Making Accords with the
17 Fragrance Facets

Class 5

The materials here are listed according to their volatility, and are arranged as they would sit in a composition relating to the Fragrance Pyramid and Evaporation Curve.

**Hesperidic Facet:**

The hesperidic facet smells fresh and citrusy. Hesperidic is the perfumery name for citrus ingredients…however, it is often used to refer solely to Bergamot, while the other citri are often referred to as Citrus Notes.

**Common Hesperidic Facets:**

- Bergamot
- Blood Orange
- Cedrat
- Grapefruits
- Lemon
- Lime
- Mandarin (Orange, Yellow, and Green)
- Orange
- Tangerine
- Yuzu

-Petit-grain

**It is possible to consider placing the various Petit-grains in this Facet**
Aromatic Facet:

The aromatic facet generally contains the more herbal-smelling ingredients, all of which are fresh and provide a general sense of naturalness to a composition. These ingredients can be further subdivided into three distinctive subcategories:

Lavender Facet:
Both fresh and sweet, with underlying balsamic, herbaceous, floral, and woody undertones.

- Lavender varietals
- Rosemary varietals
- Sage varietals

Aniseed Facet:
Fresh, natural, leafy, slightly green. These ingredients lend a character of lightly bruised foliage, with a light, spicy undertone.

- Aniseed
- Basil varietals
- Bay Leaf
- Bay Laurel
- Cucumber
- Dill
- Juniper Berry
- Fennel
- Tarragon
- Tulsi (a type of Basil, AKA “Holy Basil” or Indian or Thai Basi)
- Wormwood
**Mint Facet:**
Fresh, and obviously—minty. Due to their association with oral care products, these are rarely used in fine perfumery…but are great in functional perfumery.

- Birch, Sweet **My favorite in the group to use**
- Buchu
- Peppermint
- Pennyroyal
- Shiso **I enjoying using with Ginger**
- Spearmint
- Wintergreen

→ Spearmint and/or Wintergreen + Eucalyptus can give an “Ice” texture to a fragrance…use with a light hand!
Sensual Floral Facet, AKA Narcotic Florals:

These florals are generally very sweet, heady, and often lean towards being more carnal and bestial. Each of these blossoms are also white, and in “Industry Speak”, you may see these notes show up in commercial fragrances as “White Florals”…that means they are referring to (usually synthetic) narcotic florals. These ingredients will be sweet, sensual, enveloping, and narcotic.

These flowers contain natural indoles, a chemical constituent also found in animal notes, fecal matter, and rotting flesh. That’s correct…your brain likes the smell of animals, and the natural scent of decay!

As an odorant enters your nose, the rational part of your brain imagines flowers, while your subconscious brain registers the fragrance of intimate body parts and sex. This neat little trick your brain plays makes these ingredients essential to perfuming.

Buddleia
Champa
Gardenia
Honeysuckle
Magnolia
Motia
Jasmine
Lily
Neroli
Orange Blossom
Rose
Tuberose
Ylang Ylang

**May also be listed as a Fresh Floral

**May also be listed as a Fresh Floral

**Can also be listed as Cool Floral

**An interesting and invaluable ingredient, as it is both inexpensive and high yielding in distillation
**Fresh Floral Facet:**

These materials are invaluable, as they convey an enormous sense of naturalness to a composition, and are useful as “connectors”, guiding the nose from the Top and Head notes down into the Heart of the fragrance.

These materials are incredibly expensive as natural extractions, and are seldom used outside of the finest compositions. Lily of the Valley does not exist as a natural extraction. From my reading, I have noticed that historically, Lily of the Valley most likely *did* exist as a maceration. Today, we can make a Doppelganger—and I have included a recipe for this.

**Doppelgangers *can* be made, and can be used in the same fashion as replacements for the natural extracts. A minimum of 6 months of maturation when making a Doppelganger is suggested, in order to allow a full and complete marrying of the various ingredients.

