

Recipies

Brent Seidel
Phoenix, AZ

September 23, 2024

This document is ©2024 Brent Seidel. All rights reserved.

Note that this is a draft version and not the final version for publication.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Hints	1
1.2	Measurements	2
2	Yeasted Breads	3
2.1	Basic Bread	3
2.1.1	Ingredients	3
2.1.2	Procedure	4
2.2	Sun-dried Tomato Basil Braided Bread	4
2.2.1	Ingredients	5
2.2.2	Procedure	5
2.3	Braided Herb Bread	6
2.3.1	Ingredients	6
2.3.2	Procedure	6
2.4	Generic Rolls	7
2.4.1	Ingredients	7
2.4.2	Procedure	7
2.4.3	Variations	8
2.5	Pesto Tear-and-Share	8
2.5.1	Ingredients	9
2.5.2	Procedure	9
3	Quick Breads	10
3.1	Buttermilk Biscuits	10
3.1.1	Ingredients	10
3.1.2	Procedure	10
4	Pies and Related	12
4.1	Easy Shepherd's Pie/Pot Pie	12
4.1.1	Ingredients	12
4.1.2	Procedure	12
4.2	Quiché	13
4.2.1	Ingredients	13
4.2.2	Procedure	13
4.3	Frittatas	14

4.3.1	Ingredients	14
4.3.2	Procedure	14
5	Cake and Related	15
5.1	Chocolate Cheesecake Bars	15
5.1.1	Ingredients	15
5.1.2	Procedure	16
6	Cookies	17
6.1	Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies	17
6.1.1	Ingredients	17
6.1.2	Procedure	18
6.2	Gingerbread Cookies	18
6.2.1	Ingredients	18
6.2.2	Procedure	19
6.3	Macarons	19
6.3.1	Ingredients	19
6.3.2	Procedure	20
7	Pastries	21
7.1	Choux Pastry	21
7.1.1	Ingredients	21
7.1.2	Procedure	21
7.2	Shortcrust Pastry	22
7.2.1	Ingredients	22
7.2.2	Procedure	22
7.3	Pâte Sucrée	23
7.3.1	Ingredients	23
7.3.2	Procedure	23
7.4	Eclairs	24
7.4.1	Ingredients	24
7.4.2	Procedure	24
7.5	Deep Fried Raspberry-Chocolate Wraps	24
7.5.1	Ingredients	24
7.5.2	Procedure	25
7.6	Cannoli	25
7.6.1	Ingredients	25
7.6.2	Procedure	25
8	Extras	27
8.1	Coconut Cream Chocolate Mousse	27
8.1.1	Ingredients	27
8.1.2	Procedure	27
8.2	Tofu Chocolate Mousse	27
8.2.1	Ingredients	28
8.2.2	Procedure	28
8.3	Tofu Raspberry Mousse	28

8.3.1	Ingredients	28
8.3.2	Procedure	28
8.4	Chocolate Ganache	28
8.4.1	Ingredients	28
8.4.2	Procedure	29
8.5	Carmel/Spun Sugar	29
8.5.1	Discussion	29
8.5.2	Ingredients	29
8.5.3	Procedure	30
8.6	Creme Patisserie	30
8.6.1	Ingredients	30
8.6.2	Procedure	31
8.7	French Meringue	32
8.7.1	Ingredients	32
8.7.2	Optional Flavorings	32
8.7.3	Procedure	32
8.8	Lemon Curd	32
8.8.1	Ingredients	33
8.8.2	Procedure	33
8.9	Raspberry Curd	33
8.9.1	Ingredients	33
8.9.2	Procedure	34
8.10	Manicotti Filling	34
8.10.1	Ingredients	34
8.10.2	Procedure	35
8.11	Cannoli Filling	35
8.11.1	Ingredients	35
8.11.2	Procedure	35
9	Tips and Techniques	36
9.1	Chiffonade	36
9.1.1	Procedure	36
9.2	Grating Baker's Chocolate	36
9.3	Melting Chocolate	37
9.3.1	Microwaving	37
9.3.2	Water Heating	37
9.3.3	Stove Top	37
9.4	Braids	38
9.4.1	One Strand	38
9.4.2	Two Strands	38
9.4.3	Three Strands	39
9.4.4	Four Strands	39
9.4.5	Five Strands	40

Chapter 1

Introduction

This is a collection of recipes that I've made and liked. I'm not a particularly skilled baker or cook, so these should be usable by most people. I'm also a bit lazy, so these are mostly fairly easy recipes that will provide good results with minimal effort.

All of these recipes are vegetarian, but may not be vegan. Feel free to adjust them to your needs.

1.1 Hints

Here are a few things that I've learned that may be helpful to others.

- All recipes are works in progress. They can always be tweaked a bit. What tastes good to me may not taste good to you (and vice versa). Feel free to adjust things to your taste.
- A set of small (about 1/4 cup size) glass bowls are useful to measure out ingredients before mixing them together.
- A kitchen scale is handy for weighing ingredients.
- In most cases, measurements don't have to be scientifically precise. This is not analytical chemistry.
- Make sure that you have all the ingredients before starting a recipe.
- If practical, measure out all the ingredients before mixing.
- While you are waiting for dough to rest or rise is a good time to clean or work on other steps.
- Many of these recipes are based on ones I found on the internet. In these cases, I've generally adjusted the recipes to be more suitable to what I want. Feel free to do the same.

1.2 Measurements

Most recipes that I've found use volume measurements for dry ingredients. The actual amount may vary depending on how tightly packed the volume is. In my recipes, I've tried to include the weight in grams for the dry ingredients. Below is a list of weights for volumes of ingredients and other useful conversions.

- bread flour (and probably other kinds), 1 cup is 175g
- sugar, 1tbsp is 8g
- salt, 1 tsp is 4g
- yeast, 1 package is 8g
- 16 tbsp is 1 cup
- 8 oz is 1 cup (hence 2 tbsp is 1 liquid oz)

Chapter 2

Yeasted Breads

Yeasted, kneaded breads. There are many ways to make bread. This is only one of them. Feel free to experiment to see if you get results more to your liking.

