

Electronic supporting information

Pre-constructed multi-peroxotungstic centers for highly efficient and recyclable organophosphorus-tungstic catalysts in styrene epoxidation

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1. Experimental section

1.1 Reagents and characterization

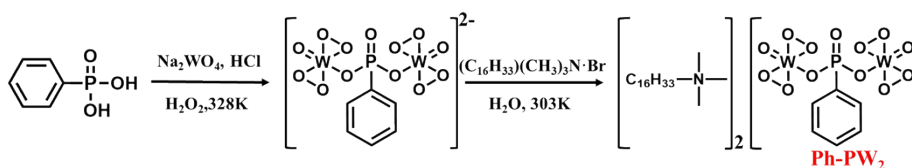
The chemicals used in this work, including phenylphosphonic acid ($\text{PhP}=\text{O}(\text{OH})_2$) (AR), *p*-xylylenebisphosphonic acid ($\text{Ph}(p\text{-CH}_2\text{P}=\text{O}(\text{OH})_2)_2$, 97%), H_3PO_4 (85%), $(\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33})(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}\cdot\text{Br}$ (HTMA $\cdot\text{Br}$) (AR), $(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{37})_2(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{N}\cdot\text{Cl}$ (DMDOA $\cdot\text{Cl}$) (AR), Na_2SO_4 (99%), Na_2WO_4 (98%), H_2O_2 (30%), styrene (98%), limonene (95%), 1-octene (99%), cyclohexene (98%), cyclooctene (99%), styrene oxide (99%), toluene (AR), ethyl acetate (AR), N, N-dimethylformamide (DMF, AR), $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{Cl}_2$ (AR) and CHCl_3 (AR) were obtained from commercial resource and used without further purification.

FT-IR spectra were recorded on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS50 spectrophotometer in the range of 400–4000 cm^{-1} via KBr model. Raman spectra were analyzed on a Renishaw OPTIMA 8000 in the range of 200~1000 nm. Elemental analysis of C, H, N, O were obtained from a

Elementar Vario EL cube apparatus. P and W contents were determined by a Thermo CAP7400 ICP spectrometer. ^1H , ^{13}C and ^{31}P NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRK-400 apparatus in CDCl_3 . X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were obtained on a Philips X'Pert-MPD diffractometer (Cu $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation, $\lambda=1.54056 \text{ \AA}$) in the scanning range of $5\sim 60^\circ$. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) were measured through the Thermo Fisher Scientific ESCALAB 250X system. The element mapping of catalysts was scanned by ultra-high-resolution SEM (Helios G4 CX). The concentrations in the reacting system were determined by a gas chromatograph (GC-2014C) equipped with an InerCap-5 capillary column. And the qualitative analysis of the products and by-products were performed by a GC-MSQP2020 NX GC-MS equipped with a Rtx-5MS column.

1.2 Catalysts preparation

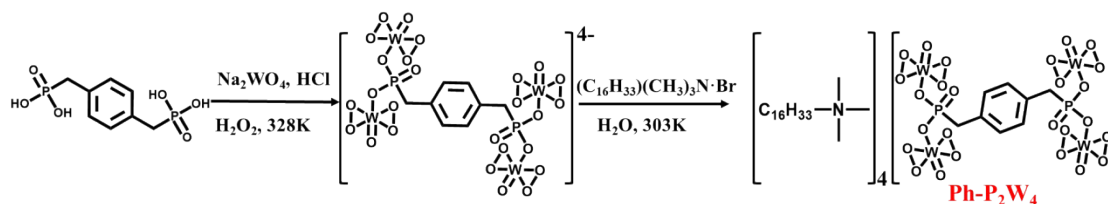
$[(\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33})(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}]_2\cdot\{\text{PhPO}_3[\text{W}=\text{O}(\text{O}_2)_2]_2\}$ (labelled as **Ph-PW₂**) : **Ph-PW₂** was prepared by reference of literature method (Scheme S1).^{S1} In a 50 mL three-neck flask, Na_2WO_4 (5.9 g, 20 mmol) was dissolved in 10 mL deionized water, then HCl (2 g, 20 mmol, 36%) was dropped. The mixture was stirred for 5 min at 35°C to produce yellow solids. H_2O_2 (9.1 g, 80 mmol, 30 wt%) was added at 55°C and stirred for 10 min, during which the yellow precipitation was dissolved to obtained yellow transparent solution. In another flask, phenylphosphonic acid (0.8 g, 5 mmol) and $(\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33})(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}\cdot\text{Br}$ (3.65 g, 5 mmol) were dissolved in 100 mL deionized water under ultrasound. The latter solution was added into the former yellow solution and stirred for 1h at 600 rpm to yield yellow precipitation. The solids were separated by centrifuged, which were washed with water and dried under vacuum for 12 h. Yield: 5.0 g, 79.87% based on W. IR (KBr, cm^{-1} , Fig. S1a): 3438(s), 2920(s), 2850(s), 2360(w), 1629(m), 1487(s), 1469(s), 1146(s), 1126(m), 1051(s), 940(s), 907(s), 820(m), 729(s), 705(s), 594(w), 562(m). Elemental analysis: Cal. C 42.18%; H 7.16%; N 2.24%; O 16.60%; P 2.47%; W 29.35%; found: C 40.24%; H 7.01%; N 2.12%; O 15.61%; P 2.91%; W 32.11%.



