport, TN 37660-4762 (US). (74) Agent: LINDEMAN, Jeffrey, A.; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, 1800 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036-5869 (US).		60/112,398	15 December 1998 (15.12.98)	US	09/358,776	22 July 1999 (22.07.99)	US	(81) Designated States: BR, CN, JP, MX, SG, European patent (BE, DE, ES, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
60/112,398	15 December 1998 (15.12.98)	US						
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF METHYL P-VINYLBENZOATE AND P-VINYL BENZOIC ACID, AND THEIR USE IN LATEX COMPOSITIONS (57) Abstract The present invention describes a process for the direct preparation of methyl p-vinylbenzoate from methyl p-formylbenzoate using keten in the presence of potassium acetate. The chief products obtained from the process are about a five to two ratio of methyl p-vinylbenzoate to p-carbomethoxycinnamic acid. The latter may be thermally decarboxylated, especially in the presence of copper powder, to produce additional quantities of methyl p-vinylbenzoate. Methyl p-vinylbenzoate may further undergo hydrolysis to form p-vinyl benzoic acid. Both methyl p-vinyl benzoate and p-vinyl benzoic acid may be polymerized with ethylenically unsaturated monomers to form useful latex compositions of the present invention.								