

## Review of The Synthetic Organic Chemist's Companion

**The Synthetic Organic Chemist's Companion.** By M. C. Pirrung (University of California, Riverside). John Wiley & Sons, Inc.: Hoboken, NJ, USA. 2007. 6 × 9 in. xiii +198 pp. \$50.00. ISBN 978-0-470-10707-3 (paper).

This book is intended to serve as a laboratory reference guide to chemists practicing organic synthesis, but it will also be a valuable resource for natural products laboratories and practitioners, especially for graduate and undergraduate researchers. There are 15 chapters on a myriad of topics ranging from searching the literature to planning, following, optimizing, and working up reactions, to isolation and structure determination, to cleaning up. There are also eight appendices that include TLC stain recipes, solvent selection charts, and NMR spectral data for common contaminants. A short bibliography of key references is also provided.

There is a wealth of practical advice on both everyday lab practices and also special problems. While oriented toward research students and postdocs, this book will also serve as an excellent reminder of a number of key considerations and techniques for organic lab veterans. The book is written in a concise, easy-to-read style, and it includes numerous illustrations.

If the author were to publish a revised edition, he might consider changing "High-Pressure" Liquid Chromatography to High Performance Liquid Chromatography, now the preferred, more common term for HPLC. It would also be advisable to remove the discussion of refractive index monitors and to substitute mention of evaporative light scattering detectors (ELSD), currently the preferred detector for compounds that lack a UV chromophore.

It is unfortunate that the publisher has priced this short (<200 pp) paperback book so high; this will likely limit its acquisition for many personal libraries. That said, the book is quite worth the price for service as an in-laboratory reference book for research groups performing any subspecialty of bench organic chemistry.

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