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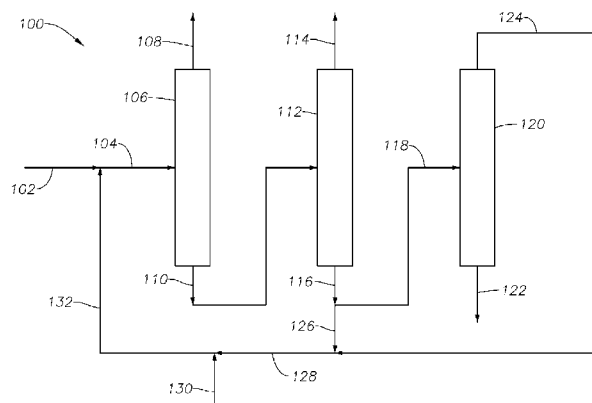
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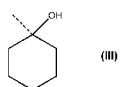
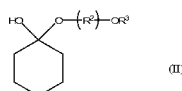
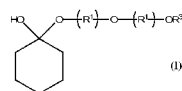
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PHENOL AND CYCLOHEXANONE



(57) Abstract: In a process for separating a mixture comprising cyclohexanone and phenol, at least a portion of the mixture is distilled in the presence of a solvent including at least two alcoholic hydroxyl groups attached to non-adjacent saturated carbon atoms and at least one hemiketal defined by the formula (I) or the formula (II): [Formula I], [Formula II] wherein R^1 , the same or different at each occurrence, is independently an alkylene group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms, R^2 is an alkylene group having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms, and R^3 is hydrogen or the following group: [Formula III] and/or an enol-ether derived from the hemiketal defined by the formula (I) or the formula (II), wherein the total concentration of the hemiketal and the enol-ether, expressed in terms of weight percentage on the basis of the total weight of the feed to the distilling step (a), is at least 0.01%.





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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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