- Temperature, humidity, and altitude can affect the results.
- Using more water will result in a wetter dough that sticks to your hands more when kneading. It may produce results more to your liking though.
- I don't worry too much about the starting temperature of the ingredients. I figure that by the time everything is mixed and kneaded it's pretty much to ambient temperature.
- When the house is cool, I'll preheat the oven to 100°F and turn it off before putting the dough in the oven to rise. Note that there are some techniques (that I haven't tried) that involve letting the bread rise in a refrigerator for several days.
- When it is dry, I'll keep a little water around to sprinkle on the dough while shaping it.

2.1 Basic Bread

This is based on the Sun-dried Tomato Basil bread (section 2.2) with the flavorings removed. This recipe makes one loaf of bread.

2.1.1 Ingredients

- 1 package ($\frac{1}{4}$ ounce) (8g) active dry yeast
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (182g) water
- 1 tablespoon (8g) sugar
- 1 tablespoon (5-8g) olive oil
- 1 teaspoon (4g) salt
- 2 cups (350g) bread flour

2.1.2 Procedure

- In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in water.
- Stir in sugar, olive oil, and salt. Be sure to add the sugar first and the salt last. Once this is fairly well mixed, move on to the next step.
- Add the flour and mix it in. While adding the flour, you'll probably want to shift from mixing with a spoon to using your hands. The dough doesn't need to be a single lump before moving on. The kneading process will help to merge everything together.
- Turn onto a floured surface; knead until the gluten is well developed, about 5-10 minutes.
- Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top.
- Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-2 hour (more if the water was not warm).
- Shape the dough however you like. Note that the dough was greased while rising, so it doesn't need a floured surface to be worked.
- Cover a baking pan with parchment paper, a silicon baking mat, or grease.
- Cover and let rise until doubled, about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
- Bake at 375°F for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown.
- Remove from pan to a wire rack too cool.

2.2 Sun-dried Tomato Basil Braided Bread

I got inspired to make this after watching too many episodes of the Great British Baking Show (aka Great British Bake-off). After finding a suitable bread recipe (yeasted, kneaded), I modified it a bit for my use. Interestingly, on the show, the mix the dry ingredients first before adding liquid while the recipes I found start with the liquid and then add flour. It should work either way, but if you do the dry ingredients first, Paul Hollywood says to make sure to put the yeast on the opposite side of the bowl from the salt.

If you don't have sun dried tomatoes available, you can use tomato paste. Just slightly reduce the amount and add some oil. If you don't have fresh basil, you can use dried basil, but dried basil is lighter than fresh basil since it has lost its water you need to reduce the weight.

The quantities of the basil, Parmesan cheese, sun dried tomatoes, and garlic are not critical. Feel free to adjust them to taste. I'm also playing with adding a bit of Feta cheese to see if it helps.

If you are in a hurry, using warm water will make the first rising of the dough faster. Otherwise, using cool water will slow the process, but may improve the flavor.

This recipe makes one loaf of bread.

2.2.1 Ingredients

- 1 package ($\frac{1}{4}$ ounce) (8g) active dry yeast
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (182g) water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (3-6g) minced fresh basil (5-10 leaves)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (25g) grated Parmesan cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (56g) chopped sun dried tomatoes packed in olive oil (if not in oil, add a little bit of oil to the recipe).
- 1 tablespoon (8g) sugar
- 2 crushed cloves of garlic (5g)
- 1 teaspoon (4g) salt
- 2 cups (350g) bread flour

2.2.2 Procedure

- In a large bowl, dissolve yeast and sugar in water and let set for a minute or two. You can use this time to prep the next ingredients.
- Stir in basil, Parmesan cheese, sun dried tomatoes, garlic, and salt..
- Add the flour and mix it in. While adding the flour, you'll probably want to shift from mixing with a spoon to using your hands. The dough doesn't need to be a single lump before moving on. The kneading process will help to merge everything together.
- Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 5-10 minutes.
- Place in an oiled bowl, turning once to oil top. Note that the oil is really optional as the dough isn't too sticky.
- Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-2 hour (possibly more if the water was not warm).
- Braid the dough per section 9.4. Note that the dough was greased while rising, so it doesn't need a floured surface to be worked.
- Cover a baking pan with parchment paper, a silicon baking mat, or grease.
- Braid the strands together on the baking pan.
- Cover and let rise until doubled, about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour to a full hour.
- Bake at 375°F for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown.
- Remove from pan and place on a wire rack too cool.

2.3 Braided Herb Bread

We have a bunch of fresh herbs growing, so I decided to try and make bread with them.

The quantities of the herbs are not critical. I just used how much I was willing to take the time to prepare. If you don't have fresh herbs or the time to prepare them, you can use dried. Feel free to adjust them to taste. It probably needs more than I used here. The next time I try, I will update the recipe.

If you are in a hurry, using warm water will make the first rising of the dough faster. Otherwise, using cool water will slow the process, but may improve the flavor.

This recipe makes one loaf of bread.

2.3.1 Ingredients

- 1 package ($\frac{1}{4}$ ounce) (8g) active dry yeast
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (182g) water
- 4 g basil (chopped) (about 20 leaves)
- 4 g rosemary
- 3 g oregano (chopped)
- 4 g thyme
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (25g) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon (5-8g) olive oil
- 1 tablespoon (8g) sugar
- 1 teaspoon (4g) salt
- 2 cups (350g) bread flour

2.3.2 Procedure

- In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in water.
- Stir in sugar, herbs, oil, and salt. Be sure to add the sugar first and the salt last. Once this is fairly well mixed, move on to the next step.
- Add the flour and mix it in. While adding the flour, you'll probably want to shift from mixing with a spoon to using your hands. The dough doesn't need to be a single lump before moving on. The kneading process will help to merge everything together.
- Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 5-10 minutes. Note that if dry herbs are used, the dough may be too dry. You can spritz it with a little water while kneading to help, but don't over-do it.
- Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top.

- Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-2 hour (more if the water was not warm).
- Braid the dough per section 9.4. Note that the dough was greased while rising, so it doesn't need a floured surface to be worked.
- Cover a baking pan with parchment paper, a silicon baking mat, or grease.
- Braid the strands together on the baking pan.
- Cover and let rise until doubled, about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.
- Bake at 375°F for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown.
- Remove from pan to a wire rack too cool.

