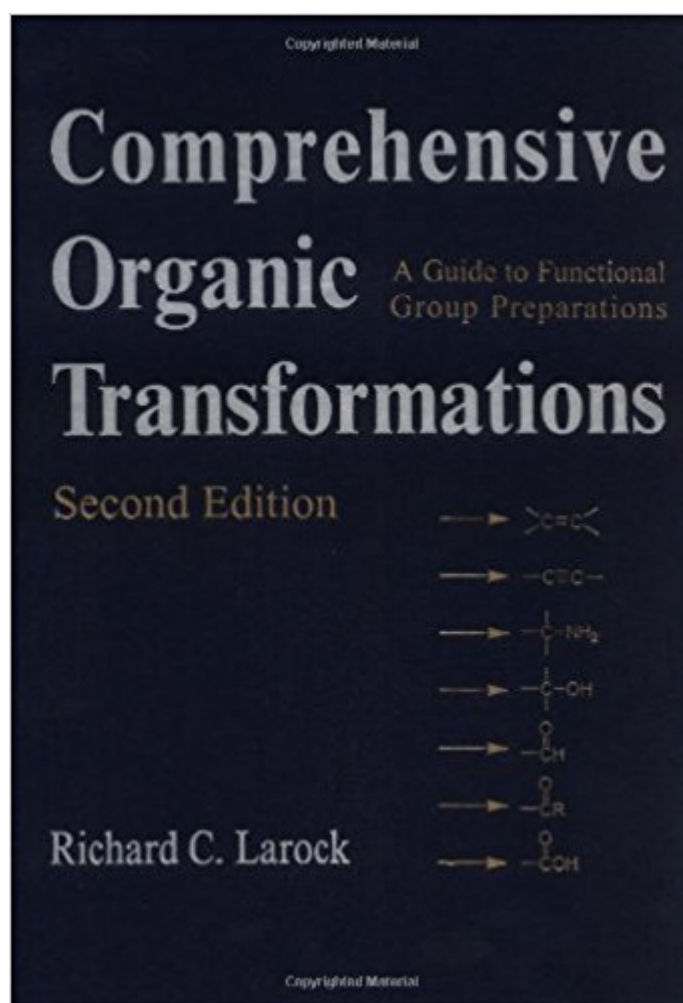


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Comprehensive Organic Transformations: A Guide To Functional Group Preparations, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

This long-awaited, greatly-expanded new edition of a best-selling guide offers an encyclopedic and systematic collection of useful synthetic methodology, including tens of thousands of reactions and synthetic transformations. The first edition has been reviewed in the professional journals as "clearly...the first choice for researchers seeking information on synthetic transformations." And as "useful to anyone who must do organic synthesis, especially those whose focus is not strictly organic chemistry. It provides a...clear road map to the synthetic literature and should be kept within easy reach of the chemist's desk."

Book Information

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". . . makes available at one's fingertips a wealth of information concerning a broad range of reaction types." -- Angewandte Chemie "...an indispensable reference work for designing and carrying out modern organic chemical synthesis..." -- Analytical Biochemistry, Vol. 294, 2001 "...an outstanding work of reference...and will be an essential purchase for all synthetic organic chemists in academe and industry." -- Natural Products Reports, Vol 17, 2000 "...makes available at one's fingertips a wealth of information concerning a broad range of reaction types." -- Angewandte Chemie "This edition covers 39 new journals and numerous additional reviews and books from 1988-95." -- SciTech Book News, March 2001 "This impressive work provides a comprehensive, highly condensed, systematic collection of useful synthetic methods for use if beginning students and experienced organic synthesis workers." -- SciTech Book News

From reviews of the first edition

book...". . . first choice for researchers seeking information on synthetic transformations..." -- Journal of Natural Products

In the age of digital databases like scifinder or belstein, I still find myself referring to this text because of the arrangement of the material. It breaks it down by substrate type and you look for the intended transformation. It is bare-bones, only offering the original article citation that you need to look up for details, to see if your substrate may work in the given transformation. I have one copy at home and one in the lab!

