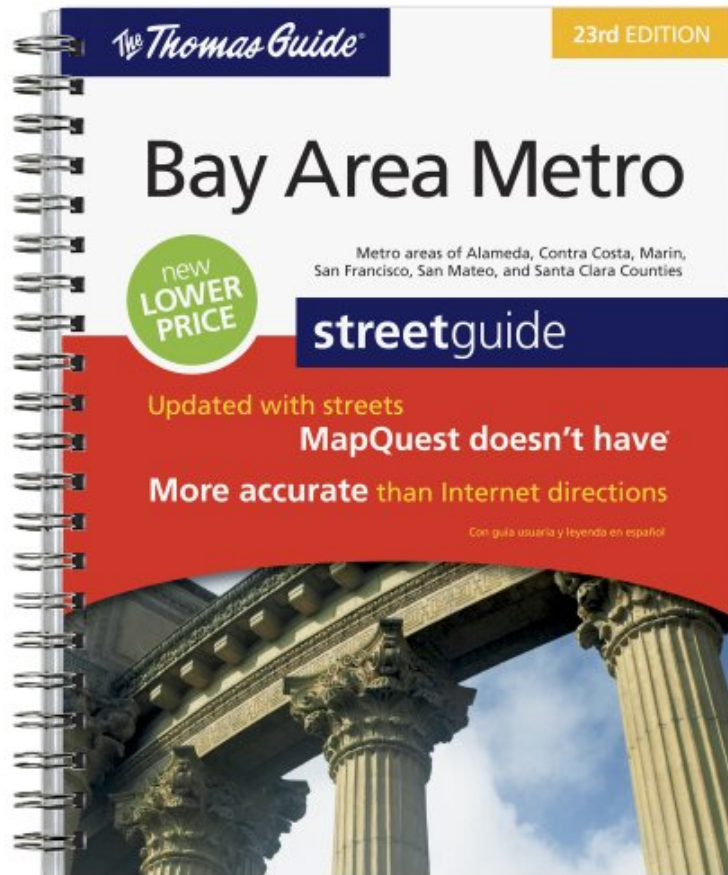


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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Wonder if we'll see any more?By AH-1ZIf you need maps of large or entire areas, you still can't beat these. Easy to use and well, laid out they're excellent. For getting around an area the size of the SF Bay area, they're invaluable. And, you have one convenient book instead of a plethora of folding maps that are cumbersome to use in a car. The Guides are not being updated much, though.GPS is wonderful, but if you don't know the exact destination, or need to get an overview of the surrounding area, maps are still the best (and they don't go dead if you forget to recharge!). That said, whether there are going to be new updates to many maps is problematic. Like so many other companies, Thomas Brothers has fled California to reduce its costs of doing business, but that may not be enough.The explosive growth of inexpensive GPS has been a major factor, and it's certainly

affected sales. That said, Thomas has also partly done it to itself. Previous editions of its maps used a strong, closed plastic fingers and retainer system to hold the book together. On its most recent offerings, Thomas Brothers switched over to cheap, thin wire spiral rings that are not fully joined. These have a gap in them. Over time, if you use these maps a lot, that gap will widen, and pages will start to come out. They're almost impossible to get fully back in, so your map book essentially will gradually self destruct. I'll wager enough people are getting annoyed at this that it is also affecting sales. It may be back to a whole seat full of folding AAA maps in the not too distant future. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thomas Maps cheaping out By ... I own 6 Thomas Maps and it is now apparent the company has recently cut quality from their objective. They have decided to change the spiral binding (mid printing) from the traditional double wire spiral to a singular white wire like those found on 99 cent notebooks. It is cheap and flimsy, the map will self-destruct in a few weeks - unacceptable for a 25 dollar product. The old maps were far better. If it ain't broke, don't fix it Mr. Thomas. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By John G. Very good if you prefer to read maps!

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