

Safe Working Procedure for the Use of Diazomethane

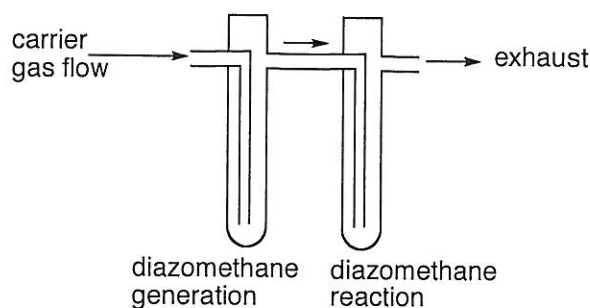
Diazomethane is a useful reagent in organic chemistry for methylation, the formation of diazoketones and other procedures. Diazomethane is a toxic and unstable gas and is always generated from precursors.

The safety notices found in *Organic Syntheses* Coll. Vol. V, 352-353 and elsewhere in that series must be consulted before this reagent is generated.

Precaution

Diazomethane should never be allowed to come into contact with ground glass joints, ground glass stopcocks, cracked glassware or any sharp surface due to the danger of accumulation and explosion. All glassware must have smooth, fire polished surfaces.

Whenever possible, accumulation of diazomethane must be avoided. The use of bubbled diazomethane for immediate reaction should be considered (below).



Alternatives to diazomethane, such as trimethylsilyl diazomethane, must be considered.

Diazomethane solutions should not be stored. Residual diazomethane may be destroyed by addition of a weak acid (such as acetic acid) or silica gel.

Users should be aware that diazomethane precursors, such as Diazald, are carcinogenic, and take appropriate precautions.

The following personal protective equipment (PPE) is to be used:

Safety Glasses, Labcoat, Latex gloves, Long pants, Covered shoes

Diazomethane should always be used in a well ventilated fume cupboard. The use of an additional blast shield is strongly recommended.

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