Scheme S1 Synthetic procedure for the catalyst **Ph-PW₂**

$[(\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{33})(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{N}]_4\cdot\text{Ph}\{\text{CH}_2\text{PO}_3[\text{W}=\text{O}(\text{O}_2)_2]_2\}_2$ (labelled as **Ph-P₂W₄**): **Ph-P₂W₄** was synthesized

via the same procedure with that of Ph-PW₂ (Scheme S2), except that phenylphosphonic acid was replaced by *p*-xylylenebisphosphonic acid (0.66 g, 2.5 mmol). Yellow solids (4.6 g) were obtained with yield of 74.92% based on W. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹, Fig. S1b): 3453(s), 2923(s), 2850(s), 2363(s), 2330(m), 1645(s), 1489(s), 1472(s), 1263(s), 1103(m), 1050(m), 950(s), 861(m), 804(s), 720(w), 701(w), 616(w), 585(w), 555(m). Elemental analysis: Cal. C 41.09%; H 7.22%; N 2.28%; O 16.94%; P 2.52%; W 29.95%; found: C 40.88%; H 7.53%; N 2.65%; O 17.16%; P 2.33%; W 29.45%.



Scheme S2 Synthetic procedure for the catalyst Ph-P₂W₄

[(C₁₈H₃₇)₂(CH₃)₂N]₃·PO₄[WO(O₂)₂]₄ (labelled as DMDOA-PW₄): DMDOA-PW₄ was prepared according to literature method.^{S2} Firstly, in a 100 mL three-neck flask, Na₂WO₄ (5.9 g, 20 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL H₂O to obtain clear solution, into which HCl (4.05 g, 40 mmol, 36%) was dropped. This mixture was stirred for 5 min at 35°C and then heated to 55°C, at this temperature H₂O₂ (15.88 g, 140 mmol) was added. The obtained yellow-green suspension was stirred for 30 min and centrifuged at rate of 8000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was moved into 85 mL H₃PO₄ aqueous solution (H₃PO₄: 5 mmol, 0.58 g H₃PO₄) and kept stirring of 10 min. 50 mL CH₂Cl₂ containing (C₁₈H₃₇)₂(CH₃)₂N·Cl (8.80 g, 15 mmol) was added dropwise into the above yellow-green solution. The resultant emulsion was stirred for 1h at 600 rpm at room temperature. Finally, the organic phase was separated to obtain bright yellow-green solution. CHCl₂ was removed by rotating evaporation at 30–40°C to yield the yellow-green powders, which was labelled as DMDOA-PW₄. Yield: 12.20g, 87.02%. IR (KBr, cm⁻¹, Fig. S1b): 3440(s), 2920(s), 2850(s), 2363(w), 2330(w), 1640(m), 1470(s), 1370(m), 1080(s), 953(s), 885(m), 819(m), 804(s), 720(s), 608(w), 550(m).

2.3 Styrene epoxidation reaction

In a 50 mL flask, styrene (2.1 g, 20 mmol) and catalyst Ph-PW₂ (0.5 g, 0.4 mmol) were dissolved in 8 mL CHCl₃, and the solution was heated to 40°C. After catalyst was dissolved completely, 30% H₂O₂ (2.3 g, 20 mmol) aqueous solution containing Na₂SO₄ (0.85 g, 6 mmol) was

added dropwise and kept reacting for 2h, during which the elevating temperature must be controlled by cooling water. CHCl₃ was eliminated in the solvent-free reaction, during which styrene acted as not only solvent but also reactant. The usage of H₂O₂ and Na₂SO₄ were half amount of solvent-present ones. The products were extracted from reaction system at certain intervals, which was separated by centrifugation and toluene was used as internal standard for GC-MS analysis. H₂O₂ concentration during the reaction was determined by iodometric titration method. The styrene conversion (X₁), conversion in solvent-free reaction (X₂), styrene epoxide yield (Y), selectivity (S) in organic solvents and concentration of H₂O₂ were defined as follows:

$$X_1 = \frac{C_{\text{styrene}^*} - C_{\text{styrene}}}{C_{\text{styrene}^*}} \times 100\% \quad Y = \frac{C_{\text{epoxide}}}{C_{\text{epoxide}^*}} \times 100\% \quad S = \frac{Y}{X_1} \times 100\%$$

$$X_2 = \frac{M_{\text{styrene}^*} - M_{\text{styrene}}}{M_{\text{hydrogen peroxide}^*}} \times 100\%$$

$$c(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2) = \frac{V(\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_2) \times c(\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_2) \times M(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)}{2000 \times m(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)} \times 100\%$$