The main Fresh Floral notes:

- Daffodil
- Honeysuckle
- Hyacinth
- Lily

Lily of the Valley

**May also be listed as a Sensual/Narcotic**

**Usually made by Enfluerage**

*May also be listed as a Sensual/Narcotic*  
*Does not exist as a natural extract*  
→make a Doppelganger
**Powdery Floral Facet:**

Powdery Florals provide a composition with a slightly hazy gentleness. These materials blend wonderfully with Jasmine and Rose, and can be used in countless harmonies.

The main Powdery Florals:

- Carrot Seed
- Violet
- Cassie — **NOT Cassia**— that would be a cousin of Cinnamon
- Heliotrope
- Vanilla

**Cool Floral Facet:**

The Cool Floral Facet is incredibly important, as these materials temper the effects of many of the other materials, in particular those of the Sensual Floral Facet.

Their coolness derives from Rose, which is one of the few materials that, if blind-tested, people can identify properly as being Rose. They will also not confuse Rose with other rosey materials in this same Facet. Most untrained noses will confuse Vetiver and Patchouli, Gardenia and Jasmine, Orange and Grapefruit, etc.

The main Cool Florals:

- Rose de Mai (Rose centifolia)
- Bulgarian (AKA Damask) Rose
- Rose Geranium (AKA Pelargonium)
- Palmarosa
Fruity Facet:

The Fruity Facet rose to its highest popularity in the 1990’s, and has had a great influence in the two following decades. It refers to all notes—*with the exception of citrus*—that are fruity.

**Most notes that fall under the Fruity Facet will be synthetic, as there are few natural ingredients that truly fall into this category. These include the synthetic Aldehydes, most notably the peachy smelling C14, which was first used in *Mitsouko, by Guerlain*, and made famous in *Chanel No. 5*. They are also found in the ultra-fruity accord known as Prunol, as seen in *Femme, by Rochas* (the first commercial fragrance with a very pronounced fruity note).**

Fruits are composed mainly of water, so you can imagine how nearly impossible it is to extract an oil from them it can be.

**Freeze-dried fruits can be used to tincture fragrant extractions on your own. Occasionally, natural fruit distillations and natural recreations may also be available to the natural perfumer.**

**Argeville** is one of the natural producers of natural fruit extracts.

➔Once such example, Mango **Check with Argeville**

The most commonly available Fruity Facets:

Cucumber
Black Current Bud
Litsea cubeba
Osmanthus
Tomato Leaf **May also be listed as Green Use in SMALL doses**
**Gourmand Facet:**

There are many, many natural ingredients that can fall under the Gourmand Facet. Usually limited to the “sweeter” ingredients, I would open this category up to any ingredient that is made from, or smells like food.

**Commercially, these are synthetic ingredients that are relatively new, and smell ultra sweet, with a distinctive confectionary note.** Angel, by Thierry Mugler, replaced the traditional vanillic notes used in the creation of Oriental harmonies with these synthetics, most notably that of Veltol.

**Most common Gourmand Facets:**

Allspice **AKA, Pimento**  
Black Pepper  
Cardamom  
Coriander  
Chocolate  
Citrus  
Clove  
Coffee  
Ginger  
Mace  
Nutmeg  
Peppermint  
Pink Pepper  
Orange Blossom  
Rose  
Vanilla **Also in the Soft Balsamic Facet**
A special note about Vanilla:

Vanilla is intense, sweet, warm, and balsamic, and is an indispensable note needed for the creation of Oriental harmonies. It is also what is called a *Psychogenic Aphrodisiac*, which means that it enhances all of the sensations of pleasure.

*This makes it an essential perfumery material, and just a touch of it in low doses can enhance nearly any fragrance, without leaving its characteristic “vanilla” smell.

**Green Facet:**

Often used within floral harmonies, the Green Facet evokes handpicked flowers, rather than a bouquet of flowers prepared by a florist. Adding a Green Facet to a floral fragrance gives the texture of crushed leaves and snapped stems, rendering a highly distinctive effect within a fragrance.

The Green Facet first rose to prominence in modern perfuming in the Oriental perfume *Vole de Nuit*, by Guerlain, with it’s pronounced Chypre Facet, and later found its principle theme in *Vent Vert*, by Balmain, and also in *Miss Dior*, by Christian Dior.

