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Mike Hulbert : Handmade Soap: Recipes For Crafting Soap At Home (Country Living) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Handmade Soap: Recipes For Crafting Soap At Home (Country Living):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Good Book - But it could be betterBy D. SmithleyI had checked this book out from the library, decided to make soap , so I bought a copy. I wanted to make the goats milk soap, but the goats milk must have been a little too warm and the batch curdled. I also wanted to make the camouflage soap for the hunter's in my family. Here is the issue, it may seem like a dumb question, but, the recipe calls for 16 ounces of water boiling and poured over the tree bark. I did that, but I only got 9 ounces back after straining. Should you add more water so you have 16 oz. to mix with the lye, or use only the 9 oz you get after straining? Other than that it is all fairly clear. Good luck soap makers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, great find,By Carolyn H. Van NormanI already had this book. I told a friend about it and how simple the recipes were. I then had to order it for her too! She was thrilled!This book was delivered in the time frame promised and in great condition.3 of 3

people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, great pictures, sources for supplies. By A Customer I have read many soapmaking books and this one is one of the best! It has many recipes with great pictures. Although it lacks a lot of the technical information needed to fully understand the soapmaking process, such as SAP charts, it is the book to get if you already have experience.

There are really just two ways to make soap -- the cold process and glycerin -- but there are literally thousands of ways to make that soap delightful. Beautifully colored and shaped soap is a joy to use; grainy soap is studded with sand or poppyseeds in an amazingly effective hand cleaner; and pure translucent glycerin soap is as gentle as it is clear. Shaping, coloring and mixing in additives are all covered in details. Soap, cut or molded into bars, squares, balls, domed bars, and round, is a joy to behold. Precious handmade soap can be personalized as gifts for the bride, for a newborn, or for a birthday by embossing a monogram onto the bar. Colors from subtle to pulsating add another dimension. Ingredients such as violet petals or coffee grounds create soaps that soothe and scrub. Sentimental soap made with May's lavender blooms is so romantic in November; pine scented soaps warm the month of December. Handmade soap is a gift that says comfort, relaxation, and a treat for the senses -- for oneself or for a friend.

Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Basic Recipe One A mild, off-white Castille-type soap, this soap curves into nice hard bars that produce lots of exploding lather. It is an excellent all-purpose soap and a good choice for hand-milling recipes because it is so versatile: you can remold this recipe into both body bars (see Chapter Two) and soaps for domestic use (see Chapter Three). 14 ounces tepid water 6 ounces lye 12 ounces coconut oil 8 ounces of palm oil 20 ounces olive oil 1. Prepare the mold 2. Blend the water and lye. Set aside and cool to 100 degrees F. 3. Melt the coconut and palm oils. Blend in the olive oil and wither heat or cool to 100 degrees F. 4. Once the temperatures match, blend the lye solution into the oils. 5. Stir the mixture until the soap traces. At trace, pour into the prepared mold. 6. Leave the soap to set for 4 to 8 hours, or until the soap is solid and firm to the touch. Release the soap from the mold and allow to cure for 6 to 8 weeks. Copyright 1998 by Hearst Books