It is OK, sometimes handy but really promises more than gives. In the time of SciFinder and other databases slowly becomes irrelevant.

my son the chemist wanted this for a x-mas present, he is very pleased, he said that it has everything in it, very expensive, but it was okay!

The following review is offered as a collective counterpoint to others' quick, sometimes derisive comments ['A reader' ('don't waste you time' [sic]), 'Matthew M. Yau', and 'gregory.schaaf', etc.] , in support of the excellent rating I give: Larock's COT is the practical encyclopedic work of choice among books on organic reactions, and is well worth the time it takes to master it's indexing and formats. In re: comparison with March: Substantial reference books of this type often lack the practical pointedness and insight that comes in scholarship from an actively publishing chemist/group still in the thick of the research game. This criticism cannot be leveled against the Larock book. This group was in the thick of modern research chemistry for many years, and often at its forefront. (Larock is now Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Iowa State, and no longer excepting doctoral students as trainees.) Most practicing academic chemists wish to contribute as much in their careers, as RCL did in his. Moreover, in a period where the sheer numbers of articles on syntheses and methodologies are exploding, the careful hand of a knowledgeable professional becomes all the more useful. Choosing synthetic problems to work on is a challenge, because it is not a problem of seeing what's out there, but rather of understanding what is not. To contribute, a young discovery chemist must perceive areas of darkness via reporting that emphasizes the well-lit geographies of the chemistry landscape. "Maps" like Larock's text makes the job of perceiving such gaps in knowledge all the faster, and facilitates using other encyclopedic works and e-search tools all the more effective in scholarly synthetic research (the latter, to look for

followup research published since the book's publication). Speaking personally, my group received funding for and published on novel synthetic ideas that arose because we were stimulated by the cataloging the Larock group had done. In addition, and one of the above reviewer's naive comment to the contrary, the one volume nature of Larock, thick as it is, is a benefit (as long as its binding, or your added binding tape, can make the volume last). Finally, the care and thought that went into the 'A reader' review makes it almost unworthy of specific reply, but since has no weighting system for their review scoring, that review unfairly brought down the mean score down for this important synthetic organic research reference. There is but one positive that can be offered of such reviews: others with more relevant experience and therefore greater insight are often prompted to speak up to set the record straight, as a result. Cheers, happy discovery, be safe.

great! great, It's so sharp. I cut myself the first time I used it. as a gift to Tommy, I will recommend it to my friend.

I want to help others sort through the conflicting reviews of this book. As a PhD chemist, I can say unequivocally that this book is not for the non-professional, as I suspect the negative reviewers are. The indexing system is not intuitive, but makes sense once you've begun to use it. One of the reviewers complains that database searching is better than this book. This book is intended to help you find straightforward procedures for relatively straightforward reactions and allows you to look at the many things that have been tried to effect a given transformation. These are things that the databases can't help much with since these reactions have been done in the literature thousands of times, and any search will generate a huge mess of matches.

The title "Comprehensive Organic Transformations" strikes me with much hope that all representative functional groups transfer and reactions will be fully explained and included in one volume for easy reference. Well, not so quick. Cited references from this volume might be the only (+) that I will credit to the piece. The organization of the book is extremely perplexing and weird. It is not very easy to find a reaction that I desire. In fact, the details for transformation are disappointingly little. If you plan to get this book with the same expectation, you should turn to Jerry March's Advanced Organic Chemistry or the Beilstein Cross-File Organic Reaction and Compounds software. Any advanced texts on organic synthesis will give you more details. Oh, by the way, the price (\$) is just stunningly high and ridiculous.

I agree that the bad reviews are probably predominantly from non-chemists. Larock's first edition has become an absolute standard reference on the desk of the practicing organic chemist, who is after lead references and an idea of how a given transformation has been done. I have seen his 2nd edition and it is much the same, only updated and expanded. The price is high, but typical for the field and quite justified. I am waiting til I can buy it with faculty startup funds, but in 6 months it will be on my desk!

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