2.4 Generic Rolls

This is included with breads since it uses a similar recipe, it could also almost be considered to be a pastry. Many variations of this recipe are possible. I've done both a sweet and a savory version of the rolls. I also have some more ideas that I haven't yet tried. You could make cinnamon rolls based on this, or use your imagination.

2.4.1 Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup (182g) water
- 1tbsp (5-8g) oil
- 8g active dry yeast
- 8g sugar
- 4g salt
- 350g all purpose flour

2.4.2 Procedure

- In a large bowl, dissolve the yeast in water.
- Add the sugar. You can do these two steps before preparing the rest of the ingredients.
- Add the oil and any dough flavorings.
- Add the salt.
- Mix in the flour.
- You can use a dough scraper to cut through the dough multiple times to mix it without kneading.

- Place the dough back in the bowl and cover to let rise for 1-2 hours.
- Turn the dough out onto the counter top.
- Roll the dough into a rectangular shape a few millimeters thick. If you have trouble with the dough tearing, knead it a few times.
- Spread the filling on the dough.
- Roll the dough and filling up like you were making cinnamon rolls.
- Place some parchment paper on a baking pan.
- Slice the roll into 2-3cm segments and place on baking pan (dental floss works well for this).
- Cover and let rise for another hour or two.
- Bake at 375°F for about 20 minutes or until golden brown.

2.4.3 Variations

Here are a couple of things that I've tried with good results.

Garlic Cheese Rolls

- Add 5-15g crushed or minced garlic with the oil when mixing the dough (depending on how much you like garlic)
- After rolling out the dough, spread shredded cheese (choose your favorite varieties) on the dough.

Orange Nutella® Rolls

- Add 5-10g of orange zest with the oil when mixing the dough (depending on how much orange flavor you want). Note that after a bit of experimenting, it seems that the orange zest slows the rising of the dough. It may be better to add it to the filling and just use the generic dough.
- Chop a few pecans (or other nuts)
- After rolling out the dough, spread Nutella® or similar spread on the dough and sprinkle the chopped nuts.

2.5 Pesto Tear-and-Share

This uses basically the dough from the Sun-dried Tomato Basil bread (section 2.2) and uses it to make a tear-and-share. The only difference is that I didn't add basil since my basil plants had succumbed to frost and the pesto has lots of basil anyway.

2.5.1 Ingredients

- Dough from section 2.2 (with, or without basil added)
- Your favorite pesto (or any other sauce or spread that sounds good to you)
- Any other fillings.

2.5.2 Procedure

- After letting the dough rise the first time, separate it into two equal portions.
- Roll each portion about 5mm or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick in the same shape (one portion will be placed on the other).
- Spread your fillings on the lower portion of dough and place the other portion on top.
- Using a knife, make cuts from near the center to the edge (you want strips of bread that are still attached together).
- Give each strip a twist or two.
- Cover and let rise for about an hour.
- Bake at 400°F for about 15 minutes or until golden brown

Chapter 3

Quick Breads

3.1 Buttermilk Biscuits

This seems to be a fairly robust recipe. I've made it a couple of times and mixed up some of the ingredients and they still turned out fine.

3.1.1 Ingredients

- 350g all purpose flour
- 2tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp baking soda
- 1tsp salt
- 7tsp unsalted butter, froze and cut into small pieces
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cold buttermilk

3.1.2 Procedure

- Preheat oven to 425F
- Mix the dry ingredients together in a large bowl
- Work the frozen butter into the mixture until it resembles crumbs. You can use a pastry cutter, but I like to just use my hands
- Make a little depression in the center and add the buttermilk
- Stir gently until combined
- Turn the dough onto a work surface and form into a rectangular shape
- Fold inwards in thirds along the long axis

- Form back into a rectangular shape and repeat two more times
- Flatten dough to about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick (about 1cm).
- Use a 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ inch biscuit cutter to cut biscuits. I've seen recommendations to just press the cutter straight down and not twist it
- Put a sheet of parchment paper or silicone baking mat on a baking sheet
- Transfer biscuits to baking sheet
- You can brush buttermilk on top of the biscuits if you like, but they will be fine without
- Bake for 15 minutes or until flakey and golden brown

Chapter 4

Pies and Related

4.1 Easy Shepherd's Pie/Pot Pie

This is a real easy way to make some comfort food. To make a pot pie, top with a pastry crust instead of mashed potatoes. The measurements are not critical. Feel free to experiment and find something that you like.

4.1.1 Ingredients

- 1 can vegetable soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can cream of potato soup
- 1 can cream of broccoli soup
- 1 can sweet corn
- 1 can green beans
- hot sauce to taste
- 1 packet of instant mashed potatoes

4.1.2 Procedure

- In a large bowl, mix the soups.
- Drain the corn and beans and add them to the mix.
- Add hot sauce to taste.
- Pour the mix into a casserole pan about an inch deep or so.
- In a separate bowl, prepare the instant mashed potatoes per the directions on the packet.

- Spread the mashed potatoes on top of the mixed soups and make a few holes to release steam.
- Bake at 375°F for about an hour, or until the mashed potatoes start browning and the soup mix is bubbling a little.

4.2 Quiché

This is more of a concept than a strict recipe. It's very easy to make and can be adjusted to whatever you have on hand or like to have. Feel free to adjust and add whatever sounds good to you.

4.2.1 Ingredients

- Tater-Tots[®] (or similar store brand potato puffs)
- A 16oz carton of egg whites
- Shredded cheese
- Chopped olives
- 5 fresh basil leaves
- Turmeric
- Black pepper
- Imitation bacon bits

4.2.2 Procedure

- Sparsely cover the bottom of a pie pan with the potato puffs and microwave for a couple of minutes to thaw them.
- Mash them down with a fork to fully cover the bottom.
- Bake for about 20 minutes at 375°F to help dry them out.
- Remove from oven and add the rest of the ingredients.
- Add a layer of shredded cheese to cover the bottom (due to the heat, this will melt a bit).
- Using the chiffonade method (section 9.1), chop the basil leaves and add them.
- Add the chopped black olives and imitation bacon bits (and whatever else you want).
- Add another layer of shredded cheese to fill the pie pan.
- Top with the ground black pepper and turmeric.
- Pour the egg whites over everything (with my pie pan, this fill it right up, you's may vary).
- Bake at 375°F for about 40 minutes. The time isn't particularly critical.

