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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/14328 (22) International Filing Date: 24 June 1999 (24.06.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/192,350 16 November 1998 (16.11.98) US (71) Applicant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US). (72) Inventors: DAY, James; 136 Spring Road, Scotia, NY 12302 (US). VARADARAJAN, Godavarthi, Satyana; 17250 Knoll Trail #2008, Dallas, TX 75248 (US). (74) Agents: SNYDER, Bernard et al.; General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike W3C, Fairfield, CT 06431 (US).		(81) Designated States: BR, CN, IN, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD FOR CONDUCTING SOLID STATE POLYMERIZATION OF POLYCARBONATES (57) Abstract Polymerization of polycarbonates is performed by first enhancing the crystallinity of a precursor polycarbonate, such as an oligomer, by contact in pellet form with an alkanol in the liquid or vapor state as non-solvent, and then conducting solid state polymerization in a stream of inert gas such as nitrogen. The solid state polymerization operation includes a stage of heating at a constant temperature in the range of about 215–225 °C., optionally combined with a first heating stage at a constant temperature in the range of about 180–190 °C. The method is adaptable to continuous operation and produces a polycarbonate having a number average molecular weight, as determined by gel permeation chromatography relative to polystyrene, of at least 15,000.		