

*Supporting Information for:*

## Acetalization of Aldehydes and Ketones over $H_4[SiW_{12}O_{40}]$ and $H_4[SiW_{12}O_{40}]/SiO_2$

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**Table S1.** ICP analysis of of H-SiW<sub>12</sub>, fresh H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> and reused H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.

Catalyst	Found (%)	Calcd. (%)
	W	W
H-SiW <sub>12</sub>	76.48	76.65
fresh H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	6.92	6.98
reused H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	6.90	6.98



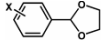



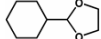




**Table S2.** Assignments of FT-IR spectra of H-SiW<sub>12</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub> and H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>a</sup>

H-SiW <sub>12</sub>	SiO <sub>2</sub>	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	Assignments
3445	3448	3436	O-H asym. str.
2926	2925	2927	O-H scissoring
1100	1097	1102	Si-O asym. str.
1046			W-O <sub>d</sub> scissoring
934		935	W-O <sub>d</sub> asym. str.
891		893	W-O <sub>b</sub> -W asym. str.
790		792	W-O <sub>c</sub> -W asym. str.
715		716	W-O <sub>c</sub> -W asym. str.
471	469	472	Si-O bending

<sup>a</sup> asym. str.: asymmetric stretching.**Table S3.** Assignments of <sup>29</sup>Si CP/MAS NMR spectra of H-SiW<sub>12</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub> and H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.


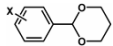







H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	SiO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> (ppm)	Assignment
-86.032		-84.995	H <sub>4</sub> SiW <sub>12</sub> O <sub>40</sub>
-102.880	-101.488		(SiO) <sub>3</sub> SiOH (Q <sup>3</sup> )
-111.932	-110.800		Si(OSi) <sub>4</sub> (Q <sup>4</sup> )

**Table S4.** The yields at different temperature and  $E_a$  for acetalization of various substrates with ethylene glycol catalyzed by H-SiW<sub>12</sub> under solvent-free conditions.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Alcohol	Substrate	Product	Temperature (°C)	Yield (%)	Activation energy (kJ·mol <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>		
1				25	37	19.2		
2		X = H	X = H	60	73			
3		X = 2-Me	X = 2-Me	25	49	15.9		
4				60	81			
5		X = 3-Me	X = 3-Me	25	36	19.0		
6				60	73			
7		X = 2-Cl	X = 2-Cl	25	73	8.8		
8				60	95			
9		X = 3-Cl	X = 3-Cl	25	69	10.1		
10				60	90			
11		X = 4-Cl	X = 4-Cl	25	58	13.3		
12				60	80			
13		X = 2-Br	X = 2-Br	25	70	9.7		
14				60	93			
15		X = 3-Br	X = 3-Br	25	67	10.6		
16				60	85			
17		X = 4-Br	X = 4-Br	25	68	11.0		
18				60	89			
19		X = 2-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 2-NO <sub>2</sub>	25	81	6.6		
20				60	93			
21		X = 3-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 3-NO <sub>2</sub>	25	83	5.9		
22				60	94			
23	X = 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	25	86	5.1			
24			60	>99.9				
25			25	89	4.2			
26			R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>		60	>99.9	
27			R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>		25	85	
28						60	98	
29			R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>		25	82	
30						60	99	
31			R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>		25	79	
32						60	99	
33			R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>19</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>19</sub>		25	76	
34						60	98	
35						25	88	4.6
36						60	97	
37						25	92	3.3
38						60	94	
39						25	75	8.7
40	60	99						


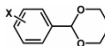




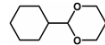

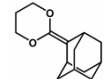
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub> (0.25 mol% to substrate), ethylene glycol (1.5 mmol), 6 hours. Yields were determined by GC analysis using reference standards. Assignments of corresponding products were analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR. <sup>b</sup> These values have been calculated by Arrhenius equation:  $\ln k = (\ln A - E_a)/RT$ .

**Table S5.** Acetalization of various aldehydes and ketones with 1,3-propanediol catalyzed by H-SiW<sub>12</sub> at 60 °C under solvent-free conditions.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Donor	Acceptor	Product	Yield(%)
1				95
2		X = 2-Me	X = 2-Me	96
3		X = 3-Me	X = 3-Me	96
4		X = 4-Me	X = 4-Me	92
5		X = 2-MeO	X = 2-MeO	87
6		X = 3-MeO	X = 3-MeO	95
7		X = 4-MeO	X = 4-MeO	75
8		X = 2-Cl	X = 2-Cl	99
9		X = 3-Cl	X = 3-Cl	99
10		X = 4-Cl	X = 4-Cl	99
11		X = 2-Br	X = 2-Br	99
12		X = 3-Br	X = 3-Br	99
13		X = 4-Br	X = 4-Br	99
14		X = 2-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 2-NO <sub>2</sub>	>99.9
15		X = 3-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 3-NO <sub>2</sub>	>99.9
16		X = 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	87
17				>99.9
18		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	97
19		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	95
20		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>	96
21		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	92
22				99
23				85

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub> (0.25 mol% to substrate), 1,3-propanediol (1.5 mmol), 60 °C, 6 hours. Yields were determined by GC analysis using reference standards. Assignments of corresponding products were analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR.