Although referred to as “Green” notes, it is important to understand that they do not form an actual Fragrance Family, as this Facet can be used in all major fragrance families.
The main Green Facets:

Champa Leaf
Galbanum
Violet Leaf

**I would argue that Tree Mosses could fit into this Facet (Cedar moss, Oakmoss, etc)
**I would also argue that Seaweeds could fit into this Facet

**Fresh Spicy Facet:**

The ingredients in this Facet are incredibly useful, as their highly diffusive nature pushes up from the base of the fragrance, and connect well with many of the materials found in the Top and Head of a composition. This often gives the illusion that the freshness of the Top and Head is longer lasting, a valuable property to add to a fragrance.

This connection with the Top and Head is why they are often misplaced in the Perfumer’s Pyramid. They actually belong in the Heart of the Pyramid, and if CO2 or Solvent extracted…they might even fall into the Base of the Pyramid.

The most common Fresh Spicy Facets:

Cardamom
Coriander
Galangal
Ginger
Ginger, in particular, can be added in minute amounts to a composition to give it the “Charcoal Affect”... lending a long, smooth, slow burn to a fragrance, giving it a certain life that the fragrance may not have without its addition. The amount of Ginger used in a fragrance can be adjusted to be more pronounced in fragrances worn in the Winter, to give it more body, warmth, and burn.

**Hot Spicy Facet:**

These materials are less diffusive than the materials found in the Fresh Spicy Facet. Whereas the Fresh Spicy Facet blends better with the Top and Head, these materials blend better with the materials found deeper in the composition—especially with Woody notes. Black Pepper, found in this facet, blends particularly well with Floral notes—especially Rose, as does Clove.

The main Hot Spicy Facets:

- Allspice **AKA, Pimento**
- Black Pepper
- Cascarilla
- Cassia **Not to be mixed up with the Narcotic Floral, Cassie**
- Clove
- Mace **The skin of Nutmeg**
- Nutmeg

Solvent or CO2 extractions of these materials would accurately place them in the Base of the Pyramid.
Moss Facet:

The Mossy Facet is a unique facet, as it provides the most successful sense of naturalness to any composition. They can be used to counterbalance or remove sweetness from a composition, and for those using mixed media (naturals and synthetics together), they can be used to make the composition appear more natural.

If a fragrance smells too sweet, try adding a drop or two of Oakmoss or Patchouli to try and balance out that tooth-aching sweetness. Juxtaposing Moss materials with either with Vanilla or Balsams (such as Benzoin), make for an interesting combination.

Mosses, most notably Oakmoss, are a key material in making a Chypre accord. Oakmoss is an IFRA restricted material, as of 2010 or so (sad for everybody else, but a great thing for us Natural Perfumers!), and is now often synthetic in commercial fragrances. Sometimes other Mosses are substituted—such as Cedar or Pine Moss…but none rival the assertive character of Oakmoss.

These materials rarely find ambivalence—folks either “love ‘em or hate ‘em”. People can often mistakenly say a fragrance is “musky”, when they are really meaning that a fragrance smells “musty”—like the smell of wet, damp earth. When they say this—it is generally this Mossy Facet that they are really referring to. Patchouli, for example, is mossy, earthy, warm, and spicy with a woody dry-down.

The main Moss Facets:

- Cedar moss
- Oakmoss
- Pine moss
- Patchouli
- Other Tree Mosses
**It is said that the true character of Patchouli only arises after 5-10 years of aging, and a truly exceptional distillation with have a Chocolate Note on the dry-down.

**I would also argue that Seaweeds would also fit into this category

**Wood Facet:**

Woods give a composition character and warmth. These materials also provide an excellent lingering quality.

