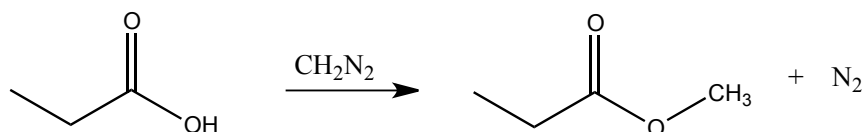


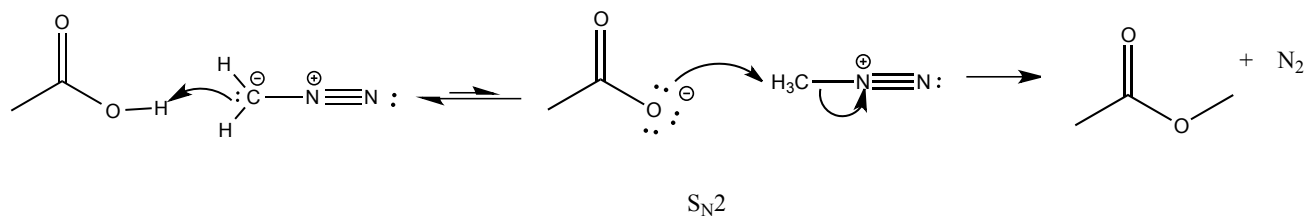
**Chem 345 - Organic Reactions Chapter 20**  
*Prepared by José Laboy, MS*  
[http: www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc](http://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc) (Resource page)

Methyl Esters from Carboxylic Acids

Reaction:



Mechanism:



Diazomethane,  $\text{CH}_2\text{N}_2$ , a gas readily reacts with carboxylic acids to produce methyl esters. Diazomethane has two resonance structures, shown below.

