

Abstract of the Disclosure

"Process for Producing Butyl Acrylate"

An improved process for producing *n*-butyl acrylate in high yield and high purity substantially free of acrylic acid, incorporates one or more of the following new process components in an acid-catalyzed esterification process for producing *n*-butyl acrylate:

1. A hydrolytic recovery component, wherein heavy end adducts produced during the acid-catalyzed esterification are hydrolyzed, recovered, and recycled as valuable reactants from a hydrolytic recovery unit (HRU);
2. A cracking reactor component, preferably used with the HRU, wherein additional valuable reactants are recovered and recycled after treatment in the cracking reactor; and
3. A new distillative component, wherein a crude *n*-butyl acrylate stream is efficiently distilled in an aqueous mode through an acrylic acid separation column, thereby providing *n*-butyl acrylate substantially free of acrylic acid and in high yield.

The first two components also are applicable to acid-catalyzed processes producing C₁ to C₄ alkyl acrylates. A continuous process producing *n*-butyl acrylate incorporating all new process components also is disclosed.

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