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Enantioselective Catalytic Hydrogenation of Unfunctionalized Ketones

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Three diastereomeric rhodium bisphosphane complexes have been applied to asymmetric hydrogenation of unfunctionalized, non-chelating aliphatic and aromatic ketones. The *ee* values of the catalysis products differ considerably for the diastereomeric catalysts. 70% *ee* were obtained in hydrogenating butyrophenone, and 83.7% *ee* for pinacolone. The results depend strongly on the solvent used.

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