4.3 Frittatas

These are basically a quiché muffin. These are easy to make and can be adjusted to your taste. Here's what I've done.

4.3.1 Ingredients

- A 16oz carton of egg whites (or equivalent whole eggs)
- One carrot grated
- Finely chopped broccoli
- Shredded cheese (whatever kind you like)
- A dash of hot sauce
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, turmeric, and/or whatever sounds good)

4.3.2 Procedure

- Grate the carrot into a mixing bowl
- Add a dash of hot sauce
- Add the eggs, broccoli, cheese, seasonings and stir.
- Divide into a non-stick 12 hole muffin pan (You could oil a regular muffin pan or use paper muffin cups).
- Preheat oven to 375°F and bake for about 35 minutes.
- After baking, from oven and let cool before removing from pan.

Note that these can be frozen and reheated later.

Chapter 5

Cake and Related

5.1 Chocolate Cheesecake Bars

This is based on a recipe that I found on the internet. I've made it once and it turned out quite tasty even though things didn't go quite as I'd hoped. This will probably change a bit if I make it again.

5.1.1 Ingredients

- Shortcrust pastry dough (section 7.2).
- Chocolate ganache (section 8.4).
- 8 oz (2 bars) bittersweet chocolate (I use Ghiradelli Premium Baking 60% Cacao bars).
- 24 oz full fat cream cheese
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brown sugar (this could probably be just white sugar)
- 2 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 large eggs
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 small package of Raspberry JelloTM (or equivalent.)

5.1.2 Procedure

- Let the cream cheese, eggs, and cream reach room temperature.
- Line a 9x13 inch baking pan with parchment paper. Leave some hanging over on the sides so that you can remove the bars later.
- Make the shortcrust pastry dough and roll it out onto the bottom of the pan.
- Preheat the oven to 350°F and bake the crust for 10 minutes. (I put another sheet of parchment paper over the crust and poured a package of dried beans on top of that).
- Chop the bittersweet chocolate into small chunks and melt (see section 9.3)
- Put the cream cheese into a mixing bowl and, using a mixer, mix until smooth (2 minutes or so).
- Add sugars and cocoa powder and mix until smooth.
- Add eggs, egg yolks and cream and mix for about 20 seconds.
- Fold in the chocolate.
- Add the vanilla and mix for another 20 seconds, or so.
- Using a spatula (and mixer, if needed) stir until everything is evenly mixed.
- Pour the mixture over the crust (I shouldn't have to tell you to remove anything that you placed over the crust).
- Bake for 30 minutes at 350°F. The center should still have a bit of a wobble. It will finish cooking as it cools.
- Remove cake from oven and carefully run a knife around the edge to loosen it from the parchment paper.
- Let cool completely in the pan.
- Mix the small package of raspberry jello and let cool until it starts to thicken (I poured the jello before it has started to thicken and it ran down around the cheese cake and collected mostly on the bottom. It still tasted good, but didn't have the nice layer that I wanted.).
- Pour the jello over the cheesecake and let chill in the refrigerator until completely set (about 4 hours).
- Once set, add the chocolate ganache on top.
- Once the ganache sets, you can slice it and serve it. It can also be frozen.

Chapter 6

Cookies

6.1 Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

This is a recipe that I've had for a while and haven't made recently. I plan to make them again and update the recipe to be more consistent with the other recipes. Many variations of this are possible.

When I was making these frequently, I would usually make a double batch. For a double batch, I would use one package of mint (or raspberry) chocolate chips and one package of regular ones. I would also use only 3 cups of oats instead of 4. Feel free to experiment!

6.1.1 Ingredients

- 1 cup butter (or margarine)
- 200g (1 cup) sugar (white)
- 250g (1 cup) sugar (brown)
- 2 eggs
- 525g (3 cups) flour
- 1g ($\frac{1}{2}$ tsp) baking powder
- 5g (1 tsp) baking soda
- 4g ($\frac{1}{2}$ tsp) salt
- 1 pkg chocolate chips (8 oz, 300g)
- 200g (2 cups) rolled oats
- 1 tsp vanilla

6.1.2 Procedure

- Blend together butter and sugars
- Add eggs and beat until light and fluffy
- Add flour, baking soda, salt, and baking powder and mix well
- Add rolled oats, vanilla, and chocolate chips and mix well
- At this point, the dough is crumbly
- Drop by tsp onto a greased cookie sheet
- Bake for 15 minutes at 350°F

A batch makes about 48 cookies.

6.2 Gingerbread Cookies

I made gingerbread once, but neglected to save the recipe. So, I am trying again. I went looking for recipes for gingerbread cookies and found several. This is based on the simplest one that I found - many require an egg, this one doesn't. Most of the recipes talked about how moist and chewy the cookies were while I'm looking for something more crisp and crunchy. The quantities for the spices are only a starting point. Feel free to adjust to taste. I am still working on this - adding some cocoa and orange zest as well as reducing the amount of sugar.

6.2.1 Ingredients

- 420g (3 cups) all-purpose flour
- 90-125g ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup) brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp baking soda
- 3g (1 tbsp) ground cinnamon
- 4g (1 tbsp) ground ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground cloves
- 4-7g orange zest
- 4g (1tbsp) cocoa powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 12 tbsp butter (or margarine) chopped into little pieces (I keep my butter and margarine in the freezer because many other recipes need it that way. It may not be needed for this one)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup dark molasses
- 2 tbsp milk (or water)

6.2.2 Procedure

- Mix the dry ingredients in a bowl
- Using a pastry cutter or your hands, mix the butter or margarine in until well mixed. Using your hands also lets you feel for and break up hard lumps of brown sugar.
- Slowly add the molasses and milk (or water) while mixing until well mixed.
- Divide into two pieces, roll each piece into a log about 1 inch in diameter, wrap in plastic wrap and freeze overnight.
- When ready to bake:
- Preheat oven to 350°F
- Unwrap one end of the frozen dough and slice about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch slices and place on a prepared cookie sheet.
- Bake for 8-11 minutes depending on how chewy or crispy you want your cookies.
- Remove from oven and allow to cool before decorating.

