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(54) Title: METHODS FOR ENHANCING THE FORMATION OF MESOPHASE IN PITCH COMPOSITIONS DERIVED FROM HYDROCARBON FEEDSTOCKS

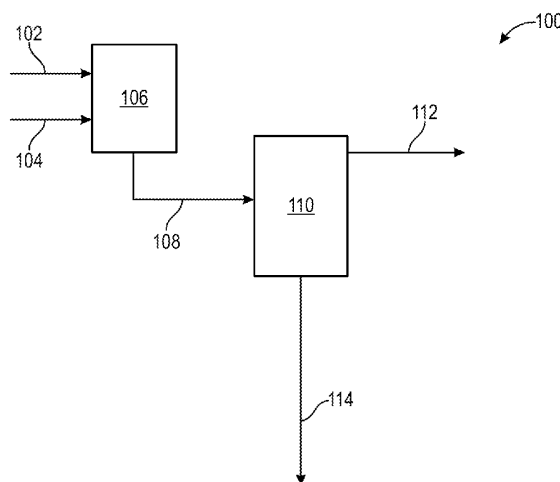


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Nucleation enhancement and/or growth rate improvement of mesophase in pitch compositions derived from hydrocarbon feedstocks can be achieved by: reacting in a reaction zone a blend comprising an isotropic feed and a seeding agent, to produce a reacted pitch having a mesophase content of about 10 vol% to 100 vol%, based on the total volume of the reacted pitch, and a softening point (T_{sp}) below 400°C; wherein the seeding agent is about 50 wt% or less, based on the total weight of the blend; wherein the seeding agent has a mesophase content of about 0.01 vol% to 100 vol%, based on the total volume of the seeding agent.

[Continued on next page]

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