Here, C_{styrene^*} was the initial concentration of styrene, C_{styrene} was the concentration of styrene at certain reacting times. C_{epoxide^*} was the theoretical concentration of styrene oxide, and C_{epoxide} was the real-time concentrations of styrene oxide at certain reacting times. M_{styrene^*} was the initial moles of styrene, M_{styrene} was the moles of styrene at certain reacting time, $M_{\text{hydrogen peroxide}^*}$ was the initial moles of H₂O₂. $V(\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_2)$: volume of standard Na₂S₂O₃ solution (mL), $c(\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_2)$: molar concentration of standard Na₂S₂O₃ (mol/L), $M(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)$: 34.01, $m(\text{H}_2\text{O}_2)$: mass of H₂O₂.

2.4 Catalyst recovering procedure

After the styrene epoxidation was completed, the emulsion suspension was centrifuged at rate of 8000 rpm for 5 min. The obtained yellow oil phase was dissolved in equal volume of acetonitrile, then the mixture was cooled to -10°C to generate solids. Styrene oxide can be obtained by removing acetonitrile using rotating evaporation. The raw solids were washed with acetonitrile for three times and dried under vacuum. The mass recovery yields of **Ph-PW₂** and **Ph-P₂W₄** were 65% and 60%, respectively. Na₂SO₄ can be recovered in water phase. The recovered catalysts and Na₂SO₄ can be used in the next epoxidation reaction. Due to some mass loss of the catalysts, the recovered catalysts from previous identical reactions were combined and used in the subsequent catalytic run in the recycled reactions.

2. Additional Tables

Table S1 Element analysis of Ph-PW₂ based on formula of [C₁₆H₃₃(CH₃)₃N]₂[C₆H₅PO₃{WO(O₂)₂}₂]

Element	Atomic number	Weight/%
N	1.90	2.12
C	41.96	40.24
H	87.10	7.01
O	12.22	15.61
P	1.18	2.91
W	2.19	32.11

Table S2 Condition setting during the reaction optimization of Ph-PW₂ catalyzed styrene epoxidation

Optimized items	Reaction conditions
Solvent-present in Fig.2	Solvent optimization in Fig.2a Reaction time optimization in Fig.2b Reaction temperature optimization in Fig.2c Catalyst dosage optimization in Fig.2d Styrene concentration optimization in Fig.2e Oxidant dosage optimization in Fig.2f
	0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 20 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 6 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 100 mmol solvent, 40°C, 21 h, 500 rpm 0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 20 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 6 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 100 mmol CHCl ₃ , 40°C, 500 rpm 0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 20 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 6 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 100 mmol CHCl ₃ , 10 h, 500 rpm 20 mmol styrene, 20 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 6 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 100 mmol CHCl ₃ , 40°C, 10 h, 500 rpm 0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 20 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 6 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 40°C, 10 h, 500 rpm 0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 100 mmol CHCl ₃ , 40°C, 10 h, 500 rpm, molar ratio of Na ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂ 3:10
Solvent-present in Fig.3	Catalytic performances of recovered catalysts in five cycles in Fig. 3c
	0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 30 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 9 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 100 mmol CHCl ₃ , 10 h, 40°C, 500 rpm
Solvent-free in Fig.3	Reaction temperature optimization in Fig.3a Oxidant dosage optimization in Fig.3b Catalytic stability in solvent-free system in Fig. 3d
	0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 10 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 3 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 2 h, 500 rpm 0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 2 h, 40°C, 500 rpm, molar ratio of Na ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂ 3:10 0.4 mmol Ph-PW ₂ , 20 mmol styrene, 10 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 3 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 2 h, 40°C, 500 rpm

Table S3 Catalytic performance comparison of styrene epoxidation with literatures

