

SOAPING NEWS

SOAPING NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

NOVEMBER 12, 2021

FEATURED
THIS WEEK:

INTERVIEW WITH HISAKO, CHAIRMAN OF
THE JAPAN DESIGN SOAP ASSOCIATION

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HISAKO

By Eva Gomez

Hisako is a soap maker from Japan, who is the founder and the chairman of JDSA (Japan Design Soap Association). She is active in Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. She makes amazing designS with transparent and CP soap. We are very happy to welcome Hisako as our guest today.



Hisako, when did you start making soap?

My first soap making was almost 10 years ago when I gave birth to my first son. During my pregnancy, I read a lot of books about what is the best product for babies. Natural products, aromatherapy and baby's food.....There are so many things what I was interested in. Among these, the most interesting thing was the aromatherapy and I realized that the aromatherapy can be used for soap making. I never knew about soap making until that time. Actually, my first son had sensitive skin and had some troubles on his skin. So I decided to try to make my first soap for my son. My first batch was liquid soap using potassium hydroxide. Since then I've been into soap making and I've been learning and making Cold Process soap and M&P soap.

Do you sell your own soaps in Japan or are you a soap instructor?

Actually, soaps that are made by individuals are restricted by the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law. For example, we have to register the place where we make soaps, and have to be inspected whether the place is appropriate or not. The law is very complicated and not easy for my business. But sometimes I can sell my soaps only through OEM. Therefore, I focus on teaching and sharing my knowledge about soap making. Face-to-face classes, online classes and workshops...I've been

often teaching online since the Covid-19 pandemic. So I have so many opportunities to meet new students all over the Japan. I'm always thinking about my students, especially for beginners and kids how should I teach them with so much fun. I'd like to encourage more people to have a pleasant life through my soaps.

You are the founder of the Japan Design Soap Association (JDSA). What is the JDSA?

I've started JDSA as a founder in 2017. Until then, I've worked as an individual instructor and I encouraged my students to get a certificate of soap making through my lessons. The certificate that I set up in 2015 was really popular and I decided to make my own association to expand my works. The reason for setting up JDSA is very simple. This association is intended for women who want to work after being moms. In Japan, there are so many women who are struggling to keep working or lose their jobs after having children. It is difficult to find the nursery, it is not easy to get a nanny (we don't have nanny culture!) ... etc. Honestly, I was also the woman who quitted her job after having a first baby. By that time, I was working in a company as an office employee. That's why I wanted to support women and provide them with opportunities to get involved.

You are a certified JDSA instructor. What is the advantage of having a JDSA certification in Japan? Can your courses be taken by people outside from Japan?

I'll explain about the advantage. There are so many kinds of certifications that including Gemstone soap, Popsicle soap...etc. Once you get our certification, you can teach the



same course at your classroom. And you can also give courses to those who wish to become instructors. Of course, anyone living abroad is welcome to take our courses, if you can prepare an interpreter. We also have some instructors who are English speakers. So please feel free to ask us, if you want to take our courses.

In your social media, we can see that the most part of soaps you made are transparent. You make fantastic amino acid soaps. What is an amino acid soap? How is it made?

Amino acid soap has two characteristics. The first, the pH level is mild acidity. As you know our skin pH level is also mild acidity (pH4.5-6.0). Therefore, the soap is very gentle on the skin.

The second, this soap is the most transparent soap among others. It's very transparent like crystal.

Actually, It took almost a year to achieve this recipe. It was not easy to make this recipe.

The transparency, the ingredients and how to make it easy...I've ordered some ingredients from overseas and I've done the soap making again and again, so it took long time to make it this soap base. But as a result, I was able to achieve the complete recipe of amino acid soap.

Now, the soap base is on sale through our online shop.

We're also sharing the recipe HOW TO MAKE AMINO ACID SOAP as a complete guide lesson. The English version is

also available, so if you are interested, please visit our website! Today, the international order is getting more, it's our first experience to send our materials to oversea. We're glad to see you through our online shop.

You are also a regular member of the Soap Challenge Club of Amy Warden. Which is the technique that you learnt there that you like the most? Why?

My favorite techniques are about the transparent soap (Sep/2021), the soap dough and the soap frosting. The Soap Challenge Club always gives me great opportunities that interact with so many Soapmakers all over the world. In addition, not only learning about new techniques or designs, but also I can always challenge myself. I believe the most important thing is keep challenging.

You have also tried CP soap. What is better for the skin CP soap or transparent soap?

Honestly, both soaps are good for the skin. But I think amino acid soap is better on skin than CP soap. Of course, CP soap is known as a good skin care soap anywhere in the world that made by natural ingredients. This is good for the skin and good cleanser for skin.



However, amino acid soap is similar to the pH of the human skin. And the fundamental amino acids are natural moisturizing factors for skin. This is why the texture of amino acid soap is rich in hydration and mild.

I love your TikTok and YouTube videos, how did you come up to the idea of making your own channel?

Thank you for watching my social media!

I'm always trying to look for trends, not just the soap market. I think it's very important for me to keep my eyes open and be interested in others for what they want or like. And then, I try to put them into my soap world. I come up with my idea from the trends, foods and shops (such as a dollar store). Because these are familiar to everyone. But I don't forget to put my originality into them.

What is your favorite soap making technique and why?

This is a good question! It's not easy to choose only one technique. Since I've started to make gemstone soaps, I love to try to create transparency in gemstone soaps. Because once the soap gets a really good transparency, I feel like I can make real gemstones. To create transparency, I'm using so many techniques such as making marble or assembling parts. I'm sharing almost my

soap making technique in my YouTube channel. I'm always thinking about how should I create new technique that everyone can use it and make it easy.

Apart from making soap, what do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I like reading some books or listen to music for relax. Art books, Cookbooks, Business books such as marketing or website... I think reading a book inspired me a great deal.

And I have 3 kids (all boys!), so I spend time with drawing, coloring or art crafting with my kids. Actually, I often come up with new ideas when I spend time with my kids. Because the kids have a great imagination that sometimes we (adults) can't get in our brains. So I want to say thank you for my 3 boys giving me amazing inspiration!

I'd like people to be happy through my soap making, so I try not to forget the moments when I feel happiness in my free time. Feeling happiness is the most beautiful time in our life, and I'd like to keep this beautiful moment and I'd love to create the moments in my soap making.

Thanks so much Hisako!



