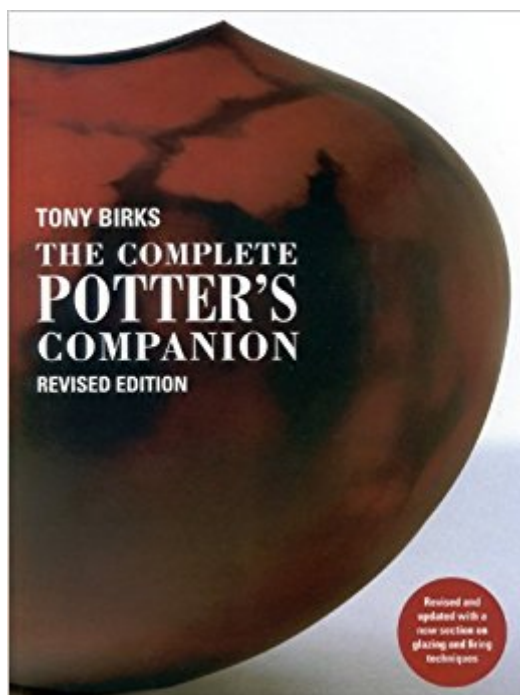


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# The Complete Potter's Companion



## Synopsis

This all new, revised, and updated edition of Tony Birks's classic "Potter's Companion" includes:

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Bulfinch; Rev Sub edition (April 1, 1998)

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## Customer Reviews

Tony Birks is internationally renowned in the field. He writes for Ceramic Monthly and wrote Bernard Leach, Hamada and Their Circle, and The Complete Potter's Companion.

I am finding this book to be an excellent resource for techniques and ideas as I begin my exploration in to the world of clay. Mr. Birks' style of writing is conversational and thought provoking, offering examples of the successes and failures possible in the pottery studio. The photography is excellent and is well complimented to the writing. Various techniques in throwing, building and surface treatment are depicted and explained, along with examples of finished pieces that offer a realistic goal for beginning and advanced beginning potters. The information on glazing and firing is clearly explained without being simplistic. I find the sections on glazing it to be an excellent primer on what can be a very technical and confusing aspect of the process. Plus, the author provides several glaze recipes for different types of ware and firing atmospheres. Mr. Birks also includes a section on setting up your own pottery studio. Good advice for room layout, design and equipment is offered, with an explanation that a basic setup is all that's necessary to make good pottery. If you are a beginner or advanced beginner potter, looking for a good resource that can be used for self-teaching or as a supplement to class instruction, I highly recommend this book.

I had borrowed this book a few times from the library before deciding I needed my own reference copy. As a beginning potter (started 2 years ago), I was happy to see photos of correct wedging technique to prepare clay. I am now having some success with coiling, and the photos and explanations open up a world of possibilities. Now, I'm paying attention to the glazing and other decorating techniques such as sgraffito and painting with slip. All have lovely, helpful color photos as a guide. I'll be learning from this book for years.

I purchased this book based on previous reviews and was not disappointed! I find this to be the easiest to read and most useful of all my pottery books. If you could only have one book on pottery, this would be a good choice. It is beautifully written and illustrated. I found the advice and methods in it extremely sensible and user friendly. I have only been potting for a couple of years, and found much to learn. There are chapters on clay, glazing, decorating, method for wheel and hand building, and much more. The author de-mystifies glazing and gives several recipes for different cone temperatures that you could actually make yourself (and without even knowing the molecular weights!). I really appreciated the common sense, classroom approach and highly recommend this book to anyone interested in pottery.

This is the textbook for intermediate ceramics at my college. The book is very informative and useful and includes many colorful photographs.

great guide for all potters and people wanting to learn some tricks of the trade.

Useful the beginner or more experienced potter. The pictures alone are worth at least 1/2 the cover price, they were well chosen examples that well illustrated the subject of each chapter. No book can teach you to throw on the potter's wheel, but this one can inspire you.

that was not enough information

I like this book for creative inspiration, as an artist I always enjoy looking at books with interesting pieces.

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