The most notable Wood Facets:

- Agarwood
- Buddhawood **A great alternative Fixative to try**
- Amyris **AKA “West Indian Sandalwood”**
- Cabrueva **A fantastic material to use with floral materials**
- Cedarwood **Virginia, Texas, and Canadian Red**
  - Actually, these are Junipers—not true Cedars
- Cedarwood, Atlas **A true Cedar**
- Cedarwood, Himalayan **A true Cedar**
- Guaiacwood
- Ho Wood
- Mahuhu **AKA “East African Sandalwood”**
- Massoia Bark
- Palo Santo
- Rosewood
- Sandalwood **There are several species of Sandalwood**
  - ”True” Sandalwood is _Santalum album_
- Siamwood
- Vetiver **A grass root—not an actual wood**

**Patchouli is sometimes considered to fall into this category**
**You may have heard the term *Blonde Woods*. Commercially, these are almost always going to be synthetic. But in Natural Perfuming, the “Blonde Woods” are:

Amyris  **AKA, West Indian Sandalwood  →not a Sandalwood species, at all—but does contain some of the same olfactory notes  
Buddhawood  
Cabrueva  **Great when working with Florals  
Guaiacwood  

Mahuhu  **AKA, East African Sandawood  →not a Sandalwood species, at all—but does contain some of the same olfactory notes  

Sandalwood  **Preferably use *Santalum album*  →There are several subspecies of *Santalum*. *Santalum album* is “True” Sandalwood. The *album* species I have seen distillations from several countries, most notably India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Southern China, and Thailand.  
  **Each of the *Santalum* subspecies will have their own unique olfactory profiles, while still maintaining many similarities (they are all *Santalum* trees, after all). I suggest trying out different subspecies as your wallets permit, and even give your hand a try at blending varieties together.

  **This is what I have done in making my *Sandalwood Accord*, and the blend of different subspecies (with two other “Blonde Woods”) has the additional properties of being both an excellent fixative “from many angles” & smelling amazing.  
→However, if you ever want that “True” Sandalwood smell, or the truest medical function that is ascribed to “Sandalwood”…I would defer to *Santalum album*.  

"
**Soft Balsamic Facet:**

These materials are most commonly used in Oriental fragrances. They have a pronounced character, while maintaining a soft gentleness. These materials are used with great success with floral harmonies to make them last longer, and when used in larger quantities with florals, they result in a hybrid-Fragrance Family of perfumes known as *Semi-Orientals*, or in the USA, as *Florientals*.

The main Soft Balsamic Facets:

- Benzoin  **I suggest using the Resin over the Tears**
- Cistus  **Hydro-distilled Labdanum**
- Labdanum  **Solvent-extracted Labdanum**
- Peru Balsam
- Tonka Bean  **Coumarinic note—absolutely lovely!**
- Vanilla  **Also in both the Gourmand and Powdery Balsamic Facets**
**Resinous Balsamic Facet:**

Resinous Balsams give Depth, Lingering Quality, and Originality to a composition…which is strange that they can lend originality, as they are historically some of the oldest materials used in both incense and perfuming.

They combine well with wood notes, which isn’t surprising, as they are all essentially the “blood of trees”—saps that are naturally exuded through the barks of trees.

The most common Resinous Balsamic Facets:

- **Birch Tar** **An incredibly smoky ingredient**
  \(\rightarrow\) *use with a light hand!*

- **Copal** **White is “milked”**
  \(\rightarrow\) *Black is naturally extruded (“wild”)*

- **Elemi** **A cousin of Myrrh, native to the South East Pacific**

- **Frankincense**

- **Myrrh**

- **Olibanum** **Indian Frankincense**

- **Opopanax** **Sometimes called “Sweet Myrrh”**

- **Styrax** **AKA, Styrax Benzoin**

**Styrax is generally not considered a great Perfume material. This does not mean not to use it. But Benzoin Resin is usually preferred over Styrax.**

\(\rightarrow\) *Use Benzoin Siam/Laos Resin*
**Powdery Balsamic Facet:**

The Powdery Facet materials make all the other ingredients in a composition seem somewhat *out of focus*. They give a feeling of luxury and soft sensuality, and when used in higher doses, they give a composition a velvet-like density.

