

**IMPROVED CATALYSTS FOR THE HYDROGENATION OF MALEIC ACID TO
1,4-BUTANEDIOL**

ABSTRACT

An improved catalyst for the hydrogenation of maleic acid, maleic anhydride or other hydrogenatable precursor are catalytically hydrogenated to 1,4-butanediol and tetrahydrofuran has been discovered. This hydrogenation catalyst comprises palladium, silver, rhenium and iron on a carbon support.