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(54) Pitch for carbon fibers, process for production of said pitch, and process for production of carbon fibers using said pitch.

(57) The present invention relates to a process for producing pitch for use in production of carbon fiber which comprises subjecting a pitch starting material to a first stage heat treatment at a temperature of 380 to 500 °C under a pressure of 1 to 1,500 mmHg and then to a second stage heat treatment at a temperature of 450 to 550 °C under a pressure of 0.1 to 20 mmHg, wherein the pitch starting material has a number average molecular weight of 300 to 500, weight average molecular weight/number average molecular weight of 1.5/1 to 2.2/1, a boiling point of at least 450 °C, a residue content as determined by heating up to 800 °C in nitrogen gas at a rate of 10 °C per minute of not more than 5% by weight, and a peak area at the starting point as determined by developing on a silica gel thin layer with a mixed

solvent of 95% by volume of dichloromethane and 5% by volume of methyl alcohol of not more than 1%.

The present invention further relates to novel pitch for use in production of carbon fibers as obtained by the above process and a process for producing carbon fibers using said pitch. According to the present invention, the pitch capable of providing carbon fibers having a high tensile strength and a high knot strength can be obtained.

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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	GB-A-2 156 378 (IDEMITSU KOSAN CO.) * Whole document *	1-9	C 10 C 3/00 D 01 F 9/155
X	EP-A-0 148 560 (NIPPON OIL) * Claims 1-6 * & JP-A-60 259 629 (Cat. D)	7-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			C 10 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30-08-1990	Examiner RO TSAERT L.D.C.
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			