**Table S6.** Acetalization of various aldehydes and ketones with 1,3-propanediol catalyzed by H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> at 60 °C under solvent-free conditions.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Donor	Acceptor	Product	Yield(%) <sup>b</sup>
				
1		X = H	X = H	95(91)
2		X = 2-Me	X = 2-Me	96(94)
3		X = 3-Me	X = 3-Me	96(93)
4		X = 4-Me	X = 4-Me	92(89)
5		X = 2-MeO	X = 2-MeO	87(83)
6		X = 3-MeO	X = 3-MeO	95(90)
7		X = 4-MeO	X = 4-MeO	75(71)
8		X = 2-Cl	X = 2-Cl	99(97)
9		X = 3-Cl	X = 3-Cl	99(98)
10		X = 4-Cl	X = 4-Cl	99(96)
11		X = 2-Br	X = 2-Br	99(98)
12		X = 3-Br	X = 3-Br	99(96)
13		X = 4-Br	X = 4-Br	99(98)
14		X = 2-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 2-NO <sub>2</sub>	>99.9(99)
15		X = 3-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 3-NO <sub>2</sub>	>99.9(99)
16		X = 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	X = 4-NO <sub>2</sub>	87(84)
				
17		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub>	>99.9(99)
18		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub>	97(94)
19		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>15</sub>	95(92)
20		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>17</sub>	96(94)
21		R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>19</sub>	R = <i>n</i> -C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>19</sub>	92(88)
22				99(96)
23				85(81)

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: substrate (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> (0.0225 mol% to substrate), 1,3-propanediol (1.5 mmol), 60 °C, 6 hours. Yields were determined by GC analysis using reference standards. Assignments of corresponding products were analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR. <sup>b</sup> The values in parentheses are the isolated yields.

**Table S7.** ICP analysis of reaction filtrate before and after reaction catalyzed by H-SiW<sub>12</sub>.<sup>a</sup>

Reaction filtrate	Si (ppm)	W (ppm)
Before reaction	<0.01	<0.01
After reaction	0.04	0.49

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: benzaldehyde (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub> (0.25 mol% to substrate), 1,3-propanediol (1.5 mmol), 60 °C, 6 hours.

**Table S8.** ICP analysis of reaction filtrate before and after reaction catalyzed by H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>a</sup>

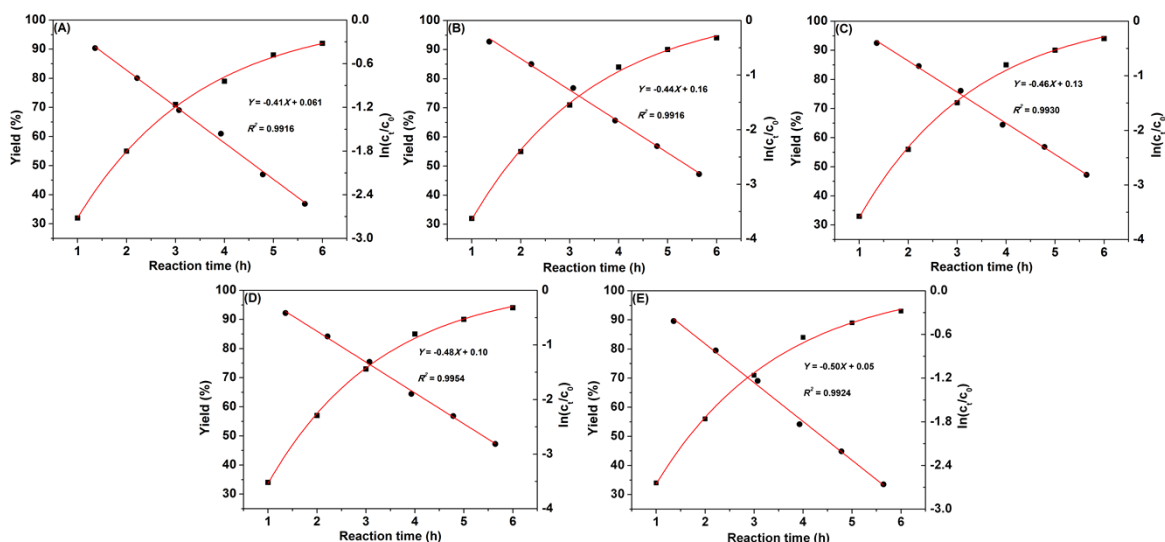
Reaction filtrate	Si (ppm)	W (ppm)
Before reaction	<0.01	<0.01
After reaction	<0.01	<0.01

<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: benzaldehyde (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> (0.0225 mol% to substrate), 1,3-propanediol (1.5 mmol), 60 °C, 6 hours.

