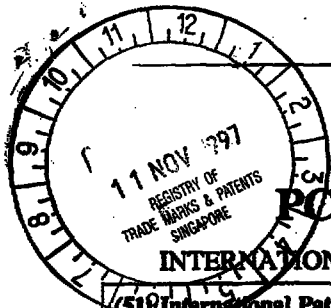




WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



9705016-5
RTMP
COPY

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C07C 67/343, 69/76	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/27577 (43) International Publication Date: 12 September 1996 (12.09.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/02463 (22) International Filing Date: 23 February 1996 (23.02.96) (30) Priority Data: 08/398,841 6 March 1995 (06.03.95) US (71) Applicant: EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY [US/US]; 100 North Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN 37660 (US). (72) Inventor: WANG, Richard, Hsu-Shien; 1414 Fairidge Drive, Kingsport, TN 37664 (US). (74) Agent: THOMSEN, J., Frederick; P.O. Box 511, Kingsport, TN 37662-5075 (US).	(81) Designated States: CA, CN, JP, MX, PL, RU, <u>SG</u> , European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>	

(54) Title: **PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF ESTERS OF STILBENEDICARBOXYLIC ACID**

(57) Abstract

Disclosed is a process for the preparation of 4,4'-stilbenedicarboxylate esters by a 3-step process utilizing p-toluic acid, an alkyl p-formylbenzoate and a trialkyl phosphite. The steps comprise: (1) preparing p-(chloromethyl)benzoic acid by chlorinating p-toluic acid with sulfur chloride in the presence of a free radical initiator and chlorobenzene or dichlorobenzene; (2) contacting the p-(chloromethyl)benzoic acid of step (1) with a trialkyl phosphite to obtain a phosphonate compound; and (3) contacting the phosphonate ester compound of step (2) with an alkyl p-formylbenzoate in the presence of an alkali metal alkoxide and an inert solvent to obtain the dialkyl 4,4'-stilbenedicarboxylate.