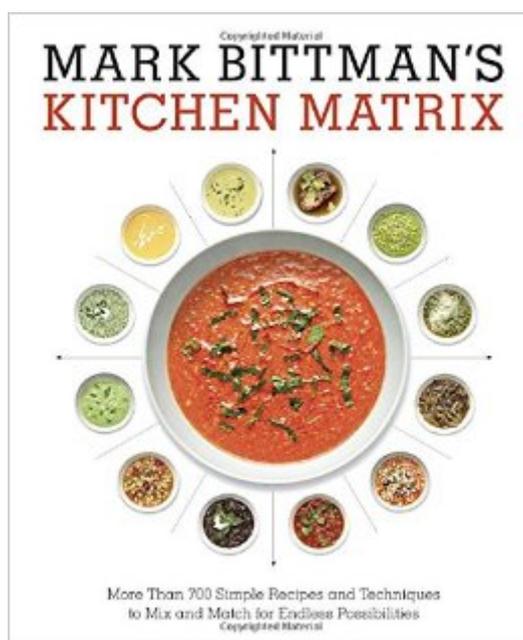


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Mark Bittman's Kitchen Matrix: More Than 700 Simple Recipes And Techniques To Mix And Match For Endless Possibilities



Synopsis

Bestselling author Mark Bittman anthologizes his popular Matrix series in a boldly graphic new cookbook that emphasizes creativity, improvisation, and simplicity as the keys to varied cooking. For years, Mark Bittman has shared his formulas, recipes, and kitchen improvisations in his popular New York Times Eat column, in which an ingredient or essential technique is presented in different variations in a bold matrix. Accompanied by striking photographs and brief, straightforward instructions, these thematic matrices show how simple changes in preparation and ingredient swaps in a master recipe can yield dishes that are each completely different from the original, and equally delicious. In Mark Bittman's Kitchen Matrix, Mark's matrices come together to create a collection of over 400 flexible recipes covering vegetables, fruits, meats and chicken, and even desserts. Whether you're cooking up soup (creamy, brothy, earthy, or hearty), freezing ice pops (in fruity, savory, creamy, or boozy varieties), or preparing asparagus (steamed, roasted, stir-fried, or grilled), following Mark's approach to culinary improvisation will deliver stand-out results.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A couple of days ago I came home to find a whole slew of packages on my front porch, one of which contained the review copy of this book that Pam Krauss Books (the publisher) sent my way for review purposes. I'll admit, I was surprised at its petite size. The front cover points out that it contains more than 700 simple recipes, but what it doesn't say is that these recipes are packed into a mere 300 pages. The good news is that it's bigger on the inside. The minimal design of this book packs multiple recipes on to a single page - it's the most efficient cookbook design I think I've ever seen. You start off with a master recipe, or as the cookbook calls it "universal instructions. I'll use

Tomato Sauce +9 Ways on page 237 as an example. You have a master recipe for tomato sauce and eight other variations all listed on the same page. If you feel like something different than basic tomato sauce, try the tomato sauce with fresh herbs, cheesy tomato sauce, or use the recipes as inspiration to come up with a sauce all on your own. The Kitchen Matrix system is meant to inspire creativity in the kitchen and I think it does an excellent job. As much as I love the book, the layout isn't quite perfect. It could use a little fine-tuning to make it easier to use. The chapter indexes (you know, those pages that tell you which recipes are in each chapter) are a beautiful dark orange-red with tiny black text. It's incredibly hard to read in low-light and let's face it, most kitchens have poor lighting. The other issue I have with the book is that you have to physically turn it to read some of the recipe generators. The layout for items like vinaigrette or sandwiches aren't meant to be read from left to right as we are accustomed to, but instead top to bottom.

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