

METHOD FOR PREPARING DIARYL
CARBONATES EMPLOYING β -DIKETONE
SALTS

ABSTRACT

Hydroxyaromatic compounds such as phenol are converted to diaryl carbonates by reaction with oxygen and carbon monoxide in the presence of a catalyst package which comprises a Group VIIB metal, preferably palladium, salt of at least one aliphatic β -diketone such as 2,4-pentanedione. The catalyst package also preferably comprises an inorganic cocatalyst, an organic cocatalyst and a bromide or chloride, preferably bromide, source such as a hexaalkylguanidinium bromide. The use of the β -diketone salt confers such advantages as long shelf life under normal storage conditions, high activity upon recycle and capability of carbonylation at relatively low temperatures.