

For another way of looking at it, think of Occam's Razor: "All things being equal, the simplest solution tends to be the best one."

Though this was developed in the context of scientific theories, it has many applications to daily life as well. Sometimes, your perfumes will need to involve many ingredients, but they don't have to. Sometimes making a single-note perfume out of an incredible smelling absolute or essential oil is the best solution.

It's my advice to look for the simplest, fastest way to achieve your perfuming goals.

Trust in your own ideas and creativity

Related to this subject is your trust in your own ideas. Too many times, we think, "That can't be a good idea because it came from me!" But some of the most famous perfumers have had no formal training. They know nothing about chemistry; they just have the courage to trust in their own ideas for perfumes, and their own ability to progress.

You are no different. If you want to make original perfume blends, just do it. Perfumery isn't just a place for experts and professionals, but anyone with a good idea for a fragrance. Keep in mind that in many fields, the greatest discoveries have come from newcomers, not experts.

Just try it. It's not difficult - you just dissolve the aromatic materials in alcohol, oil, or solid fats, and you have perfume. It really is that simple.

A good book on perfume blending - though kind of airy-fairy in my opinion - is Mandy Aftel's *Essence and Alchemy*.

If you like *Essence and Alchemy*, the author also has an in-depth perfume course. You must be a serious student, not just a window shopper, because the course is around \$400.

But that's much less than the cost of natural perfumery ingredients you will use over the course of your perfuming career! I have not taken the course, since I prefer to use too many weird synthetics!

Mandy Aftel teaches according to traditional method using all natural materials. Expensive, but fun.

<http://www.aftelier.com>