Remaining dough can be returned to the freezer.

6.3 Macarons

This is still quite experimental. I am trying to make them using a carton of egg whites rather than separating eggs. I've looked online and found everything from "It can't be done" to "I do it all the time". So, I'm just going to have to try it myself. After whisking for about half an hour, I did achieve something akin to stiff peaks. I used the Kirkland brand egg whites from Costco and a clean stainless steel mixing bowl.

6.3.1 Ingredients

- 100g egg whites at room temperature (white from 3 large eggs)
- 140g almond flour
- 90g granulated sugar
- 100g powered sugar
- 1tsp vanilla
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp cream of tartar

6.3.2 Procedure

- Add the egg whites to a very clean bowl (I've seen suggestions of wiping the bowl with vinegar).
- Sift the almond flour and powdered sugar into a different bowl.
- Whisk the egg whites until they begin to foam.
- While continuing to whisk, add the cream of tartar and slowly add the granulated sugar.
- Keep whisking and add the vanilla.
- Continue whisking until stiff peaks form (this will probably take longer for carton egg whites - after 20 minutes, you might decide that separating eggs isn't so bad after all).
- Start folding in about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the dry ingredients.
- Carefully add the remaining dry ingredients while gently folding.
- Pipe about 1 inch circles onto parchment paper and let sit for about 40 minutes to form a "skin".
- Bake at 300°F for 12-15 minutes (possibly at the lower end of the range).
- Allow to cool completely before removing from baking sheet.

Chapter 7

Pastries

7.1 Choux Pastry

This is the recipe for Choux pastry that can then be used for a number of things. As such, this will end once you have the dough made. Other recipes will tell you what to do with the dough and how to bake it. If you are making a sweet pastry and have a bit of a sweet tooth, you can add some sugar along with the salt.

This pastry has a bit of a reputation for being fiddly, but as I was looking online I found a bit of variation. So it's probably more robust that it's given credit for. On the other hand, there is some disagreement about why after mixing the flour with the water and fat it's heated again. Some say that's to dry the dough out, others say that there's a reaction that binds the fat and water around each individual particle of flour and water. My suspicion is more towards the later.

7.1.1 Ingredients

- 1 cup (228g) water
- 6 tablespoons (81g) butter or margarine
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon (2g) salt
- 1 cup (175g) flour
- 4 large eggs

7.1.2 Procedure

- Cut the butter or margarine into small chunks and add to the water.
- Add the salt.
- Bring the water to a boil.
- Once the water is boiling and all the butter or margarine is melted, remove from heat.

- Add the flour while mixing and ensure that there are no lumps
- Return to heat and cook until the dough pulls away cleanly from the sides of the saucepan.
- Let the dough cool enough so that it won't cook the eggs when you add them (about 150°F or so).
- Break and whisk the eggs into a separate container.
- Add the egg a bit at a time while mixing the dough. After you add some egg, the dough becomes a lumpy, slimy mess, but it will eventually mix into a smooth dough again. If you are mixing by hand, don't get discouraged. Keep mixing and it will eventually be right.
- Stop when the dough is smooth and glossy.

The dough is now ready for other projects such as eclairs, profiteroles, cream puffs, and the like.

7.2 Shortcrust Pastry

This is a basic 3 ingredient dough. I'm not entirely happy with it yet and the dough turns out to be fairly crumbly. This may be because I'm using margarine rather than butter. It may also need a bit more water (I live in a dry climate).

7.2.1 Ingredients

- 225g all purpose flour
- 100g (one stick) margarine sliced into small pieces
- a pinch of salt
- 2-3 tbsp water

7.2.2 Procedure

- Put the flour and margarine pieces in a large bowl. Rub the flour and margarine together with your fingers until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- Add a pinch of salt and mix in.
- Add the water and mix to form a firm dough.
- Knead gently and briefly on a floured surface.
- Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate while you do other preparations.
- Roll out and add to pan.

If you are blind baking, bake at 375°F for 10 minutes or so will work.

7.3 Pâte Sucrée

This translates to sweet dough or crust. It is a French pastry used for making the crust for sweet tarts or pies.

7.3.1 Ingredients

- 240g all purpose flour
- 70-75g sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 125g (one stick) unsalted butter frozen
- 1 egg
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp vanilla extract

7.3.2 Procedure

- Mix the flour, sugar, and salt.
- Cut the butter into small pieces and mix in.
- Add the egg and vanilla and mix until the dough starts to come together.
- Form dough into a ball, wrap with cling film, and chill for an hour.
- Break off dough (around 50-53g) and press into an oiled and floured tart/pie pan (should be no more than 3-4mm thick).
- You could also roll the dough out about 3-4mm thick and press it into the pans that way.
- Prick evenly with a fork
- Refrigerate for 20 minutes or more.
- Blind bake at 360°F for 15 minutes.
- Bake another 5-10 minutes (with my oven, it needed 10 minutes, or a bit more), or until pastry is golden (you can omit step this if the filling will need to be baked).
- Let cool before removing from tart/pie pan.

The baked shells can be frozen for storage. Make sure to defrost before use.

7.4 Eclairs

7.4.1 Ingredients

- Choux pastry dough (see section 7.1)
- Stuff for filling
- Stuff for topping

7.4.2 Procedure

- Place a sheet of parchment paper on a baking tray
- Pipe the Choux pastry dough into lines on the paper.
- Bake at about 375°F for 35-45 minutes.
- Don't open the oven to check for the first 30 minutes.
- After 30 minutes in the oven, prick a small hole in the shells to let the steam out.
- Remove from the oven when done and let cool.
- Using the hole pricked, you can pipe the filling (such as the Chocolate Mousse in section 8.1 or Creme Patisserie in section 8.6) into the eclair.
- Add whatever topping you wish (such as the Chocolate Ganache in section 8.4).

