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(54) Title: METHODS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF ACETALS AND KETALS, AND THE ACETALS AND KETALS PRODUCED THEREBY

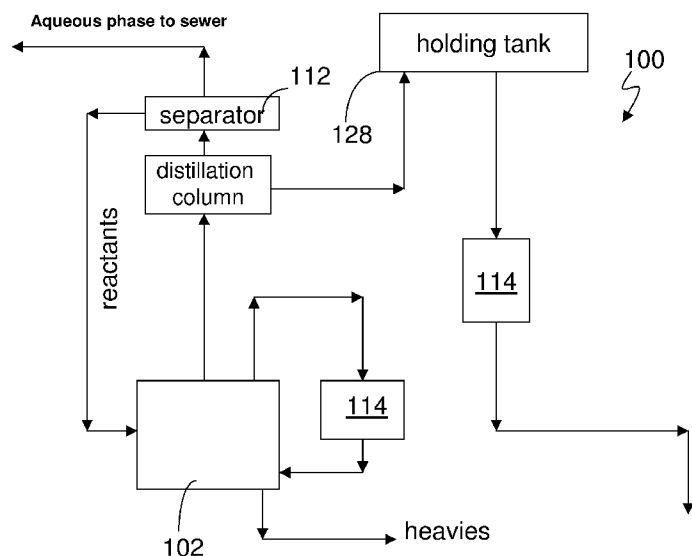


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A method for producing a product that comprises glycerol ketal of ethyl levulinate or propylene glycol ketal of ethyl levulinate comprises reacting either glycerol or propylene glycol with ethyl levulinate in the presence of a homogenous or heterogeneous catalyst system in a reactor system. The ethyl levulinate and either glycerol or propylene glycol are heated to remove water, polyol, and excess ethyl levulinate. The excess ethyl levulinate and polyol is recycled back to the reactor. The product is distilled in a specific fashion and optionally treated by means of a stabilizing agent or acid species removal bed, to obtain a composition comprising glycerol ketal of ethyl levulinate or propylene glycol ketal of ethyl levulinate wherein the composition comprises less than or equal to about 2 wt% contaminants.



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