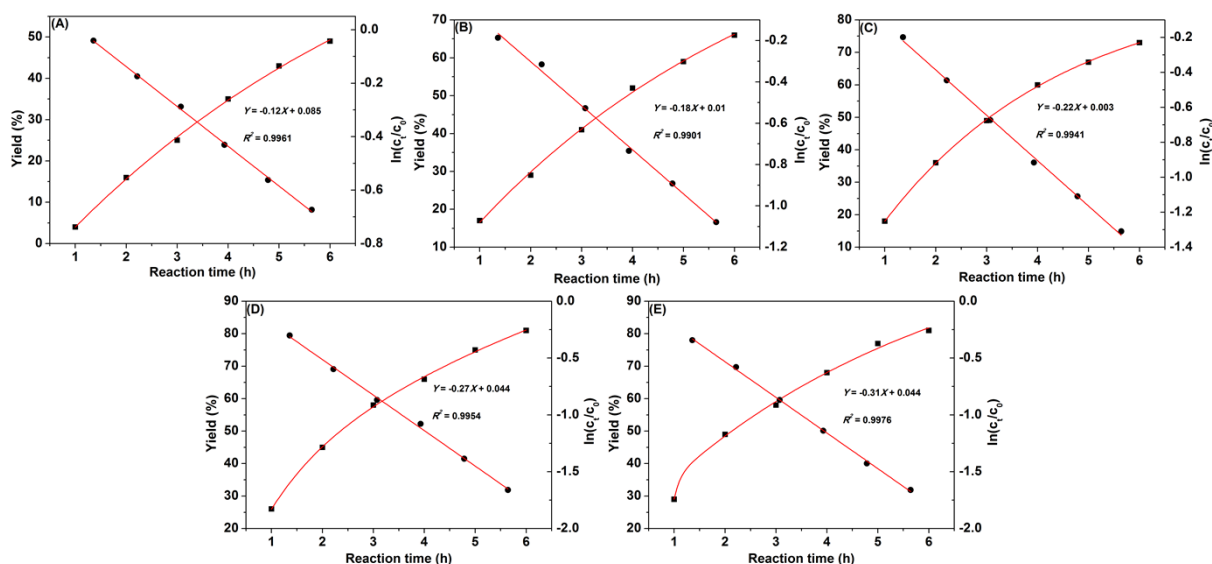
**Table S9.** H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>-recycling and reusing experiments of acetalization of benzaldehyde with 1,3-propanediol.<sup>a</sup>

Entry	Recycle time	Catalyst	Yield (%)	Catalyst Recovery (%)
1	1	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	94	98
2	2	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	94	98
3	3	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	94	98
4	4	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	94	98
5	5	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	94	97
6	6	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	94	97
7	7	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	93	97
8	8	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	93	96
9	9	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	93	96
10	10	H-SiW <sub>12</sub> /SiO <sub>2</sub>	93	96

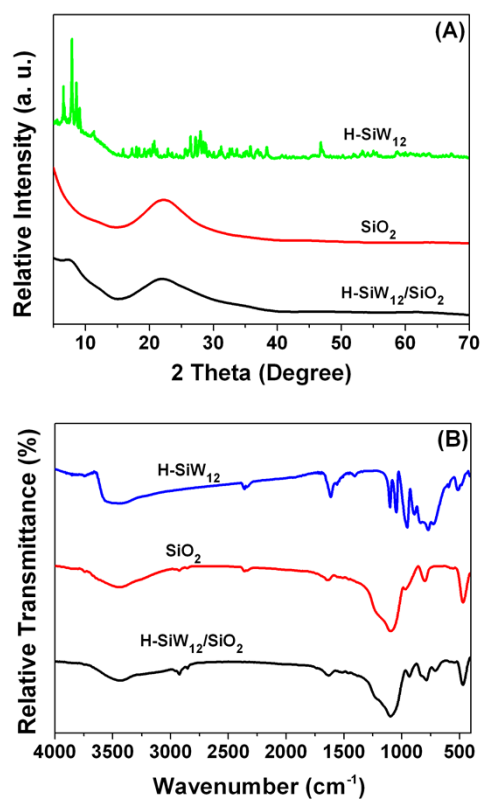
<sup>a</sup> Reaction conditions: benzaldehyde (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> (0.0225 mol% to benzaldehyde), 1,3-propanediol (1.5 mmol), 60 °C, 6 hours. Yields were determined by GC analysis using reference standards. Assignments of corresponding products were analyzed by <sup>1</sup>H-NMR.