7.5 Deep Fried Raspberry-Chocolate Wraps

I got the idea for these one day as I was eating some raspberries with a bag of chocolate chips nearby. This recipe makes one wrap. Scale up as needed.

7.5.1 Ingredients

- 3 Raspberries
- 3 Chocolate chips
- 1 Won-ton wrap
- A small amount of egg white (to seal the wraps)
- Powdered sugar

7.5.2 Procedure

- Insert the chocolate chips into the raspberries.
- Line the three stuffed raspberries diagonally on the won-ton wrap.
- Roll up the won-ton wrap like a spring roll or a burrito and used a dab of egg white to seal.
- Deep fry at about 350° until golden brown.
- Drain and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Warning: The contents will be hot. Let cool a little before eating.

7.6 Cannoli

Most of the cannoli recipes I found use wine and deep frying. While there is something satisfying about dipping things in hot oil, it is a pain to setup and cleanup. I also don't have any wine in the house. So I searched for alternatives. Here is a recipe that doesn't use wine and uses an air fryer.

I got 8 usable Cannoli shells from this for my first attempt. It would have been 12, but four of them came off the forms to some extent. Rolling the dough thinner would also produce more shells. I think that using some more liquid would also help. This will require some more experimentation.

7.6.1 Ingredients

- 260g (1-1/2 cups) all-purpose flour
- 16g (2 tbsp) sugar
- 1g (1/2 tsp) ground cinnamon
- a pinch of salt
- 3 tbsp cold butter (or margarine) sliced into small pieces
- 3 tbsp white grape juice (this may not be enough - I used at least 4 more tsp)
- 1 large egg
- A small amount of egg white (to seal and egg wash the cannolis)

7.6.2 Procedure

- Combine the flour, sugar, cinnamon, and salt, and mix.
- Mix in the butter (or margarine) until it resembles small pebbles.
- Add the egg and grape juice and mix until the dough begins to hold.

- Move the dough to a surface and knead until smooth (about 3-4 minutes) (While kneading, you may need to add a little more grape juice if the dough is not coming together. I put some juice in a cup and tipped out a few drops at a time. When the dough is good, you can drink the remaining juice.)
- Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour (it can be left overnight).
- Lightly coat dough with flour and roll out onto a floured surface to no more than 1/8 inch thick (a pasta machine could also be used) (the dough is dry enough that flouring may not be needed).
- Use a 4 inch round cookie cutter to cut circles from the dough.
- When you run out of room to cut circles, you can wad the dough up and roll it out again.
- Wrap each circle around a cannoli tube and seal with a little egg white. Brushing the cannoli tubes with oil first makes it easier to remove the tubes afterwards, but be careful not to get oil where you want to seal the dough. It will interfere with the seal.
- Brush your air fryer basket lightly with oil and preheat to 400°F.
- Place cannolis in the basket making sure to leave plenty of room for the air to circulate (only a few at a time).
- Cook for 4-5 minutes or until the shells are golden brown (timing may need to adjust for your air fryer).
- Let cool and remove from the tubes.
- You can cook the next batch while waiting for the previous batch to cool.
- At some point, you may need to let the basket cool down and reapply oil (I haven't tested this yet).

You can dip the ends of the shells in melted chocolate, if desired.

The shells can keep for a few days if they are not filled. Once filled, they should be eaten quickly, lest they become soggy.

When you are ready to eat them, add the filling from section 8.11, add any desired garnishes and lightly dust with powdered sugar.

Chapter 8

Extras

These are things that can be used as topping, fillings, or sauces with other recipes.

8.1 Coconut Cream Chocolate Mousse

I went looking for chocolate mousse recipes and they all had raw eggs in them. Personally, I don't like to use raw eggs, so I went looking for a vegan recipe. There is a slight hint of coconut flavor in the finished product. Depending on how you feel about this, it may be a good or a bad thing. You could add more cocoa powder or a drop of vanilla extract (or something else) to help hide the flavor. As an alternative, you can try the Tofu Chocolate Mousse (section 8.2).

8.1.1 Ingredients

- 1 can full fat coconut milk. Refrigerate over night so that you can separate the cream (I measured 239g). If you have a can of coconut cream, you can just use that directly.
- 3 tbsp (12g) cocoa powder
- 2 tbsp (18g) sugar

8.1.2 Procedure

- Transfer the coconut cream to a bowl and beat until smooth.
- Beat in the cocoa powder and sugar.
- Continue to beat until it forms a mousse like texture. You should probably pause occasionally to scrape down the sides of the bowl.

8.2 Tofu Chocolate Mousse

Here's an alternative to the Coconut Cream Chocolate Mousse (section 8.1) that uses tofu. If you don't like the faint taste of coconut, you can try this one.

8.2.1 Ingredients

- 1 block of silken tofu - drained (about 454g).
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (20g) cocoa powder
- 3 tbsp (27g) sugar

8.2.2 Procedure

- Start beating the tofu so that the block is broken up.
- Beat in the sugar and cocoa powder.
- Continue to beat until it forms a smooth mousse like texture. You should probably pause occasionally to scrape down the sides of the bowl.

8.3 Tofu Raspberry Mousse

This is basically the same as the Tofu Chocolate Mousse (section 8.2) except that it replaces chocolate with raspberry powder. If you don't like the faint taste of coconut, you can try this one.

8.3.1 Ingredients

- 1 block of silken tofu - drained (about 454g).
- 4 tbsp (24g) raspberry powder
- 2 tbsp (21g) sugar

8.3.2 Procedure

- Start beating the tofu so that the block is broken up.
- Beat in the sugar and raspberry powder.
- Continue to beat until it forms a smooth mousse like texture. You should probably pause occasionally to scrape down the sides of the bowl.

Feel free to throw in some fresh raspberries or raspberry preserves. The color from just using the raspberry powder is rather pale. Perhaps some food coloring would help.

8.4 Chocolate Ganache

8.4.1 Ingredients

- 2 bars good quality baking chocolate (225g)
- 1 cup heavy or whipping cream

8.4.2 Procedure

- Chop up the chocolate into small pieces. I used a fine grater, but ran into trouble with static electricity flinging pieces around (see Section 9.2).
- Put the chocolate pieces into a heatproof container.
- Heat the cream to a simmer. Don't let it get to a full boil.
- Pour the heated cream over the chocolate pieces.
- Wait for a minute or so to let the chocolate to start melting. Smaller pieces will melt faster.
- Mix until all the chocolate is melted and the mixture is uniform.
- Let cool for use.