Catalysts	Oxidant/Solvent	$n_{\text{Oxidant}}:n_{\text{Styrene}}$	Temperature /time ($^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{h}$)	Conversion/%	Selectivity/%	Ref.
$[(\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17})_3\text{CH}_3\text{N}]_3[(\text{PO}_4)\{\text{WO}(\text{O}_2)_2\}_4]$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{none}$	0.5:1	50/1	50.0	93.0	S3
$[(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{37})_2(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{N}]_3[\text{SiO}_4\text{H}(\text{WO}_5)_3]$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{ethyl acetate}$	0.2:1	60/3	23.8	92.0	S4
$\{[(\text{C}_8\text{H}_{17})(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{N}]_2(\text{CH}_2)_3\}_{1.5}\{\text{PO}_4[\text{WO}(\text{O}_2)_2]_4\}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	0.5:1	35/20	37.9	86.6	S5
$[(\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{37})_2(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{N}]_7[\text{PW}_{11}\text{O}_{39}]$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{ethyl acetate}$	3:1	85/1	90.1	90.5	S6
$\text{H}_3\text{PW}_{12}\text{O}_{40}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{isooctane-}$ H_2O	2:1	70/8	78.0	74.0	S7
$\text{PMo}\subset\text{Mo}_{72}\text{Fe}_{30}$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.4:1	25/5	33.4	99.0	S8
$\text{Cs}_7[\text{PW}_{10}\text{Cu}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})\text{O}_{38}]$	TBHP/none	1.5:1	60/8	77.9	51.6	S9
$[\text{Cu}(\text{en})_2]_2[\text{Cu}(\text{en})_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2]_4[\text{SiNb}_{12}\text{V}_2\text{O}_{42}] \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	TBHP/ CH_3CN	2:1	80/4	82.1	48.6	S10
$\text{C}_{60}\text{H}_{54}\text{Cu}_6\text{N}_{12}\text{O}_{77}\text{P}_2\text{W}_{18}$	TBHP/ CH_3CN	2:1	80/8	95.9	86.0	S11
$[\text{Cu}_2(4,4'\text{-bipy})_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_2(\mu_2\text{-OH})_2(\text{H}_4\text{PMo}_9\text{V}_3\text{O}_{40})] \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{O}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	/	35/4	100.0	70.9	S12
$[\text{Co}_2(\text{H}_2\text{O})_4(\text{BBTZ})_3][\text{HPW}_{10}\text{V}_2\text{O}_{40}]$	$\text{O}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	/	25/4	89	70	S13
$\text{WO}(\text{O}_2)_2(2,2'\text{-bpy})$	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$	1.7:1	70/24	76.0	40.0	S14
Ph-PW ₂	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{CHCl}_3$	1.5:1	40/10	92.8	92.5	This work
Ph-PW ₂	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{none}$	0.5:1	40/2	93.4	94.5	This work
Ph-P ₂ W ₄	$\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{CHCl}_3$	1.5:1	40/6	93.9	95.5	This work









Table S4 P and W elemental analysis of aqueous/organic phases for Ph-PW₂ after reaction

Element	Relative content/ wt%	absolute content/ g	relative content/ wt%	absolute content/ g
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	aqueous phase		organic phase	
P	2.34	0.00073	96.33	0.029
W	2.52	0.0093	96.66	0.36

Reaction conditions: 1 mmol **Ph-PW₂**, 50 mmol styrene, 75 mmol H₂O₂, 22 mmol Na₂SO₄, 250 mmol CHCl₃, 10 h, 40°C, 500 rpm

Table S5 Catalytic epoxidation of different olefins to the corresponding epoxides by Ph-PW₂ and Ph-P₂W₄

Entry	Substrate	Product	Time/ h	Conv. in % ^{a,b}	Sel. in % ^{a,b}
1			2/2	95.0/95.1	94.8/99.0
2			2/2	96.8/97.0	98.5/98.7
3			21/21	89.4/92.1	93.8/94.2
4			4/3	87.8/92.3	89.1/86.1

^a: Catalyst: **Ph-PW₂**, 20 mmol alkene, 20 mmol H₂O₂, 6 mmol Na₂SO₄, 0.4 mmol Ph-PW₂, 40°C, 500 rpm, without solvent; ^b: Catalyst: **Ph-P₂W₄**, 20 mmol alkene, 20 mmol H₂O₂, 6 mmol Na₂SO₄, 0.2 mmol Ph-P₂W₄, 40°C, 500 rpm, 70 mmol CHCl₃.

Table S6 Element analysis of Ph-P₂W₄ based on formula of [C₁₆H₃₃(CH₃)₃N]₄[C₈H₈(PO₃)₂{WO(O₂)₂}₄]

Element	Atomic number	Weight/%
N	4.65	2.65
C	83.65	40.88
H	184.91	7.53
O	26.36	17.16
P	1.84	2.33
W	3.93	29.45

Table S7 Condition setting during the reaction optimization of **Ph-P₂W₄** catalyzed styrene epoxidation reaction

Optimized items	Reaction conditions
Catalytic performance of recovered catalysts in five cycles in Fig. 4e	0.2 mmol Ph-P ₂ W ₄ , 20 mmol styrene, 30 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 9 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 70 mmol CHCl ₃ , 6 h, 40°C, 500 rpm
Catalytic stability in solvent-free system in Fig. 4f	0.2 mmol Ph-P ₂ W ₄ , 20 mmol styrene, 12 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 3.6 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 2 h, 40°C, 500 rpm
Optimization of reaction time in Fig. S6a	0.2 mmol Ph-P ₂ W ₄ , 20 mmol styrene, 30 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 9 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 70 mmol CHCl ₃ , 40°C, 500 rpm

