

## CONCEPT: LAW OF MULTIPLE PROPORTIONS

- In 1804, the English chemist John Dalton, originated the **Law of Multiple Proportions** based on his Atomic Theory.
  - “When 2 elements (A & B) form different compounds, the mass of Element B that combine with 1 g of A are a ratio of whole numbers.”

**EXAMPLE:** Illustrate how nitrogen monoxide, NO, and nitrogen dioxide, NO<sub>2</sub>, obey the Law of Multiple Proportions.

**STEP 1:** Find the **atomic masses** of each element from the Periodic Table.

7 <b>N</b> Nitrogen 14.01	8 <b>O</b> Oxygen 16.00
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**STEP 2:** Multiply together the **number** of each element with their **atomic masses** from the Periodic Table.

$$\text{NO} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{--- N} \times 14.01 \text{ g/mol} = \\ \text{--- O} \times 16.00 \text{ g/mol} = \end{array}$$

$$\text{NO}_2 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{--- N} \times 14.01 \text{ g/mol} = \\ \text{--- O} \times 16.00 \text{ g/mol} = \end{array}$$

**STEP 3:** Determine the mass ratio of each compound.

- Recall, for the mass ratio you should place the element with the \_\_\_\_\_ **atomic mass** on the top.

$$\text{NO} \quad \text{Mass Ratio} = \frac{\text{g O}}{\text{g N}} =$$

$$\text{NO}_2 \quad \text{Mass Ratio} = \frac{\text{g O}}{\text{g N}} =$$

**STEP 4:** If the Law of Multiple Proportions is being followed then the ratio of both mass ratios should give a whole number.

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**PRACTICE:** Which of the following is an example of the Law of Multiple Proportions?

- A sample of chlorine is found to contain three times as much Cl-35 as Cl-37.
- Two different compounds formed from carbon and oxygen have the following mass ratios: 1.33 g O to 1 g C and 2.66 g O to 1 g C.
- Two different samples of table salt are found to have the same ratio of sodium to chlorine.
- The atomic mass of bromine is found to be 79.90 amu.
- Nitrogen dioxide always has a mass ratio of 2.28 g O to 1 g N.