8.5 Carmel/Spun Sugar

This is a bit fiddly. The first time I tried it, it wound up crystalizing instead of caramelizing. Don't give up, try again. To clean up, fill the pan with water and heat while stirring. This will help dissolve the remaining sugar.

It might be a wise idea to have a large container, such as the kitchen sink, full of cool water just in case of burns from hot sugar.

8.5.1 Discussion

This process lies at the intersection of chemistry and physics. There is still disagreement about whether sugar melts or decomposes (see <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/jf3002526> for an example). For our purposes, we will assume that it melts at 185°C. This is quite a bit hotter than boiling water (100°C), so caution is advised to avoid burns.

Sugar naturally forms a crystalline solid. This process attempts to make it into an amorphous solid. It can be done, but is a bit tricky. The basic process is to dissolve the sugar in water, boil the water off, then let the sugar heat until it caramelizes (this apparently can be done dry without any water, but is also tricky). As the water boils off, this becomes a super-saturated solution. Given the slightest provocation, it will form crystals. Crystallization can be reduced by keeping the pot clean and making sure that no sugar crystals are present. One can also add a little glucose or fructose to help break up the crystal structure.

Once the sugar is all dissolved, bring the mixture to a boil to get rid of the water. Keep the pastry brush and water handy to keep the sides of the pan clean. You can note a change in the boiling once the water is all gone. At this point, the temperature can rise past the boiling point of water. This is necessary for the caramelizing process. If you just want a sugar syrup, you can quit at this point.

8.5.2 Ingredients

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (105g) granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons water

Have another container of water handy and a pastry brush.

8.5.3 Procedure

If you want spun sugar, be sure to cover the working area with newspapers or something to catch errant globs of sugar.

- Combine the sugar and water in a clean saucepan (I've heard that non-stick ones don't work, but haven't tried myself).
- Gently heat while stirring until all the sugar is dissolved.
- Turn the heat up and let boil undisturbed until the caramel starts to brown. I was able to start smelling caramel at this point. While boiling, use the pastry brush to dab water on any sugar crystalizing on the edges of the pan.
- Remove from heat and let cool a bit.
- If all you want are caramel shards, you can pour out onto something flexible and non-stick to let cool.
- If you want spun sugar, wait until thin strands of sugar come off your fork or whisk when you dip it in the cooling mix.
- Dip your mixer in the sugar mix and whip it back and forth rapidly over the area you want the spun sugar.
- After you've accumulated enough, you can pick it up and gently shape it.

8.6 Creme Patisserie

This is a member of the custard family that can be piped for use as a filling in pastries. If made a little thicker, it could be used as a dessert by itself, or piped onto other desserts. Note that all the whisking will give your arm a good workout. If you successfully separate all the egg yolks from the whites, you can use the leftover whites for a meringue (section 8.7, for example). If you are not completely successful, you can make scrambled eggs or a quiché.

8.6.1 Ingredients

- 2 cups (500g) whole milk
- 50-60g (6 tbsp) sugar
- a pinch of salt (maybe $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp)
- 20g-39g (3-5 tbsp) cornstarch (depending on how stiff you want the result)
- 4 large egg yolks (separating the eggs was the most difficult part for me, even with an egg separator)
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter, softened

The following ingredients are flavorings that I've used. Feel free to adjust the quantities or try your own. I have several more that I want to try.

- 1 tbsp vanilla extract (add to milk)
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon (add to milk)
- 7g orange zest (simmer in milk)
- 20-30g cocoa powder (add to milk)
- 10g raspberry juice powder (add to milk) (may need a bit more)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp peppermint extract (add to milk) (may need a bit more)

8.6.2 Procedure

Note that if the flavorings that you add to the milk do not require the milk to be warmed, you can simply mix the milk and flavorings in with the egg mixture before heating.

- Add the flavorings that need to be simmered to the milk in a saucepan and slowly bring to a simmer. If there are none, skip to mixing the milk with the egg mixture step.
- While waiting for the milk to warm:
 - Add sugar, egg yolks, cornstarch, and salt in a bowl
 - Whisk until the mixture is smooth
 - Set aside until the milk is ready
- Slowly pour about half of the milk mixture into the egg mixture while whisking constantly to temper the egg mixture
- After the egg mixture has been tempered, add it to the remaining hot milk mixture
- Heat on medium heat until it starts to thicken (about 1-2 minutes) while whisking vigorously. If starting from cold milk, it will take longer.
- Keep whisking until it comes to a boil (pause whisking occasionally for a few seconds to look for bubbles)
- Once it starts to boil, lower the heat and cook for 1-2 minutes more while continuing to whisk
- Remove from heat and whisk in the butter until completely mixed
- Pour mixture into a bowl (I'm paranoid about contamination from raw eggs, so maybe a different one than the first bowl) and cover the surface of the mixture with plastic wrap. This keeps air from the mixture and prevents a "skin" from forming.
- Let cool to room temperature and then refrigerate until completely chilled. This should keep for 3 days, or so.
- Use as needed, but give it a whisk before use to make it smooth again.

8.7 French Meringue

I made these once to use up some leftover egg whites making Creme Patisserie. I think that I baked them a little too long. They were good, but a bit crunchy.

8.7.1 Ingredients

- Whites from 4 large eggs (possibly leftovers from making Creme Patisserie in section 8.6) at room temperature
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp Cream of Tartar
- 200g of sugar
- optional flavorings

8.7.2 Optional Flavorings

- 20g cocoa powder
- 1 tsp raspberry powder (may need more)

8.7.3 Procedure

- preheat oven to 220°F
- whip the eggs and cream of tartar at medium speed until foamy. I use an electric mixer for this.
- whip the eggs and cream of tartar at high speed and slowly add the sugar. If you have flavoring or color add it at this point.
- continue whipping until stiff peaks are reached. This strains the limits of my cheap electric hand mixer.
- pipe meringue onto a cookie sheet
- bake until dry and can easily be removed (maybe 1 hour?)

