Industrial Organic Chemistry; by K. Weissermel and H. -J. Arpe; Wiley-VCH: Weinheim, **2003**; 491 pp, ISBN 3-527-30578-5

Weissermel and Arpe's popular text book has been updated as a fourth edition. The basic concept of *Industrial Organic Chemistry* has remained unchanged from previous editions, but the book has been updated as chemistry and technology continue to develop within the chemical industry. Previous editions have been immensely popular due to a large amount of material being presented as a readily accessible and clear summary.

The book is conveniently divided into chapters covering all of the important precursors and intermediates used in the chemical industry. The introductory chapter reviews energy and feedstock supply. The remaining thirteen chapters present a complete profile of a specific class of product. The layout is extremely clear and the authors have provided a high degree of quality and quantity of information. Alongside the main text, a synopsis has been provided in the margin allowing the reader to access information readily. I was particularly impressed with the fold out flow diagrams at the end of the book. The process flow diagrams pertaining to each chapter can be folded out whilst reading a section in order that its overall relevance can be readily appreciated and illustrate the interrelationship of the products in each chapter.

Current manufacturing processes are generally described, and their historical development and significance introduced. Emphasis is placed on conventional chemical manufacturing processes, the products applications and any important derivatives. Important practical aspects of the technological and chemical processes are well explained, as well as their limitations. Future improvements or changes to cheaper or more readily available feedstocks are briefly discussed.

This book is an immensely comprehensive and practical work. University chemistry students would benefit from reading this book as it provides a valuable insight into chemical technology, which is often lacking in undergraduate chemistry courses. The university lecturer can obtain examples of applied organic syntheses and keep up to date with the constant changes in chemical manufacturing. It should appeal most to chemists and engineers in the chemical industry, who should benefit from the technological, scientific and economic interrelationships and their potential developments.

Andrew Gleasure, Novartis, Ireland.

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