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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE CO-PRODUCTION OF ACETIC ACID AND DIMETHYL ETHER

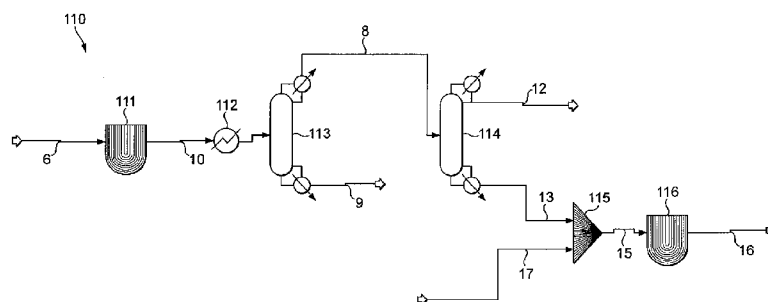


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A catalytic dehydration-hydrolysis process for the co-production of acetic acid and dimethyl ether from a mixture of methanol and methyl acetate and water in which the amount of water fed to the process is controlled by the steps of dehydrating a methanol feed to provide a crude product comprising dimethyl ether, unconverted methanol and water; recovering therefrom a stream comprising dimethyl ether, water and methanol and a water stream; separating dimethyl ether from the dimethyl-ether containing stream to produce a methanol stream comprising methanol and water; and supplying to the dehydration-hydrolysis process at least part of the methanol stream and methyl acetate.