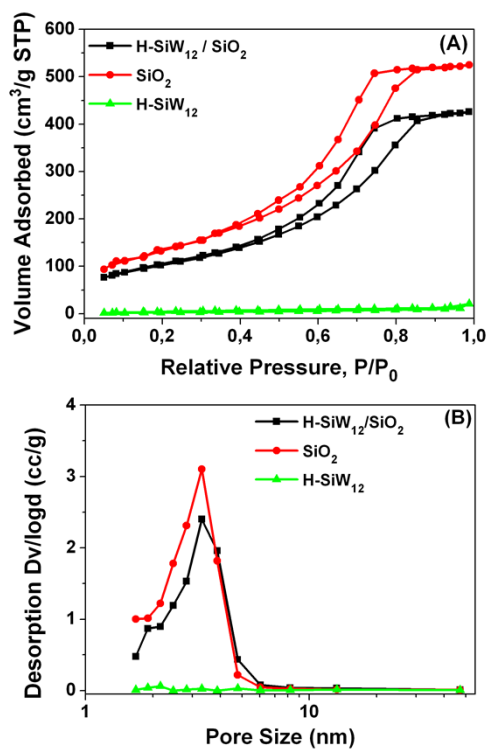
**Figure S1.** Yield and  $\ln(C_t/C_0)$  as functions of reaction time at (A) 25 °C, (B) 40 °C, (C) 50 °C, (D) 60 °C and (E) 70 °C. Reaction conditions: cyclohexanone (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub> (0.25 mol% to cyclohexanone), ethylene glycol (1.5 mmol), 6 hours.



**Figure S2.** Yield and  $\ln(C_t/C_0)$  as functions of reaction time at (A) 25 °C, (B) 40 °C, (C) 50 °C, (D) 60 °C and (E) 70 °C. Reaction conditions: 2-methylbenzaldehyde (1 mmol), H-SiW<sub>12</sub> (0.25 mol% to 2-methylbenzaldehyde), ethylene glycol (1.5 mmol), 6 hours.

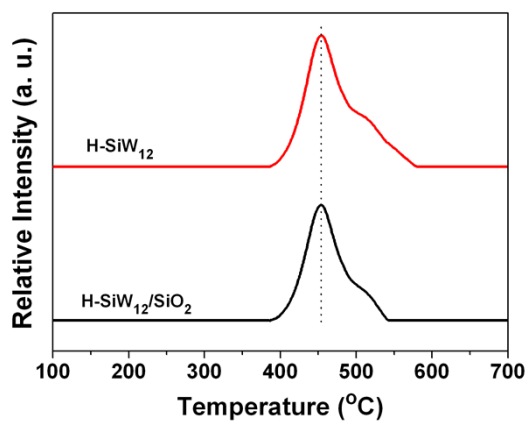


**Figure S3.** Powder XRD patterns (A) and FT-IR spectra (B) of H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub> and H-SiW<sub>12</sub>.

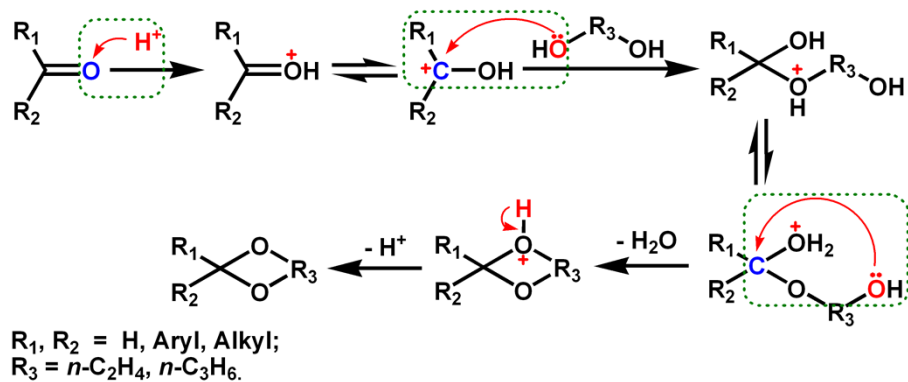


**Figure S4.** Adsorption-desorption isotherms (A) and pore size distribution curves (B) of H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub> and H-SiW<sub>12</sub>.





**Figure S5.** NH<sub>3</sub>-TPD profiles of H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub> and H-SiW<sub>12</sub>.



**Figure S6.** The proposed mechanism of acetalization of aldehydes and ketones with diols (ethylene glycol and 1,3-propanediol) catalyzed by H-SiW<sub>12</sub> and H-SiW<sub>12</sub>/SiO<sub>2</sub>.