

MAKERS MANUAL #8

Attua Aparicio



INTRODUCTION

The simplest way to make a bar of soap is to melt the soap base in the microwave, add essential oils, pour the liquid soap into a container, leave it to solidify before taking it out and cutting it to size. By doing this you can make a simple and easy soap. If you want to make multi-coloured wonderful-looking soap and experiment with the moulding process keep reading. This manual intends to give an insight into melt and pour soap making and its possibilities. Use this manual as inspiration rather than a step by step guide.

STEP 1

Cut the soap base into small pieces, put them in the jug and melt them using a microwave. Soap bases melt at around 40-50C. Be careful not to overheat it. Place the jug in the microwave and heat it a few seconds at the time.



1

STEP 2

In a small bowl mix a small amount of colouring agent with a bit of alcohol. Add the colouring agents a little at the time, a tiny bit goes a long way, especially with turmeric and spirulina. Add the mix over the molten soap and stir the mix. In the photo, I added turmeric to clear base soap. If you want to add essential oils now is the time. 5 drops should be enough for a normal sized soap (100g).



2

STEP 3

Pour the coloured soap into a container and let it cool down.

STEP 4

Once cool, take the soap out of the container and cut it into little pieces. You can use a knife to cut it in different shapes (cubes, triangles, stripes...), or experiment with a potato peeler or a grater. In this photo I have used a clear soap base coloured with cocoa powder. Repeat the previous steps for each colour you want to use.



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STEP 5

Choose a container to use as a mould or make one yourself. You can recycle old food packaging, a plastic bag, an ice cube tray etc. Just make sure that it does not leak and that the material of your mould can withstand 60C.



5

STEP 6

Optional: Place some of your coloured bits of soap into the mould.



6

STEP 7

When you are ready to pour, first spray the inside of the mould with a bit of alcohol, this avoids bubbles. Pour molten soap in a contrasting colour. You can try to pour 2 colours simultaneously. Straight after pouring spray the surface of the soap again till the surface bubbles burst.

STEP 8

Do not take the soap out of the mould until it feels cool to the touch.



8

STEP 9

Cut your soap into the final shape. Any offcuts can be remelted or used in another soap.



9

STEP 10

10. If you are not using your soap straight away keep it away from any moisture.

STEP 11

Ready to use!



11



LIST OF THINGS

MATERIALS

- Melt and pour soap base (clear, white or both)
- Colouring agents: cocoa powder (brown), turmeric powder (yellow or orange depending on concentration), spirulina powder (green), activated charcoal (black)
- Exfoliating agents: dried coffee grounds
- Isopropyl alcohol in a spray bottle (ideally)*
- Essential oils*

TOOLS

- Rubber, latex or nitrile gloves
- Microwave (or a pot and a bowl for bain-marie)
- Jugs/jars
- Small bowl for mixing colouring agents
- Containers (empty food packaging)
- Spoons for stirring
- Chopping board
- Chopping knife
- Food thermometer*
- Carving tools*

*Optional

BIO OF THE DESIGNER

Attua Aparicio is a London based multidisciplinary artist working at the intersection of design, craft and art. At the core of her practice lays a very experimental and prejudice free way of understanding and working with materials. She is interested in sustainability, material hybridization and tactility.

Collaborations are a fundamental part of her practice. She co-founded Silo Studio with Oscar Lessing. She also collaborates regularly with her sister and artist Saelia Aparicio.

FURTHER READING

→ Melt & Pour Soapmaking by Marie Browning.

→ 10% Human: How Your Body's Microbes Hold the Key to Health and Happiness. Alanna Collen. A book about how important bacteria is and how our obsession with cleaning is making us sick.

→ Neal's Yard Remedies Recipes for Natural Beauty, Romy Fraser. If you want to make your own natural cosmetics.

Makers Manual is a collaborative project between exciting makers and STORE STORE. Participation is free and no design background is necessary. You can share your creations using #makersmanual. We will pick our favourite submissions and publish the results in a limited printed edition of all of the manuals. Everyone who makes it into the book will receive a free copy.

This project is supported by Coal Drops Yard.

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