

ABSTRACT

(Figure 1)

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING METHYL METHACRYLATE

An efficient process for producing methyl methacrylate which can give a high methacrylic acid conversion even when the mole ratio of methanol to methacrylic acid is small, said process comprises using an apparatus comprising a reaction zone having plural reaction sections connected in series and containing a strongly acidic ion-exchange resin and a distillation zone, feeding methacrylic acid to the first reaction section, feeding methanol to one or more reaction sections after the first reaction section, sending the reaction mixture formed in each reaction section to a reaction section just thereafter, feeding the vapor generated in each reaction section to a reaction section just therebefore, effecting simultaneously reaction and distillation in each reaction section of the reaction zone and distilling the vapor generated in the first reaction section in the distillation zone to separate methyl methacrylate.

FIG. 1