

## NITROGEN

- $N_2$  unreactive  $\because N \equiv N$  ↑ bond dissociation enthalpy.
- 78% atmosphere
- \*  $NO_2^-$ ,  $NO_3^-$  → Nitric acid essential for plants ( $NO_3^-$  for proteins)
- **Ammonia:**
  - Lewis base due to lp, Bronsted-Lowry base as can pick up  $H^+$
  - produced by (1) ammonium salt + NaOH ← stronger base.
  - (2) nitrate + aluminium foil + NaOH + Heat
- reacts w/ acids to form ammonium salts. ONLY no  $H_2O$  formed!
- $4 NH_3(g) + 3 O_2(g) \rightarrow 2 N_2(g) + 6 H_2O(g)$  \* pure  $O_2$
- **Haber process:** →  $NH_3 + 2 O_2 \rightarrow HNO_3 + H_2O$  \* atmospheric  $O_2$
- $N_2(g) + 3 H_2(g) \rightleftharpoons 2 NH_3(g)$   $\Delta H = -92 \text{ kJ/mol}$
- Conditions → 200 atm (pressure ↑, rate ↑, yield ↑, but \$)
- 450 °C (exo,  $\therefore$  low temp = yield ↑, but need to have compromise temp or rate too low)
- iron (rate ↑, lower  $E_a$ )
- remove product as it forms  $\Rightarrow$  force eqm to the right.
- Uses of  $NH_3$  → dyes, explosives, refrigerant, fertilisers, nitric acid

## Eutrophication

- Nitrogen based fertilisers  $H_2O$  soluble
- Nitrates leach out of soil into river,  $\therefore$  encourage algae growth
- Algae growth use up  $O_2$ , submerged plants X carry out photosynthesis
- Aquatic animals die due to lack of  $O_2$
- called eutrophication.

## Nitrogen oxides, $NO_x$

- $NO$ ,  $N_2O$ ,  $NO_2$  } formed during burning of fossil fuels.   
 high temp provides  $E_a$
  - photochemical smog, breathing problems.
  - removed in catalytic converters →  $CO \rightarrow CO_2$
  - lead from leaded petrol 'poisons' catalysts  $NO_x \rightarrow N_2$
  - unburnt hydrocarbons →  $CO_2 + H_2O$
  - $NO$  catalyses break down of ozone.
- catalyst: palladium  
rhodium  
platinum