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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE CONVERSION OF ETHANE OR MIXED LOWER ALKANES TO AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS

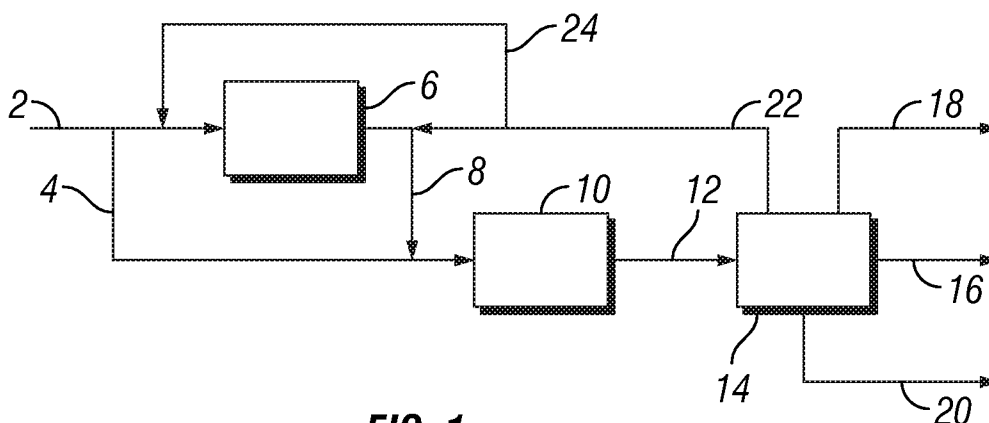


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process for producing aromatic hydrocarbons which comprises a) contacting ethane or mixed lower alkanes with an aromatic hydrocarbon conversion catalyst to produce reaction products including benzene, b) separating methane, hydrogen, and C2-5 hydrocarbons from the reaction products of step a), and c) hydrodealkylating the remaining reaction products to produce benzene. In a preferred embodiment, the feed is split into two streams, one of which is catalytically or thermally cracked to produce ethylene which is then combined with the remaining ethane or lower alkanes and contacted with the aromatic hydrocarbon conversion catalyst.

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