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From Morse-Brown Publishing; Second Edition edition (2012-11-20) : Make your own soap (2nd Edition): A full-colour, step-by-step, photographic guide to making soap. by Joy James (2012) Paperback before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Make your own soap (2nd Edition): A full-colour, step-by-step, photographic guide to making soap. by Joy James (2012) Paperback:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. At Least the Pictures Were PrettyBy Kindle CustomerBuy this "book" and all you will be paying for are very pretty pictures. I can only assume the other two reviewers (on whose information I used in determining to purchase this book) were friends of the author.First, this wasn't a book. At only 6" in height and a whopping 48 pages it's more like a glossy pamphlet. And even then I would have given it a pass, had this pamphlet contain more than 3 soap recipes. You heard right. For \$12 you get a lot of very glossy pictures and three recipes. And don't expect there to be any special tidbits about coloring, layering, swirling or different processes either, because apparently the author thought 3 very BASIC recipes and a bunch of pics were enough to warrant the price.1 star for the nice photos, but really, I could've gotten pics from google for free. I feel ripped off.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for the beginner soapmakerBy Amanda G.I loved this book. Joy James did a fabulous job in breaking down the how-to's of soapmaking. She even included some elusive tips that I wished I would have known when first starting out. For example...she mentions how soap made with goat's milk will have that funky smell when first cut. Oh how I wish someone would have told me that when I made my first batch of goat's milk

soap! She goes over the history of soap making, safety, equipment, oil properties, additives, fragrances, coloring and more! She provides three recipes including a palm free recipe that I can't wait to try out! At the end of the book is a glossary and a very helpful trouble shooting guide. I have several soap making books and this one (BY FAR) has the best step by step photos. The photos are beautiful from the cover of the book to the end of the book. There are some wonderful photos of trace and gel phase...something some books only explain but it really does help to see it. So whether you are new to soap making or are a seasoned veteran I really think that this book is a great addition to a soap maker's collection. The photography alone makes it worth the purchase.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction to soapmaking

By greatcakesoap This book really is a fabulous little starter for someone who wants to make their first batch of soap. It includes plenty of history, helpful hints, and most importantly: PHOTOS! Out of all four soapmaking books I currently own, this is the first one that has step-by-step photos of the entire process. It even has an actual picture of what trace looks like. This could have saved me from re-batching the very first batch I ever made back in November 2002!

There are three different beginner soap recipes - including a palm-free one with reasons why some soapmakers choose not to use palm oil. The author gives ideas of where to buy ingredients as well - although she lives in the UK, and most of the resources included are from there with a few others from various other countries. There is a glossary of soapmaking terms and a short section on troubleshooting. All very well put-together and easy to read.