

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1,4-Butanediol is obtained by purifying crude 1,4-butanediol obtained by hydrolyzing diacetoxymethane via the following purification steps (1) to (3):

(1) hydrogenating the crude 1,4-butanediol in the presence of a hydrogenating catalyst;

(2) removing a fine powder of the hydrogenating catalyst from the hydrogenation mixture; and

(3) distilling the mixture, from which the fine powder has been removed, in a distillation column and thereby obtaining the 1,4-butanediol having high purity from a side stream thereof.

The 1,4-butanediol thus obtained sustains high purity even in prolonged continuous operation of the process and is contaminated with little 2-(4'-hydroxybutoxy)tetrahydrofuran, and thus, it can be used as a starting material to produce polybutylene terephthalate with good colour.

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