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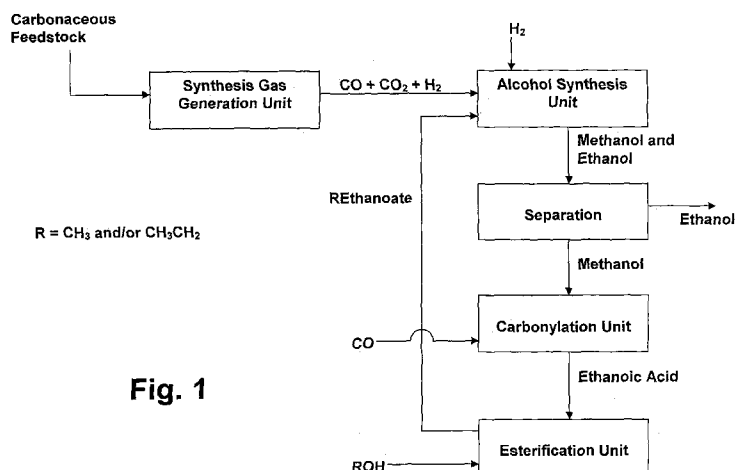


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the production of ethanol, and optionally methanol, from synthesis gas. In particular the present invention relates to a process for the production of ethanol from a carbonaceous feedstock; wherein the carbonaceous feedstock is first converted to synthesis gas which is then converted to methanol, which is then converted to ethanoic acid, which is then esterified and which is then hydrogenated to produce ethanol in the same alcohol synthesis unit in which the said synthesis gas is converted to methanol.