Optimization of reaction temperature Fig. S6b	0.2 mmol Ph-P ₂ W ₄ , 20 mmol styrene, 20 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 6mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 70 mmol CHCl ₃ , 6 h, 500 rpm
Optimization of oxidant dosage in Fig. S6c	0.2 mmol Ph-P ₂ W ₄ , 20 mmol styrene, 70 mmol CHCl ₃ , 40°C, 6 h, 500 rpm, molar ratio of Na ₂ SO ₄ and H ₂ O ₂ 3:10;
Optimization of catalyst dosage Fig. S6d	20 mmol styrene, 30 mmol H ₂ O ₂ , 9 mmol Na ₂ SO ₄ , 70 mmol CHCl ₃ , 40°C, 6 h, 500 rpm

3. Additional Figures

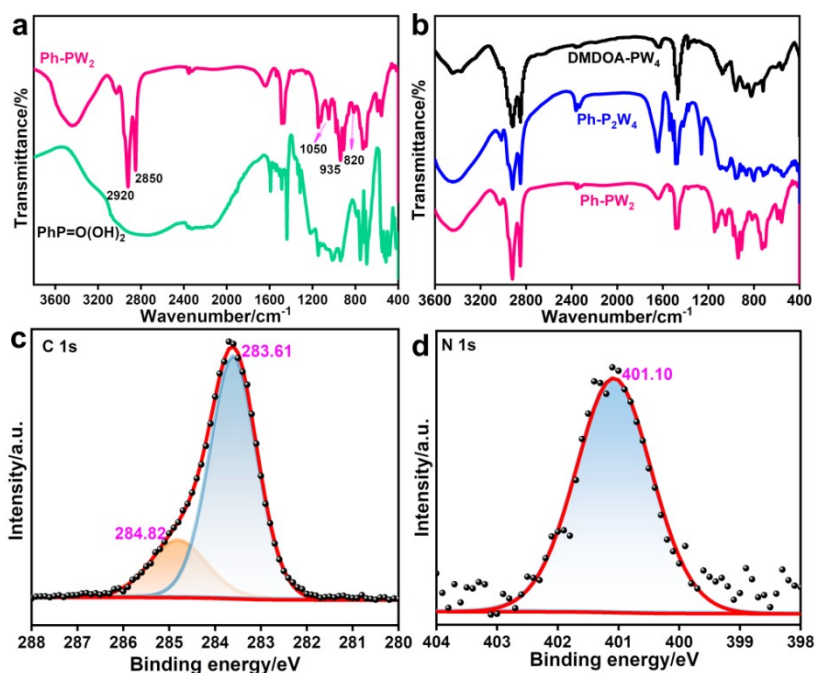


Fig. S1. (a) FT-IR spectra of Ph-PW₂ catalyst and organic ligand; (b) FT-IR spectra of three catalysts in this work; (c) high-resolution XPS C 1s spectrum; (d) N 1s XPS spectrum

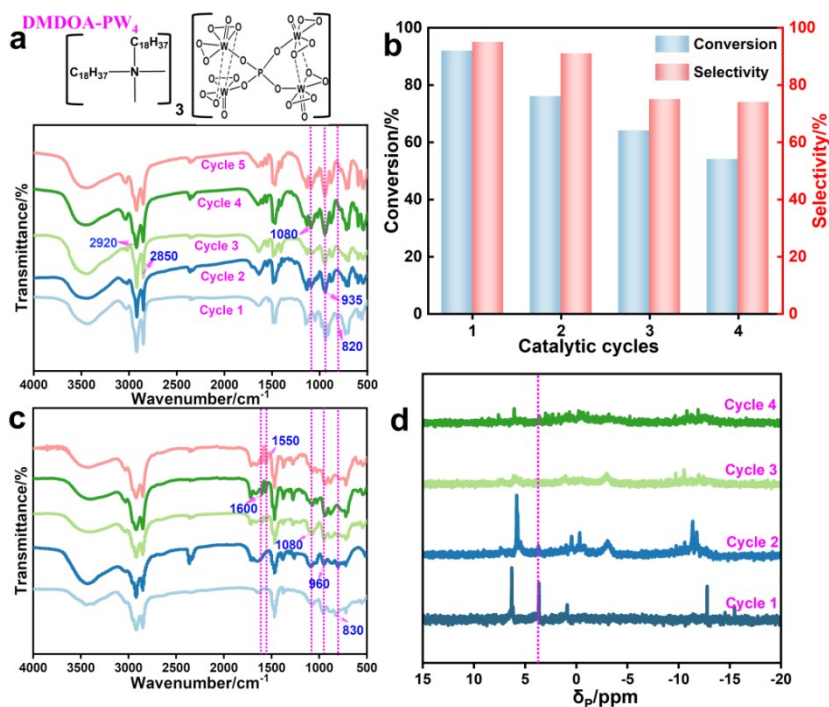


Fig. S2. (a) FT-IR spectra of recovered catalysts in five catalytic cycles together with structure of **DMDOA-PW₄**; (b) catalytic performances of recovered **DMDOA-PW₄** catalyst in four cycle (reaction condition: 0.2 mmol DMDOA-PW₄, 20 mmol styrene, 10 mmol H₂O₂, 3 mmol Na₂SO₄, 2 h, 30°C, 500 rpm); (c, d) FT-IR and ³¹P NMR spectra of recovered **DMDOA-PW₄** catalyst in four cycles

