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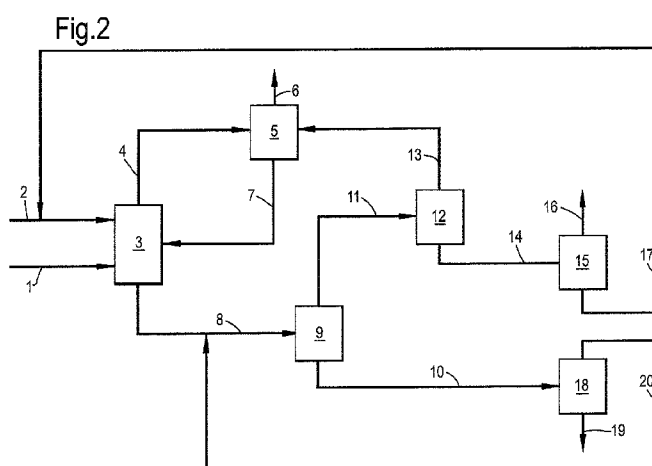
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING DIARYL CARBONATES



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for preparing a diaryl carbonate from a dialkyl carbonate and an aryl alcohol comprising: (a) introducing dialkyl carbonate and aryl alcohol into a first reactive distillation column; (b) recovering from the first reactive distillation column a top stream comprising dialkyl carbonate and alkyl alcohol and a bottom stream comprising alkyl aryl carbonate, aryl alcohol and dialkyl carbonate; (c) introducing the bottom stream from the first reactive distillation column into a second reactive distillation column; (d) recovering from the second reactive distillation column a top stream comprising dialkyl carbonate and a bottom stream comprising alkyl aryl carbonate, diaryl carbonate and aryl alcohol; (e) introducing the bottom stream from the second reactive distillation column into a third reactive distillation column; and (f) recovering from the third reactive distillation column a top stream comprising aryl alcohol and a bottom stream comprising diaryl carbonate, wherein the top stream from the third reactive distillation column is recycled to the second reactive distillation column.