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Melinda Coss : Natural Soap: Techniques and Recipes for Beautiful Handcrafted Soaps, Lotions, and Balms by Melinda Coss (2013-07-09) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Natural Soap: Techniques and Recipes for Beautiful Handcrafted Soaps, Lotions, and Balms by Melinda Coss (2013-07-09):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Meh... Incorrect recipes abound. There are better books out there. By Erika L Macaw While the book itself is lovely, there are some errors and it's just not possible to make the soaps, creams, etc like the pictures show with the given directions. Colors aren't even in the same rhelm and even an experienced soapmaker (which I am) would be hard pressed to get the results in the pictures as described as I believe they're heavily photoshopped. This is not to say they can't be achieved, but these details are left out for the new soapmaker. When I got this book several years ago, I adored it as I was just beginning in soap making, however I had many problems with getting well emulsified creams, lotions, etc with her given ewax amounts. I also had soaps that were way too cleansing. For example, in one cream recipe she writes for 32 gm of butters/oils total and only 4 gm ewax and 2gm cetyl alcohol. This is definitely not enough ewax and was the reason my creams never stayed emulsified for any length of time with her recipes. The amount of emulsifier should almost always be 25% of your oils portion. Now I know the soap recipes are meh, but they do 'sound' lovely. If you love the idea of using extreme specialty oils for personal use (these would be way to expensive to ever make into sellable items), this might be nice,

however many of the recipes have oils like 'watermelon', baobab, etc that are very spendy and not easy to come by for an authentic version. She does give alternatives in some recipes, but you're left feeling like you're missing out if you aren't using the original stated. As far as scenting any of these products, you will not get any scent in your soap at her recommended ratios. While many of the blends are lovely, her amounts are minuscule and don't come through the cold process at all, especially any that contain citrus which isn't mentioned at all. Citrus in general is wasted in cold process unless you use 10x or 5x orange, lemon, or litsea cubeba. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice book - but double check the math. By GFJen Lots of good info and lovely photos. Interesting recipes not found elsewhere (looking forward to trying the Fig Honey one someday). Word of caution - double check the math on figuring out how much lye is needed when creating your own recipes. She says that 20oz of oil equals 500g, which works out to 25g/oz. Last I knew, the conversion was closer to 28.35g/oz. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice book for your soap crafting collection. By Customer Beautiful pictures. Nice recipes, I have tried a few. There are a few recipes with ingredients that I don't think you can get in the United States. But I enjoy learning about the different soap recipes anyway.