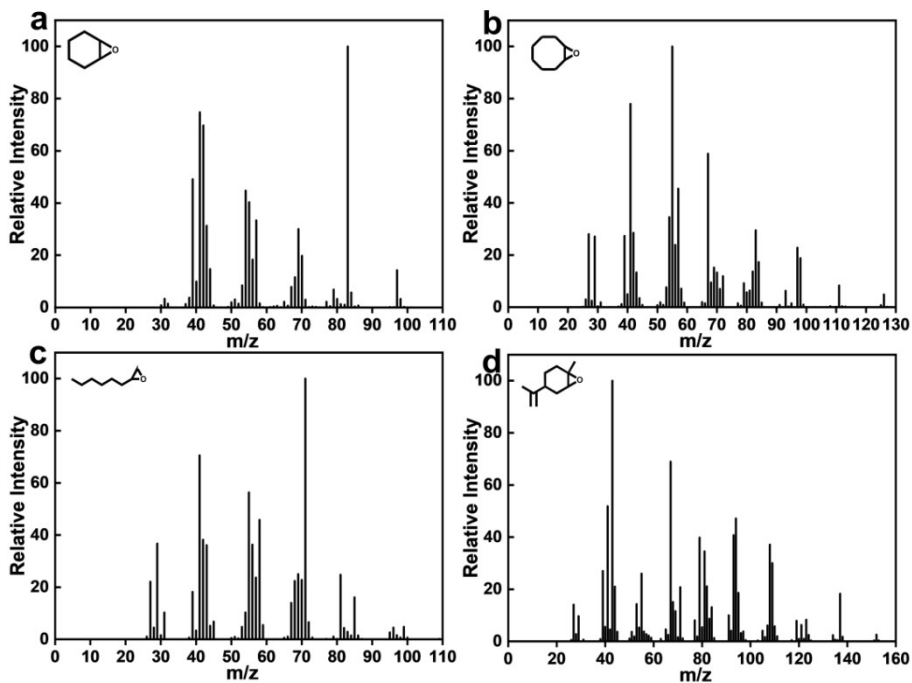


Fig. S3. Mass spectra of epoxide products in substrate scope under **Ph-PW₂** catalyst: (a) cyclohexene epoxide; (b),2-epoxyoctane; (c) 1,2-epoxyoctane; (d) limonene epoxide

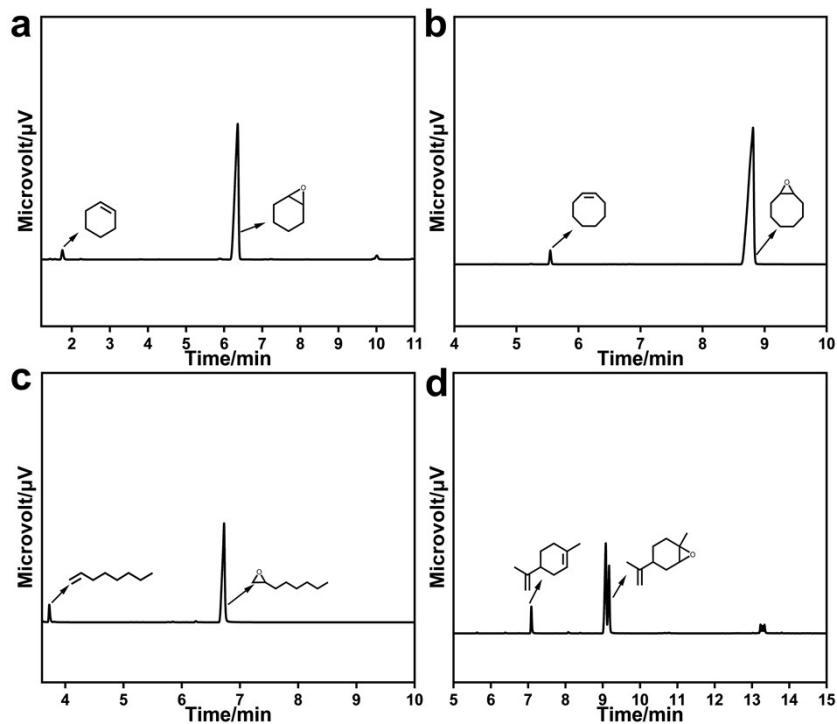


Fig. S4. GC of epoxide products in substrate scope under **Ph-PW₂** catalyst: (a) cyclohexene epoxide; (b), 2-epoxyoctane; (c) 1,2-epoxyoctane; (d) limonene epoxide

