## Catalytic Water Oxidation on Derivatized nanoITO

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## Supporting Information



Figure S1. UV-vis-near IR spectrum and SEM images of oxidized ITO|nanoITO.

# Supplementary Material (ESI) for Dalton Transactions





Figure S2. UV-vis-near IR spectrum and SEM images of *reduced* ITO|nanoITO.



Figure S3. (a) UV-vis spectra of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** after various soaking times in 0.1 mM solution in methanol. (b) Dependence of the absorbance at 493 nm on the soaking time.  $\Gamma_0 = 1.7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol/cm}^2$  (2.5  $\Box$  m, 6.8 × 10<sup>-9</sup> mol/cm<sup>2</sup>· $\Box$  m).

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Figure S4. Adsorption isotherm for  $1-PO_3H_2$  on ITO|*nano*ITO after soaking in methanol stock solution of different concentration for 72 h at 25 °C.



**Figure S5.** (a) Normalized cyclic voltammograms of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at pH 5 (0.036 M CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H-0.064 M CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Na) at different scan rates. The currents are normalized for scan rate, i/v. (b) Dependence of the current of the Ru(III/II) redox couple at ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** on the scan rate.



**Figure S6.** Square wave voltammogram of  $\text{Ru}^{\text{IV}}(\text{OO})^{2+}$  (generated by adding × 3 Ce(IV) to 0.5 mM Ru<sup>II</sup>-OH<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>) in 0.1 M HNO<sub>3</sub> at a glassy carbon electrode. Incremental potential at each point, 0.004 V; square wave amplitude, 0.025 V; square wave frequency, 15 Hz. The dotted line represents the square wave voltammogram before Ce(IV) oxidation.



**Figure S7.** (a) Cyclic voltammograms of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at pH 3 (0.1 M phosphate buffer) before (blue line) and after (red line) scanning to 1.85 V. Scan rate, 10 mV/s;  $\Gamma = 1.8 \times 10^{-9}$  mol/cm<sup>2</sup> (2.5  $\Box$  m, 7.2 × 10<sup>-10</sup> mol/cm<sup>2</sup>· $\Box$  m). (b) Dependence of the electrocatalytic

current (*nano*ITO background subtracted) at 1.85 V vs NHE at pH 5 (0.036 M CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H-0.064 M CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Na) on surface complex loading. Scan rate, 10 mV/s.



**Figure S8.** (a) Cyclic voltammogram of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at pH 1 (0.1 M HNO<sub>3</sub>) at a scan rate of 10 mV/s. The dotted line is the ITO|*nano*ITO background under the same experimental conditions. The inset shows cyclic voltammograms of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at pH 1 before (blue line) and after (red line) scanning to 1.85 V. (b) Electrolysis of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at 1.85 V vs NHE at pH 1. Number of turnovers  $\approx$  180, turnover frequency  $\approx$  0.006 s<sup>-1</sup> (background subtracted).  $\Gamma = 1.7 \times 10^{-8}$  mol/cm<sup>2</sup>, area = 1.25 cm<sup>2</sup>, current density  $\approx$  40  $\Box$  A/cm<sup>2</sup> (16  $\Box$ 

 $A/cm^2 \cdot \Box m$ ).



Figure S9. UV-vis spectra of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO**<sub>3</sub>**H**<sub>2</sub> (red line), and following potential scans to 1.1 V (green line), 1.40 V (blue line) and 1.85 V (magenta line) vs NHE. Solution, pH 1 (0.1 M HNO<sub>3</sub>); scan rate, 10 mV/s.



**Figure S10.** Changes in absorbance of ITO|*nano*ITO|**1-PO**<sub>3</sub>**H**<sub>2</sub> at 493 nm and 650 nm with time during a potential step from 0.30 V vs NHE to the potentials indicated in the figure, followed by step backward to 0.30 V. Solution, pH 1 (0.1 M HNO<sub>3</sub>).



**Figure S11.** (a) Spectra evolution of FTO|*nano*TiO<sub>2</sub>|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at pH 1 (0.1 M HNO<sub>3</sub>) during CV scan between 0.2 - 1.1 V. The monitoring wave lengths are  $\lambda_{max} = 493$  nm for Ru<sup>II</sup>-OH<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> (red line), and  $\lambda_{max} = 650$  nm for Ru<sup>III</sup>-OH<sub>2</sub><sup>3+</sup> (blue line). Scan rate, 10 mV/s. *nano*TiO<sub>2</sub>  $\Gamma = 5.3 \times 10^{-8}$  mol/cm<sup>2</sup> (10  $\Box$  m, 5.3 × 10<sup>-9</sup> mol/cm<sup>2</sup>· $\Box$  m). Only ~8% of the available sites were electroactive

as calculated from the absorption decrease at  $\lambda_{max} = 493$  nm during 10 mV/s cyclic scan. (b) Absorbance change (493 nm) of FTO|TiO<sub>2</sub>|**1-PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>** at pH 1 (0.1 M HNO<sub>3</sub>) with potential hold at 0.95 V vs NHE past  $E_{1/2}$  for Ru<sup>III</sup>-OH<sub>2</sub><sup>3+</sup>/Ru<sup>II</sup>-OH<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup> couple.