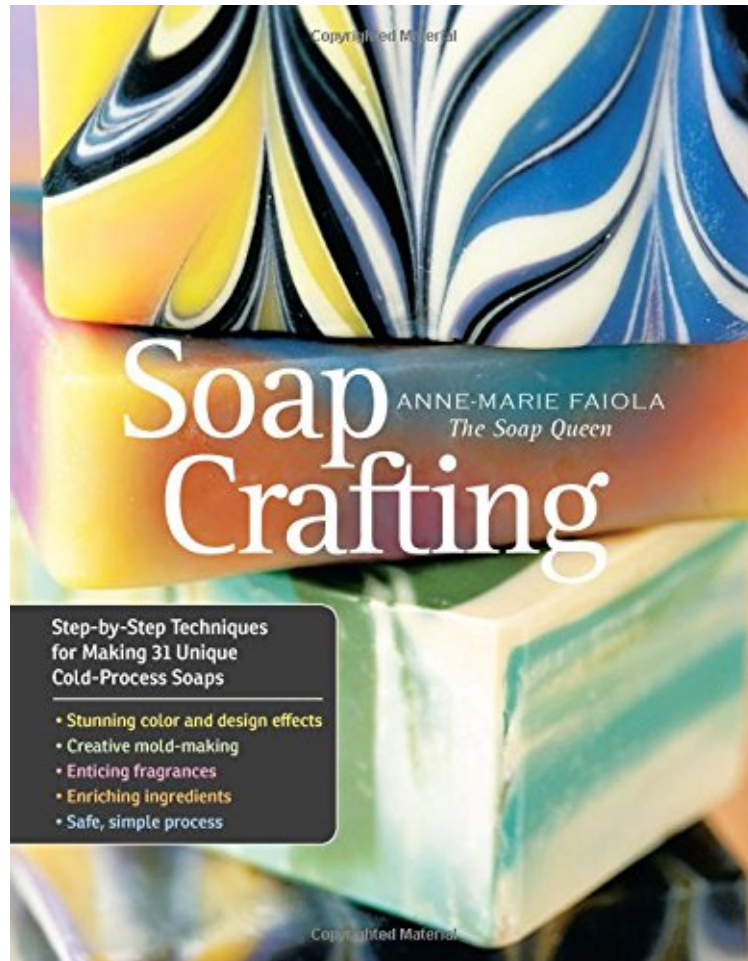


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## Soap Crafting: Step-by-Step Techniques for Making 31 Unique Cold-Process Soaps

Anne-Marie Faiola

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**Anne-Marie Faiola : Soap Crafting: Step-by-Step Techniques for Making 31 Unique Cold-Process Soaps** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soap Crafting: Step-by-Step Techniques for Making 31 Unique Cold-Process Soaps:

375 of 388 people found the following review helpful. Good in theory...By Jessica J.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.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Now I understand !!

By Alecia I became interested in making soap and attended 2 soaping seminars. Even then I could not understand the "mystery" of making soap. I purchased this book because Anne Marie Faiola was one of the speakers at the first seminar I attended. She was delightful and very friendly. This book explains in detail the different ingredients and the reasons for using them. It has detailed photos showing from start to finish each step in making soap. She explains the differences in oils the SAP value of each. There is also a chapter on safety, you are using LYE which is a dangerous chemical, which I found very helpful. I have not tried all the recipes but have found the book to be of great value because of its detail and explanations. She presented soap making on a level I could understand. Yes she does own Bramble Berry, good for her, but I did not find that she pushed her products or company.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative

By WickedStorme I liked how the book explained and instructed you on how to make soap, especially with including the pictures of how the finished product would look. Also, liked that they give you resources to follow up with, so that you can farther understand and learn how to make soap of your own. Very happy with this book and its resources!!

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.

"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 authors website.

VERDICT Faiola's enthusiasm for her subject is apparent, and with her guidance, beginners will easily take to this craft. Library Journal