

Note that the build method in each subclass's builder is declared to return the correct subclass: the build method of NyPizza.Builder returns NyPizza, while the one in Calzone.Builder returns Calzone. This technique, wherein a subclass method is declared to return a subtype of the return type declared in the super class, is known as *covariant return typing*. It allows clients to use these builders without the need for casting.

The client code for these “hierarchical builders” is essentially identical to the code for the simple NutritionFacts builder. The example client code shown next assumes static imports on enum constants for brevity: