

Synopsis

Make your own custom-tailored and perfectly formed cold-process soaps! Learn how to use milk jugs and yogurt containers for molds, and how coffee, avocado, and even beer can add unique dimensions to your creations. This encouraging introduction to the art of soapmaking makes it simple to master the techniques you need to safely and easily produce your own enticingly fragrant soaps.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Twenty years ago, Faiola made her first batch of soap. What began as a hobby turned into a successful business selling both handmade soap and soapmaking supplies. In her first book, Faiola provides a comprehensive guide to producing cold-process soap. After a brief overview of the chemistry of soapmaking, she dives into supplies and safety and provides a basic recipe for crafters who can't wait to get started. Once novices have a few batches of soap under their belts, they can try one of the 30 variations described. Each recipe includes step-by-step directions and photographs. Further information, including videos of the soapmaking process, is available at the author's website. VERDICT Faiola's enthusiasm for her subject is apparent, and with her guidance, beginners will easily take to this craft. • • "Library Journal" • • "If you love soapmaking, you'll love this book. If you don't love soapmaking, get this book and you soon will!" • • "Ruth Esteves, Owner and Chief Soapmaker, Sirona Springs Handmade Soap

Creative, Inspired Soapmaking Use colors, oils, and scents you love to create beautiful soaps that you can enjoy yourself, give as gifts, or even sell. Anne-Marie Faiola, The Soap Queen, makes cold-process soapmaking accessible and fun with complete descriptions of the entire process, from selecting your oils to staying safe when working with lye. Full-color step-by-step visuals lead you through 31 recipes that introduce swirling color effects, natural exfoliating additives, and much more.

Okay, I was incredibly psyched to get this book, and when I received it, you couldn't tear me away from it for hours. I read the entire thing, making notes all over it for actual application. The only other soap book I had read up to that point was Basic Soap Making, which is really helpful, but I was ready to up my game. The beautiful and stunning directives in this book really turned on my inner creativity, and I was ready to get to business. However, the actual application of the techniques are not as seamless as one would expect. I immediately tried two different recipes from this book. The first was the "pumpkin swirl" recipe. Then I tried the coffee soap recipe. Both of them had the exact same problem, and I will try my best to walk you through the issue. Firstly, I only used the EXACT ingredients listed by the author, who incidentally owns Brambleberry, which she guiltlessly plugs every chance she gets. The fragrance oils and specialty ingredients you can only get at Brambleberry. The delivery time is unbelievably long, so expect to wait at least a week before you can do any of the recipes you have saved up with those specialty ingredients. I waited a week and a half for one fragrance oil, which was supposedly in stock, but they didn't ship until 5 days after my order placed. I decided to start with the pumpkin recipe because it was one of the easier color techniques. It's a basic swirl made by pouring, and I've had enough soap success to figure I could do that one easily. However, I failed at this recipe SIX times. I followed it to the T, when I started looking online for help. Then I emailed Anne-Marie herself at Brambleberry. The problem was the same in every batch. As soon as I added the fragrance oil, the soap seized. I tried every single trick in the book to prevent this. I made sure both the oils and lye solution were the exact same temp of 115 degrees. I tried adding the FO before the Lye. I tried whisking boiling water as I added the FO. Nothing worked. I even joined an online forum and tried all their suggestions. In the end, I emailed Brambleberry, explaining I was using a recipe from their book with all the exact ingredients in the exact method they had suggested and my recipe wasn't working at all. Unfortunately, the person that responded only repeated that I try the methods I already told them I had tried. When I responded that maybe they should actually read my email and try again, they suggested I use a different FO, even though it was THEIR FO that the recipe called for. Sigh. Also, the most useful part of the whole book, aside from color techniques, is an in-depth look at the properties of the oils used

in soap making. I found this section extremely useful. However, I noticed that in several recipes, Anne-Marie broke her own rules for using the oils. For instance, not using more than 25% palm oil in any recipe. In the recipe I was having trouble with, the palm oil was being used at 31%. After I adjusted the recipe based on the rules and used a completely different FO (from another company - wholesalesuppliesplus.com), I didn't have any more issues. Basically, the recipes are a nice starting point, but you might check the percentages and double-check the suggested FO to make sure it doesn't accelerate trace. To use the beautiful color patterns listed in the book, you need to have the longest trace possible to give you time to work. In general, I feel that this book is a great addition to my soap-making library, but certainly NOT the definitive book on soap making. A nice guideline for techniques, but not perfection in recipes.

After reading this book, I felt that, while it was a reasonable book on soap making, it did not add much new material of significance to the current soap making literature. There are a number of recipes included within this book, but not much explanation as to why different oils were used in each recipe and why a particular combination was used. The section on new/unique swirls was interesting, but I do wish the author had gone into more detail on what molds were used for which swirls and the limitations of each. I feel like this is a section where the author could have really pushed this book beyond what others have published, but alas, that did not turn out to be the case. Overall, this is a fine general soap crafting book that does focus on the coloring techniques that are now popular. However, these techniques can be found with a simple Google search, and I'm not sure that having them in book form is really worth the purchase of this book.

I have never made soap before and am in the beginning stages of buying what I need and reading everything I can. I have bought and read several different books for beginners which basically all have the same information. This book covers soap making techniques, equipment needed, and safety guidelines. It covers different oils and what percentages are recommended. It has step by step cold-process with tips throughout. It has a section on choosing colorants, using essential oils and fragrances, using different items for molds, exploring additives (ie. coffee grounds, oatmeal etc), making swirls in soap and using different colors together. It is very easy reading and well written. I think this book will be a great tool when I begin making soap and will be very useful as I become more experienced!

I got this book as a beginner, there are better books for beginners out there, this one is so focused

on colors and such it was a bit overwhelming (especially since dyes can be so pricey and when you are just starting out you just want a successful bar). It is a nice book when you get going and you have most of your supplies already and have been tinkering around. If you are beginning...it's not terrible, just a lot to take in.

This book was written by the owner of the soap supply store Brambleberry.com. I found it very fun and comprehensive. There are a lot of recipes, showcasing a lot of different techniques, in various batch sizes. The author does use products sold in her own store. (If I had a store, I'd totally do the same thing- just good business marketing.) I already shop with them, so it's not biggie to me. Also, if you are remotely resourceful, it isn't difficult to look at the recipe and figure out what good substitutes/equivalents would be from other suppliers. There isn't a ton of explanation on figuring things out from scratch, though the info is there if you're paying attention. There is a whole section, for example, on different oils, what they add to the bar, and what ratios they are generally used at. As a totally new soaper, I was able to use this info and maybe a week of other Internet research to make my second batch in my own formulation, which was a big success. There are a lot of colored photographs of the soaps, so you get a visual of what you're going for, and every recipe has detailed step-by-step instructions. I'm kind of picky about e-books. If I get one that I feel isn't what I expected, is overpriced for what it contains, or doesn't meet my needs, I'll return it without a second thought. This one is staying.

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