

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a process for preparing an alkyl ester of a fatty acid, including the steps of carrying out an esterification reaction between a free fatty acid contained in a fat or oil and an alcohol; carrying out a
5 transesterification reaction between a fat or oil and an alcohol; and refining an alkyl ester of a fatty acid, wherein at least any one of three steps is carried out in a corresponding step selected from the steps of (a) contacting a fat or oil and an alcohol with a resin foamed article to which a catalyst containing fine strongly
10 acidic particles is supported or a resin foamed article modified to be strongly acidic, and carrying out an esterification reaction between a free fatty acid in the fat or oil and the alcohol; (b) contacting a fat or oil and an alcohol with a resin foamed article to which a catalyst containing fine alkali particles is supported, and carrying out a transesterification reaction between the fat or oil and the
15 alcohol; and (c) contacting a reaction mixture obtained by the transesterification reaction with a resin foamed article to remove impurities via adsorption, and refining an alkyl ester of a fatty acid.