Powdery fragrances are, in our modern world, considered more feminine. *Do not let this deter you from using them in fragrances for men!* Historically, men wore powdery fragrances, and when used tastefully, a soft powder note can lend both masculinity and sophistication to a fragrance…one that I happen to love in perfumes I make for myself. Don’t be afraid to use these materials in your fragrances designed for men!

**The main Powdery Balsamic Facets:**

Carrot Seed  **A great and inexpensive substitute for Orris**  
Orris  
Sandalwood  **A good Sandalwood can, in French Perfumery, get quite powdery**

**Synthetic musks are placed in this category. Real Deer Musk would also fit in here.**
**Animalic Facet:**

Animal notes are unlike any other notes used in perfuming. The level of luxury and sensuality that they impart to a fragrance, along with their tenacity—make them incomparable. Most of these notes are either severely limited, or are no longer used in commercial perfuming, and are often substituted with synthetics.

However, some Natural Perfumers still do use these ingredients. You may choose to use them, or for more ethical reasons, choose not to. I wanted to mention them so that you are at least aware of their existence. No perfumer’s education is complete without learning about these materials!

Although not all animal notes are true Musks, they are often referred to as Musks, or as Pheromones (and not all are true Pheromones, either).

There ARE some materials that are considered “Vegetal Musks,” Ambrette Seed and Musk Melon, among them. I will list below some Vegetal Animalics, and after that, I will speak about the traditional animal ingredients, for educational purposes.

**All of these materials are very potent, and can easily be overdone when composing. Use a light hand, especially at first, and as you continue to develop your skills, begin to experiment more. With that being said...sometimes I like to intentionally add an Animalic Note.**

I do this, commonly, when making Mukhallats, which are Arabic/Muslim-style pure parfum extraits. It’s a little known style here in the West, but one that I am absolutely in love with! Very intense smelling fragrances...Me-gusta!
“Vegetal Animalics”

**Ambrette Seed:**
→ Can use in place of Deer Musk. Has a “fatty” note to it.

**Cumin:**
→ Smells a bit like sweat. Good, clean sweat…not the stale kind you’ll smell from week-old gym cloths. Use this in place of Civet.

**Labdanum:**
→ Can smell a little bit like Ambergris. Ambrein, an isolate from Labdanum, can cost nearly $125,000 per kilo, and is used as an Ambergris-replacement. For our purposes, Labdanum works perfectly.

**Musk Mellon:**
→ A melon that smells of musk, an interesting little vine fruit.

**True Animalics:**

**Ambergris:**
Considered “animal friendly”, as it is a natural byproduct from the male Sperm Whale, and washes up on beaches around the world. No animals are injured in the harvesting of this material. Often, it is called “Beach Cast Ambergris”, paying homage to how it is collected.

Captain Ahab, in *Moby Dick*, when asked how he was able to track whales so well, replied that he was able to smell them. Many perfumers believe that it is their fecal matter that he was able to smell, and in the case of the Sperm Whale—it may have been Ambergris, specifically--that he was able to track.

Ambergris adds a shimmering 3-Dimensional quality to a fragrance.
**Castoreum:**

Comes from the stomach gland of, most commonly, the North American Beaver. Canadian Beaver is considered superior to American Beaver. There is also a Russian Beaver. These are controlled substances via the fur trade, and is a natural byproduct of the fur and meat-trapping trade. The North American and Russian Beavers are **not** in threat of extinction.

Castoreum is considered a crucial ingredient for making natural Leather Accords, as well as “Black Musk”. Castoreum also mixes quite nicely with Oakmoss, Vetiver, and Patchouli…and is also a great material for pre-fixing alcohol that will be used in men’s perfumes.

Intense and dark smelling, Castoreum is the smell of “Black.”

**Deer Musk:**

This material comes from the naval sac of the Asian Musk Deer. It is an important material in Chinese Medicine, and a critical ingredient for perfuming. There is no material with a fixative quality quite like Deer Musk, nor is there a “skin scent” quite as compelling.