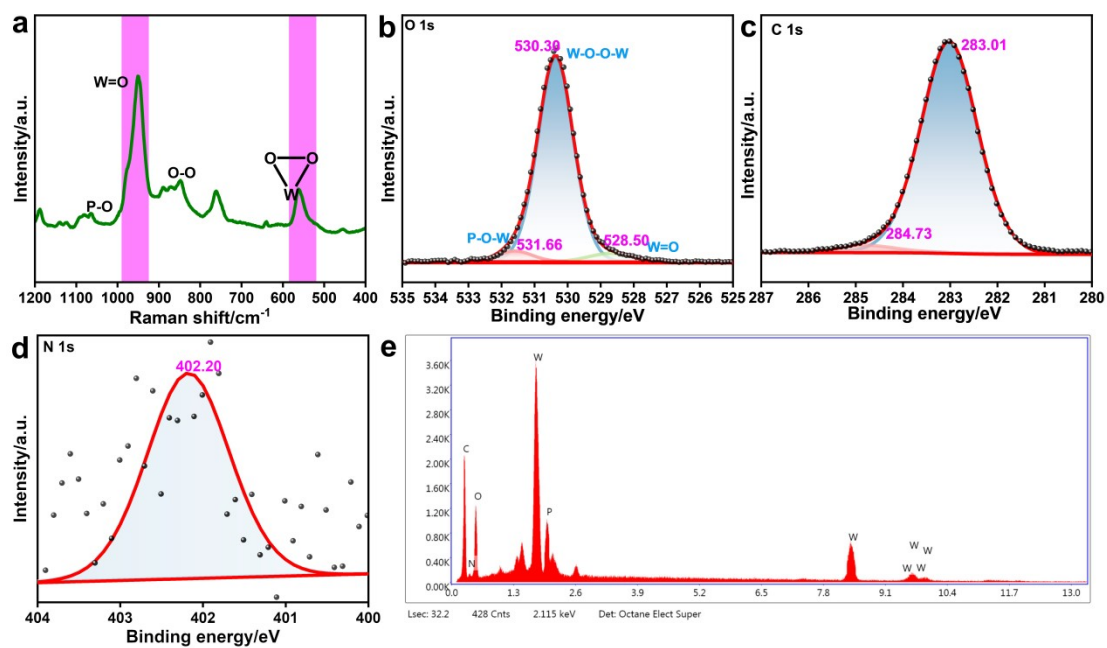


Fig. S5. Characterizations of **Ph-P₂W₄**: (a) Raman spectrum; high-resolution XPS spectra: (b) O 1s; (c) C 1s; (d) N 1s; (e) EDS spectrum

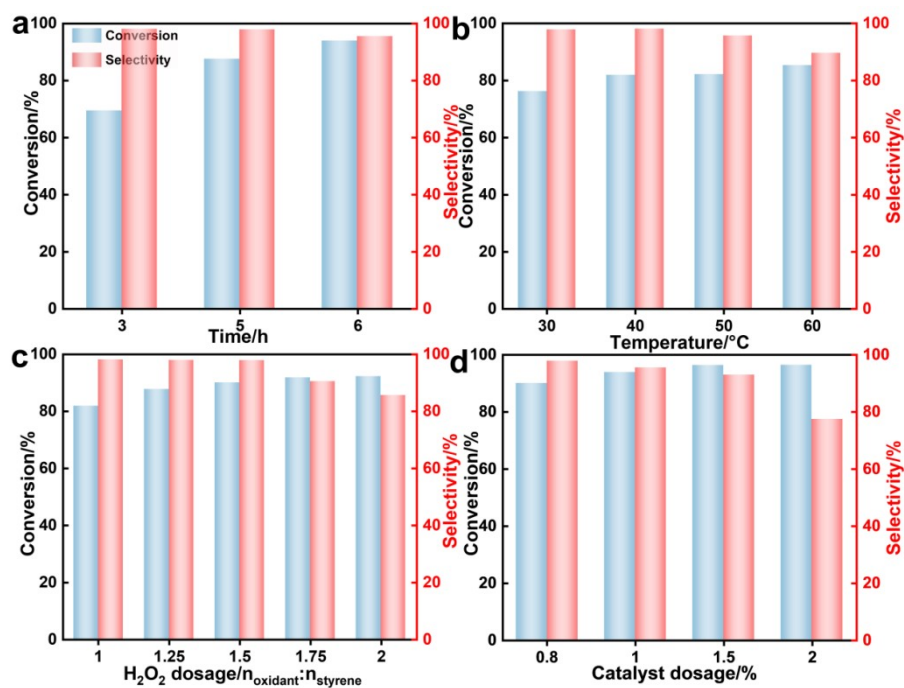


Fig. S6. Catalytic reaction optimization of **Ph-P₂W₄** on styrene epoxidation: (a) reaction time; (b) reaction temperature; (c) oxidant dosage; (d) catalyst dosage

