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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PRODUCING ETHANOL

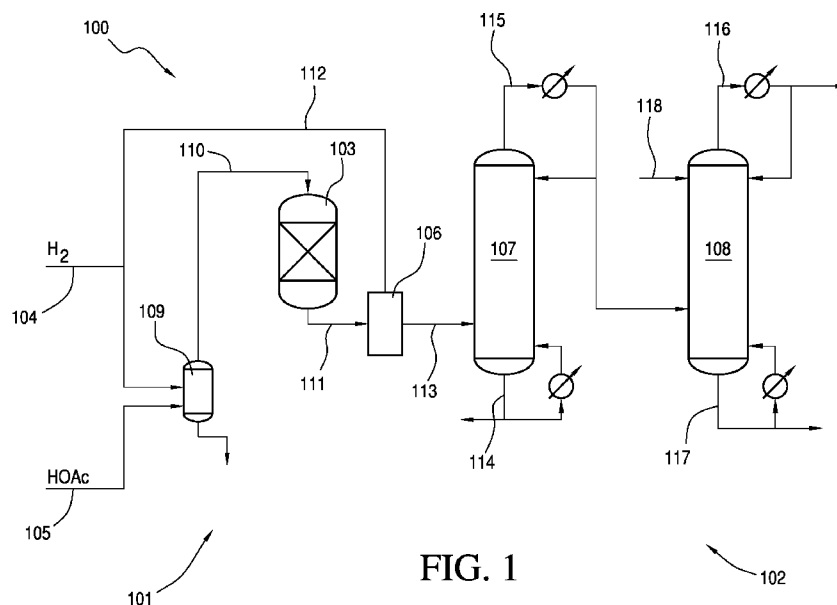


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A crude ethanol product obtained from the hydrogenation of acetic acid comprises ethanol and ethyl acetate. Using a distillation column operated at a pressure of from 0.1 to 100 kPa, the ethyl acetate and ethanol may be effectively separated. In addition, maintaining the amount of water that is fed to the distillation column to an amount less than 10 wt.%, based on the weight of all components fed to the distillation column, provides an energy benefit.



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