

Abstract of the disclosure

A process for the preparation and fractionation of a mixture of dimethyl ether and chloromethane with water as extractant

This invention relates to a process for the preparation and fractionation of a mixture of dimethyl ether and chloromethane by extractive distillation with water as extractant. The mixture is prepared by reacting methanol with hydrogen chloride. It is then subjected to an extractive distillation with water as extractant, resulting in chloromethane as top product. In the next step, the dimethyl ether is removed by distillation and, in another step, the extraction water is separated from the methanol which is still present.

Figure 1