**This is a sex gland, and is a True Pheromone.**

Through most of history, this has been a protected animal by Emperors, Kings, and Sultans. They roam the wild in Southern China, Tibet, Nepal, Pakistan, and all the way West to Afghanistan. There are also musk deer found further north, in both Siberia and Russia.
In the early 20\textsuperscript{th} Century, due to illegal poaching, these animals were near extinction, but in the last 50 or so years, they have made quite a comeback. There are “farming” efforts being made, both to protect the wild Musk Deer, as well as to repopulate, and also to serve as a steady source of musk pods for the Chinese Medical market.

Their population is now again on the rise, due to breeding programs and “musk deer farms”, as well as enforced protection of the species. Musk Deer is legally viable for use in the United States if purchased through the proper channels. 3,000 Kilos of musk pods are legally traded each year.

The deer is not always killed for it’s musk pod—sometimes they are anesthetized and the sac is removed. Musk Grains have also been known to be collected in the areas that the wild animals roam, as the Musk Deer will spray musk grains onto rocks and trees to mark territory, and to mate.

These non-kill musk pods and Harvested Musk Grains are, by some, considered ethical sources of Deer Musk. The Musk Deer is also hunted for it’s meat, particularly in Siberia, and these pods are sold—but are not the primary reason they are killed in that area.

Deer Musk used to be rubbed into the beards of kings and noblemen. It was a favorite of Genghis Kahn and the Prophet Mohammed, and was also traditionally added to the mortar of Muslim Temples, fragrancing the interior of the building for more than 100 years. It is still a crucial ingredient in Arabic Mukhallats, and is sometimes worn straight in the beard when macerated in high quality Sandalwood (\textit{Santalum album}).

Deer Musk is a wonderful skin note and adds a 3-Dimensional quality to a fragrance.
Civet:

Civet Paste is the perianal secretion of the Civet Mongoose, more commonly called the Civet Cat. When raw, it is called Civet Paste. When extracted by solvent, a 4:1 strength Absolute is obtained.

Civet, along with Ambergris and Deer Musk, is one of the most amazing animalic materials, and was considered crucial to perfumes of the past. No animals are killed in the harvesting of this material. There are ethical sources for Civet, although due to its restrictions over the last century, and its subsequent price spiking, the animals are sometimes abused. As a consumer...there’s no great way here in America to know if it is coming from an ethically cared-for source due to import restrictions.

Civet has also served as a food source in places like China, and the Civet Paste is an invaluable Chinese Medical Material. Unfortunately, Civet became the scapegoat for the April, 2003 SARS Outbreak in China (actually the outbreak occurred in the largest Chinese Medical Animal Herb Market, and was believed by many to be due to a disregard for sanitation...the little Civet had no real role to play, other than that of scapegoat).

After this incident in 2003, Civet cats around the world were put down, and the material, once plentiful and easily accessible, has now become more difficult to acquire. This is slowly changing, as the domestic Civet populations are again on the rise.

→ Civet is a crucial ingredient in Floral Perfumes, and has a very high indole content, making these fragrances even more carnal, sexier, and more bestial. Civet pairs nicely with any of the Narcotic Florals, particularly Jasmine and Tuberose.

→ Combining Chocolate with Civet gives the smell of Chocolate Ganache. A really intoxicating Chocolate fragrance...
Combining Frankincense, Benzoin with Civet gives a “Dirty Vanilla” fragrance, similar to that found in **Shalimar, by Guerlain**…intense, and utterly amazing! I sometimes use these three materials together to pre-fix my alcohol, especially when I want a slight Dirty Vanilla note…a wonderful trick!

Native to East Africa (usually said to be native to Ethiopia), Civet Paste is a crucial ingredient in making Arabic Mukhallats. In times past, it was given as a gift to kings, is mentioned as a sacred substance in the Koran, and is even mentioned several times in the Torah/Old Testament. It is invaluable ingredient in medicine, and is particularly useful in making martial arts “Dit Da Jiaos.” This was a favorite ingredient used in Egyptian, Greek, and Roman perfuming, and is still a valued ingredient in high quality Tibetan Incense. The Civet has also been known as the symbol for perfumers particularly perfumers in the English Tradition of Perfuming.