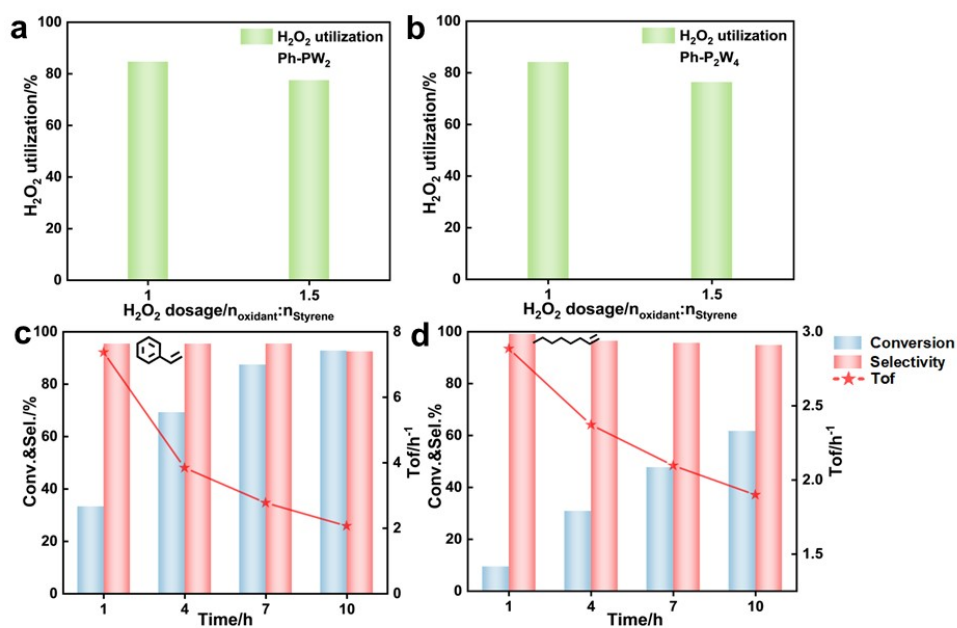


Fig. S7. H₂O₂ utilization efficiency: (a) **Ph-PW₂** and **Ph-P₂W₄** (reaction conditions correspond to the optimal parameters for **Ph-PW₂** and **Ph-P₂W₄**); TOF comparison (c) styrene and (d) 1-octene (reaction conditions: 0.4 mmol **Ph-PW₂**, 20 mmol styrene or 1-octene, 30 mmol H₂O₂, 9 mmol Na₂SO₄, 100 mmol CHCl₃, 10 h, 40 °C, 500 rpm).

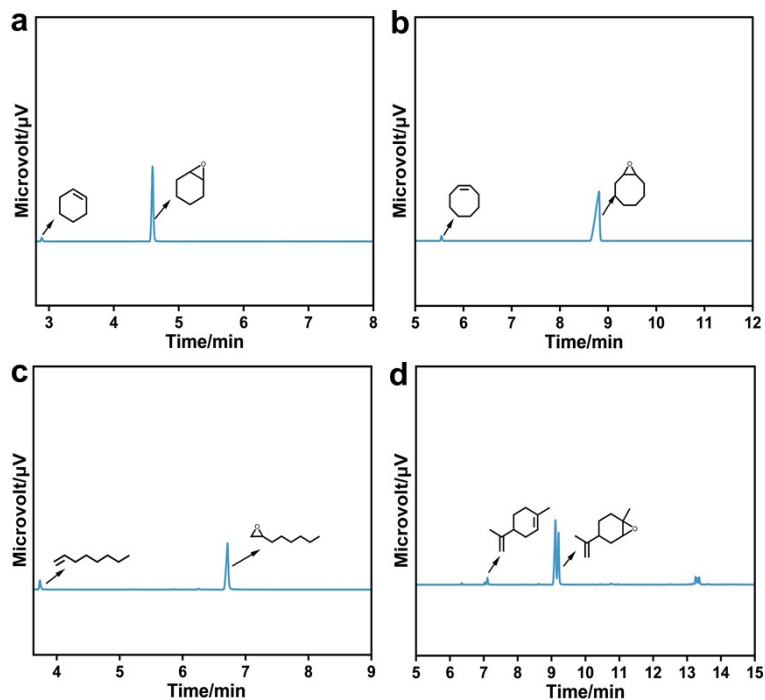


Fig. S8. Catalytic performance of **Ph-P₂W₄** and its substrate scope judged from GC: (a) cyclohexene epoxide; (b) 2-epoxyoctane; (c) 1,2-epoxyoctane; (d) limonene epoxide

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