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Polymer-incarcerated gold nanoclusters catalyze the aerobic oxidation of various alcohols to aldehydes and ketones under ambient conditions. As described by S. Kobayashi and co-workers in their Communication on page 4151 ff., the nanoclusters were prepared by microencapsulation of gold in a copolymer based on polystyrene followed by cross-linking. The oxidation reactions catalyzed by the nanoclusters proceed without heating, with only molecular oxygen consumed and water generated as the sole side product.

