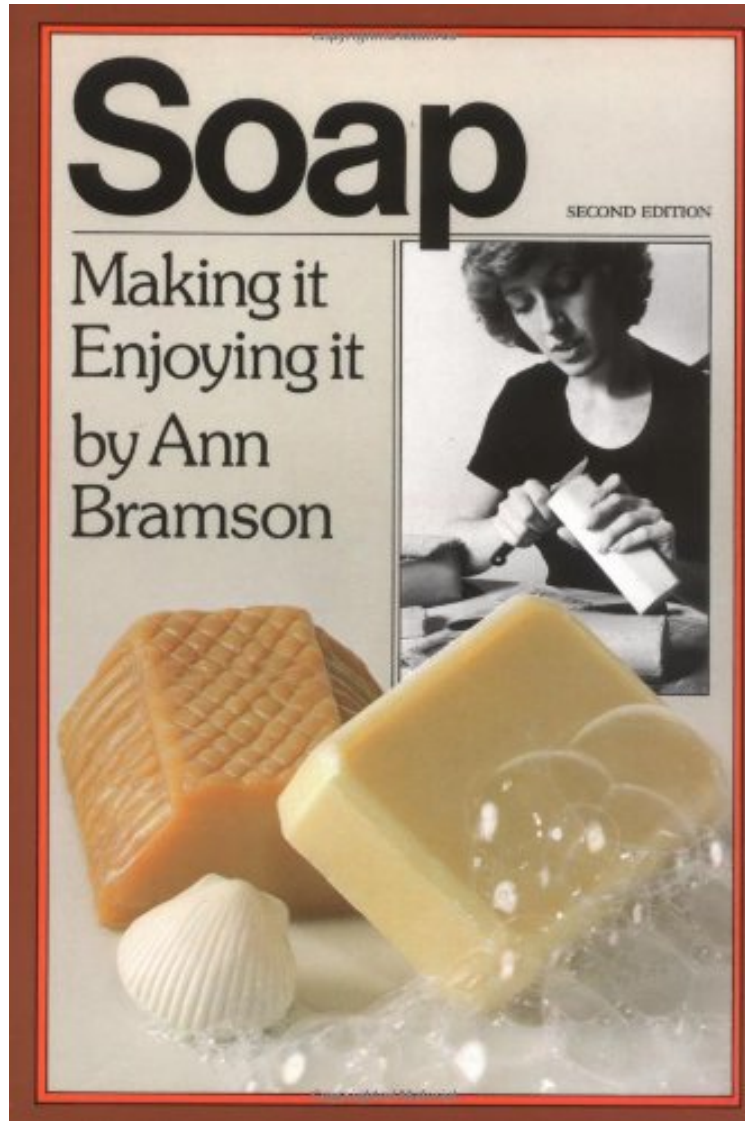


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Soap: Making It, Enjoying It

Ann Bramson

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Ann Bramson : Soap: Making It, Enjoying It before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soap: Making It, Enjoying It:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Been around a LOOONG time.By Elyssanda DesertsongSoapBy Ann BramsonOne of the first soapmaking books available, and still a classic. This is homemade soapmaking from true scratch, including directions on rendering your own tallow from beef fat.Good points:*The very last pages are a grid on oils and their basic characteristics and what properties they will lend to the soaps.* There is a fairly good section on

blending scents with 10 recipes for scent blends.* The section for special soaps has some info on how to change the basic recipes into soaps which would be more to your liking.* I enjoyed reading the digressions section. It contained soapmaking history as well as having a nice section on early advertising of soaps from the late 1800's to the early 1900's. The trouble shooting section, while having some good ideas for basic problems, is now a bit outdated. Most soapmakers nowadays don't have much of a problem with separations, curdling, or long trace times due to the fact that we've (...) bought our lifesaving handy dandy stickblenders. Safety issues are covered fairly well, but we have also learned better and safer ways of mixing our lye and water.** I do have a problem with the fact that while Ms. Bramson does mention the use of protective gloves for safety, she then freely admits she'd rather risk a small lye burn rather than wear them. A bit dated, but still a good reference book, and one that helped me in a history class. 12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Great for its time....but...By G. M. MCNAIR...times have changed. That being said, I love this book....it's the book that got artisan soaping started and she has some lovely recipes. Her recipes do make good soap. Unfortunately, the last edition of this book was published in 1975. Methods have changed, safety precautions have changed (she didn't wear gloves because a lye burn was easier to deal with than the limited movement....WRONG....wear the gloves). She also adds water to the lye...this is inviting a volcano....just don't do it. On the plus side, there are great ideas for "found" molds, great ideas for shaping and sculpting your soap, and an interesting (if verbose) history of soap. I would recommend it for its historical value and great soap recipes, but invest in a more modern volume for your first attempts. Alicia Grosso and Anne Watson's books are up-to-date, safe, and much more friendly for the soaping newbie. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Meh...By SuzanneIt's okay, but not as I expected. I never made any soap with it. There was only one really mild one that I could have made but never did. Maybe it's just cheaper to buy soap.

How to make beautiful gift soaps at home with instructions for coloring, scenting, molding, and carving. Selection of the Better Homes Gardens Family Book Service. 140,000 copies in print.

About the Author ANN BRAMSON Ann Bramson was recently named Publisher of Artisan Books, a division of Workman Publishing. Prior to that, she was VP and Senior Editor at William Morrow Company. In the course of her career, she has worked with such major cookbook writers as Julia Child (Baking with Julia), Jacques Pepin (La Technique, La Methode, The Short-Cut Cook), Craig Claiborne (Elements of Etiquette, Craig Claiborne's Favorites), Barbara Kafka (Roasting, Party Food, Microwave Gourmet) and Guiliano Bugialli (Classic Techniques of Italian Cooking). She has published many chefs, bakers, and restaurateurs among them Paul Prudhomme, Larry Forgione, Biba Caggiano, Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken, Joyce Goldstein, Jim Peterson, Nancy Silverton, Amy Scherber, Jeremiah Tower, and Chris Schlesinger and has been instrumental in producing major works under the imprimaturs of such diverse institutions as Good Housekeeping and Le Cordon Bleu.