

ABSTRACT

A process for producing acetic acid while efficiently separating permanganate reducing compounds (PRC's) and methyl iodide is provided.

PRC's are separated or removed from a mixed composition (3A) containing PRC's and methyl iodide by distilling the mixed composition in a distillation step (5) to form an overhead stream (5A), a side-cut stream (5B), and a lower stream (5C). In a distillation column of the distillation step (5), an extractant (e.g., water) extracting PRC's preferentially to methyl iodide is added to a concentration zone in which PRC's and methyl iodide are concentrated, and an extraction mixture falling from the concentration zone is withdrawn as the side-cut stream (5B).