

PROCESS FOR PURIFYING ACETIC ACID
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for purifying acetic acid which comprises: introducing a feedstock aqueous solution of acetic acid having an acetic acid concentration of from 10 to 50% by weight into an extractor; supplying an extracting medium containing isopropyl acetate in an amount from 0.6 to 3.0 times by weight the amount of the feedstock solution thereinto in such a manner that the extracting medium is made in contact with the feedstock solution; extracting acetic acid into the extracting medium; separating the extracting medium containing acetic acid from an extraction residue; supplying the extraction medium containing acetic acid into an azeotropic distillation column; distilling off the isopropyl acetate contained in the extraction medium from a top of the azeotropic distillation column via azeotropic distillation with water; condensing a distillate from the top of the azeotropic distillation column, to divide the distillate into a water-poor phase being rich in isopropyl acetate and a water-rich phase being rich in water; returning at least a portion of the water-poor phase into the extractor as the extracting medium; and recovering the acetic acid, which has been thus dehydrated and purified, from a bottom of the azeotropic distillation column.