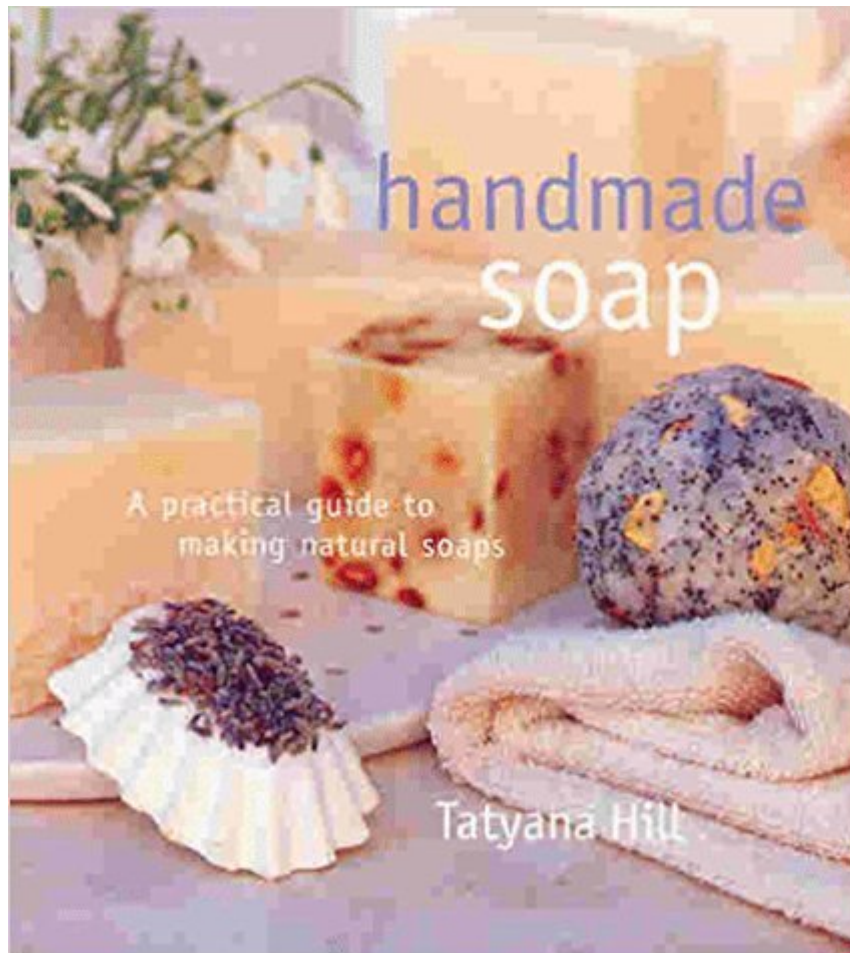




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Handmade Soap: A Practical Guide To Making Natural Soaps



Synopsis

In this book you will find the inspiration and know how to make natural yet elegant soaps. This book is a perfect introduction to the art of natural soap making with step by step instructions and photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tatyana Hill studied art and design at the University of Syracuse in New York. In 1993 she moved to London where she started an interior design company. Fascinated with natural body care, but unable to find products for her clients that were both aesthetically pleasing and completely natural, she developed a unique range of handmade toiletries herself, using only natural ingredients. Today, her line, Savonnerie, is one of the most popular and sought-after brands of natural soaps and other skincare products in the United Kingdom.

This book is what I had hoped for - a book with more advanced soapmaking ideas (i.e. not a beginners book like the majority of soapmaking books) and lovely photos. I do agree with the previous reviewer that the author's toppings could be hard on one's drains - one soap has large chunks of dried seaweed in it. Another has a solid layer of cloves stuck into the top. Another is topped with a layer of rosebuds. Pretty but definitely something you would need to remove before using. I've topped soap with orange slices before so I'm not opposed to the idea - just think that her ideas maybe go farther than I would. My question is how does she make such nice looking soap

balls? I've tried rolling freshly made soap in botanicals (dried parsley, dried rose petals, calendula petals) and I've also tried making them with freshly grated rebatched soap. In both cases the botanicals look pretty for a short while then quickly discolor and aren't pretty any longer. Anyone? Also, her goatmilk soap although pretty in the photo (looks like a round of cheese), looks like something I would reject as being lye heavy or cut too late and so dry and crumbly. I worry about including a photo like that since a soap that appears that way should make the soapmaker concerned that the soap may be unsafe.

This is a lovely book, with unusual and inspiring modifications to the basic soap recipe. The instructions are concise and well written, the photos throughout are enticing, and weights are given in ounces and grams. Necessary equipment and supplies are pictured and described, which adds much to the appeal of this book. While I would not recommend the addition of excessive botanicals to the soaps, one may want to consider adding GSE, or other preservatives, in proper proportion as needed. I have found adding powdered milk and other dry products at trace to be most convenient. Overall a delightful and quality publication.

It's a beautiful book with lots of charming ideas if you are a soapmaker. Didn't recommend for beginners. But very useful for those who know how to do it.

I was a little disappointed in this book. I was looking for tips and ideas, and the majority of the book is recipes. But if that's what you are looking for, then the book is beautifully done, and the photographs are great.

Handmade Soap by Tatyana Hill There are three basic soap recipes given in this book and 14 variations. Measurements are in both metric and American Standard. -Note: while I have not tried any of these variations, some of them do sound interesting. Ms. Hill has a listing of nine natural colorants, but she does not explain what these colorants will do in a finished soap. Safety issues are dealt with fairly well, but I personally wouldn't recommend using vinegar to clean lye flakes off of your skin. Rinse well with running water, but using vinegar in a lye flake that is sitting on naked skin will hurt more than the lye bead by itself. Use the vinegar to clean up lye on your counters, not your skin. In the back of the book there is a short list of suppliers in the UK, USA, and Australia. It is not a big list, but it is a place to start. Overall, an ok book, but it is a bit lacking in information.

This is the most unique and interesting book on handmade soap I have read. The recipes are all innovative and original and the pictures are the best. The book also successful in providing helpful step by step how to pictures that none of the other books I have seen provide. Hill's book is a welcome change from the various others that are copies of one another or seem to take one recipe and duplicate it from one page to the next with a few slight changes on scent or colour. The recipes are also 100% natural which I found refreshing. I would also like to refute another review from a soap maker from San Francisco that is more of an attack on the style of soap that Hill produces than a valid criticism. Hill's soap is a specific original style placing emphasis on natural ingredients as well as high emphasis the decorative presentation of the soap. As a soap maker I have produced soap successfully with even more botanical matter than Hill suggests with great skin conditioning results. If soap is dried and cured properly bacteria will not result any more than it would in a basic soap. The comment about clogging up drains from botanical matter is preposterous! Only small amounts of additives (oatmeal for example) come off of a bar of soap with each use and can wash easily down the waste pipes (far greater amounts of solid waste go down our kitchen and toilet waste pipes every day.) Perhaps the Californian just is not used to this innovative style of English soap making? As Hill is in a position as a professional soap maker with her obviously successful soap company Savonnerie that most of us would love to be in, she must be doing something right! BRAVO

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