

**Preferential Oxidation of CO over Au/M_xO_y/Al₂O₃ (M_xO_y = La₂O₃, CeO₂ and MgO) Catalysts:
Combined Effects of Gold Size, Support and Pre-treatment Methods**

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The preferential CO oxidation under excess hydrogen was examined over Au/M_xO_y/Al₂O₃ (M_xO_y = La₂O₃, CeO₂ and MgO) catalysts. The effects of the support and nature of gold on the catalytic activity was intensively investigated. 1 wt% Au was loaded onto the support through the deposition-precipitation method with urea (DPU). Various catalyst samples were prepared after different pretreatments. The catalytic activity appeared to be dependent on the promoter and decreased in the following order: Au/La₂O₃/Al₂O₃ Au/CeO₂/Al₂O₃ Au/MgO/Al₂O₃ Au/Al₂O₃. The pretreatment conditions affected the particle size of gold and oxidation state of gold, which caused the different catalytic activities. The smaller metallic gold particles were proved to be beneficial for this reaction.