Acid Anhydrides react with alcohols to form esters

General Reaction
Reactions of anhydrides use Pyridine as a solvent

Example 1:

Mechanism
1) Nucleophilic Attack by the Alcohol

2) Deprotonation by pyridine
3) Leaving group removal

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{R-O-C-R} & \quad \text{R-O-C-R} + \text{O-C-R} \\
\end{align*}
\]

4) Protonation of the carboxylate

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{R-O-C-R} & \quad \text{R-O-C} + \text{H-PYR} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Contributors

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