Civet paste has also been used through time as a very strong sexual attractant. In proper dosing, it smells of vaginal secretions. It has also been used for fertility. It is strongly Astringent, and was used by smearing on the tip of the penis, for when placed into the vagina, it “makes the uterus crave sperm”…

There is an old Arabic expression that translates roughly as, “When wanting to smell as a lion, use Civet.” In other words, when dealing with authority, or when in business and needing to appear more formidable—use Civet and smear it on your chin or into your beard. I’ve tried this. It works!

The Civet Cat was the symbol of perfumers around the world until the turn of the 19th Century (along with the Phoenix), and the signpost of a perfumer in a city was often just a painted Civet Cat.
Civet paste was also a crucial ingredient in the making and fragrancing of leather products. Civet was considered a crucial ingredient in England and France over the past 500 years, as it was considered a necessary material to cover the smell of “overpopulation”…poor sewage and the smell of feces and manure in the streets. An incense made of Civet, Ambergris, and various other materials were commonly burned in the streets of cities as a form of fumigation, and also to help mask the smell of poorly ventilated sewage treatment.

Cleopatra and Napoleon were known lovers of the scent of Civet, as were the fragranced Kings of France—the Louis’. Mary Antoinette’s perfumes were heavy in the use of Civet.

I’ve read in several places that, throughout Europe, Civet Cats roamed the streets in the perfumer’s quarters of cities, and were also common pets kept by royal family members on their properties (and were used for their paste by their in-house royal perfumers). They are still commonly kept as pets in East Africa, and their paste is used in-house, as many people still make traditional hand-made fragrances. They are commonly kept as pets in Arabic nations, especially in more rural settings. Their Paste serves as a source of material for the in-home making of incense and perfume.

Also interesting to note, when the animals are treated with love, a superior Civet Paste is extracted, and even has a bit of a floral note in the dry-down. It is with the tools of fear and agitation, commonly found in the more modern “factory farming” of the Civet, that more paste is produced. Ironically, a less superior product is extracted when they are mistreated.. All the more reason to treat the animal with TLC!
With agitation, more of the perianal gland substance is produced, and this sometimes results in the caging and abuse of this animal in order to get a higher yield. Interestingly, nearly every perfumer of the past used to keep Civets as pets. They make fantastic house pets and are extremely friendly and loving. A silver spoon was used to collect the paste from the perianal gland, usually once a week.

➔ What this means is—proper support for the ethical raising of this animal makes it possible to have an ethically harvested Civet Paste.

➔ I’d also maybe suggest looking into getting the proper Wild Animal License, and see if maybe you could keep a few as pets!
**Hyraceum:**
An interesting substance, also considered an ethical animal ingredient. The South African Hyrax, a tiny animal that lives in rocky desert regions, lives communally and has dedicated colony latrines—one for urine, and one for fecal deposits.

Strangely, Hyraceum comes from Hyrax urine. Their urine is not a liquid, but rather a sort of jelly-like substance. In the desert heat, this dries and forms a type of “stone”, and for this reason, is sometimes called “Africa Stone.”

This is a wonderful and ethical animal note, and when used properly, lends an incredible skin note to a composition. I like macerating both the raw substance, as well as Hyraceum absolute, into either my Sandalwood Accord, or into an oil. I occasionally use some of this material when making martial arts “Dit Da Jiaos.”

A comparatively inexpensive animal ingredient—wonderful stuff.

**Musk Rat:**
These little animals are native to (I think) Louisiana, and are a swamp rat. These materials do require the killing of the animal, and the musk sacs were sold by trappers that would trap these animals inside the areas habitated by people. They were sold to local perfumers. For this reason, it was a common ingredient here in the USA for several hundred years, but I’m not really aware of its use outside of North America and the Caribbean.

There is currently a Musk Rat extract that is being sold out of Korea. None of these animals are being killed for their musk sacs—rather, they are being milked daily to extract the substance, and is used as a medicine. This is considered an ethical source for Musk Rat, and this medical extract can be used by Natural Perfumers.