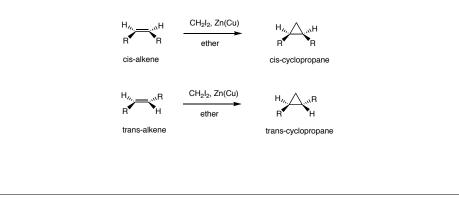


The cyclopropanation reaction of an alkene with a carbene takes place in a single step. There is NO intermediate.

As such, the geometry of the alkene is preserved in the product. Groups that are trans on the alkene will end up trans on the cyclopropane product. Groups that are cis on the alkene will end up cis on the cyclopropane product.



Hydrogenation: Addition of H_2 across the π -bond of an alkene to give an alkane. This is a reduction. $\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} & H_2, PtO_2 \\ \hline & \\ \end{array} \\ \hline \\ ethanol \end{array}$ • The reaction uses H_2 and a precious metal catalyst. • The catalysts is not soluble in the reaction media, thus this process is referred to as a heterogenous catalysis. • The catalyst assists in breaking the π -bond of the alkene and the H-H σ -bond. • The reaction takes places on the surface of the catalyst. Thus, the rate of the reaction is proportional to the surface area of the catalyst. • To increase the surface area of the catalyst it is finely dispersed on an inert support such as charcoal (carbon, C) • Carbon-carbon π -bond of alkenes and alkynes can be reduced to the corresponding saturated C-C bond. Other π -bond bond such as C=O (carbonyl) and C=N are not easily reduced by catalytic hydrogenation. The C=C bonds of aryl rings are not easily reduced.

