Directed aldol reactions are a variation of the crossed aldol reaction. The enolate is prepared with one carbonyl compound using LDA. This causes the other carbonyl compound to be the electrophile. Even though both components have alpha hydrogens only one acts as an enolate because it is formed with LDA. Then an unsymmetrical ketone is used the LDA will selectively form the less substituted enolate.

**Contributors**

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