8.8 Lemon Curd

This is based on an easy recipe that I found online. It doesn't require separating the eggs and everything is mixed and heated at once. It is similar to things like Creme Patisserie (section 8.6). Feel free to try other flavors besides lemon. Note that if you want to make something like a lemon meringue pie, you may wish to find a lemon curd recipe that uses just the egg yolks, so that the whites can be used for the meringue.

I've tried mixing some lime juice and lime zest in with the lemon juice and lemon zest with good results. Some time, I will try using orange juice and orange zest. I've also been reducing the amount of sugar as I like things tart. It's a matter of taste, so experiment and find out what tastes good to you. It can also be frozen and thawed for use later.

8.8.1 Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup fresh lemon juice
- 120-146g ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup) white sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsalted butter
- 3 large eggs
- 10g (1 tbsp) lemon zest
- 1 tbsp cornstarch (optional - makes it thicker when used as a filling)

8.8.2 Procedure

- Cube the butter.
- Combine all ingredients in a saucepan.
- Heat with medium heat until mixture starts to thicken and gets to a boil (10-15 minutes, or so). Whisk continually while heating to keep the eggs from curdling.
- Once it starts to thicken (you will know when it starts to thicken - the change is quite noticeable), you can lower the heat a little while it comes to a boil. I let it boil for a minute or two before removing from heat.
- Remove from heat and transfer curd to a large bowl and cover the surface with plastic wrap. This helps keep a “skin” from forming. Or, I use the 28oz plastic peanut butter containers. Once cleaned out, they are the right size for a batch. You may wish to strain the curd while transferring to removed the zest. Or, you could leave it in and tell people that it shows that it’s from fresh lemons, like leaving the pulp in.
- Let cool to room temperature.
- Refrigerate until cool. The curd will thicken as it cools.

8.9 Raspberry Curd

This is a modification of the Lemon Curd recipe to use raspberries.

8.9.1 Ingredients

- 265g frozen raspberries
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fresh lemon juice
- 120-146g ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup) white sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsalted butter
- 3 large eggs

- 10g (1 tbsp) lemon zest
- 1 tbsp cornstarch (optional - makes it thicker when used as a filling)

8.9.2 Procedure

- Cook the raspberries with the lemon juice until they soften and burst.
- Strain the raspberry seeds out of the mixture.
- Cube the butter.
- Combine all ingredients in a saucepan.
- Heat with medium heat until mixture starts to thicken and gets to a boil (10-15 minutes, or so). Whisk continually while heating to keep the eggs from curdling.
- Once it starts to thicken (you will know when it starts to thicken - the change is quite noticeable), you can lower the heat a little while it comes to a boil. I let it boil for a minute or two before removing from heat.
- Remove from heat and transfer curd to a large bowl and cover the surface with plastic wrap. This helps keep a “skin” from forming. Or, I use the 28oz plastic peanut butter containers. Once cleaned out, they are the right size for a batch. You may wish to strain the curd while transferring to removed the zest. Or, you could leave it in and tell people that it shows that it’s from fresh lemons, like leaving the pulp in.
- Let cool to room temperature.
- Refrigerate until cool. The curd will thicken as it cools.

8.10 Manicotti Filling

This is really a “to-taste” recipe. Feel free to adjust quantities or and/remove ingredients as you wish.

I made this and it was enough to fill 11 Manicotti shells with a bit left over. My wife liked them, but though that something crunchy, like chopped onions would be a good addition.

8.10.1 Ingredients

- 454g (1 lb) of Ricotta Cheese
- 20g crushed garlic
- 1tbsp dried basil (too light to register on my scale)
- 1tsp dried oregano (too light to register on my scale)
- 2g of onion powder
- a dash of your favorite hot sauce (to taste)

- salt and black pepper to taste
- 100g shredded cheddar-jack mix
- 50g shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 egg

8.10.2 Procedure

- Mix all the ingredients together until well mixed.

8.11 Cannoli Filling

The filling can keep a couple days refrigerated in an airtight container. This makes enough for about 8 Cannolis. When I made this, I wound up letting the Ricotta drain for a couple of days and was worried that it would be too thick to pipe. It worked fine. I have read that if it is too stiff, mixing in some whipped cream will help.

Some recipes I've seen do not have the zest and have vanilla instead. Try some different ones and pick the one you like.

8.11.1 Ingredients

- 3/4 cup Ricotta Cheese
- 70g (1/2) cup powdered sugar
- 2-5g (1 tsp) orange (and/or lemon and/or other citrus) zest (to taste)
- 60g (1/3) cup mini chocolate chips
- Garnishes such as chocolate chips, slice almonds, or anything else that sounds good.

8.11.2 Procedure

- Drain the Ricotta Cheese overnight.
- Gently mix the Ricotta and the sugar until well mixed.
- Add the zest and the mini chocolate chips until evenly distributed.
- When ready to use, place in a piping bag with a 1/2 inch nozzle. Note that I've found that filling the shells with a spoon works just as well and is easier.
- Pipe the filling into the shells - fill half from each end.

Chapter 9

Tips and Techniques

9.1 Chiffonade

This is a procedure for thinly slicing herb or vegetable leaves.

9.1.1 Procedure

- After washing and drying the leaves, stack them.
- Tightly roll the stack of leaves.
- Carefully slice off narrow strips perpendicular to the roll (watch your fingers).

After slicing, you can crosscut the thin strips to make smaller pieces. This works well with basil.

9.2 Grating Baker's Chocolate

I decided to try grating the chocolate the first time I made a chocolate ganache. The ganache turned out quite good, but it's not clear that grating the chocolate was necessary. My advice is that if you can avoid grating chocolate, do it. If you must, here are some things I learned from experience.

- Keep the chocolate and tools cool or cold. The chocolate will melt in your hand.
- The grated bits of chocolate pick up a static charge and will fly off in unexpected directions. Using a deep bowl rather than a plate will help to contain them.
- Be patient. It may take a long time to get enough chocolate grated.
- The little bits of chocolate will get all over the place. Be prepared to do some cleanup afterwards.

9.3 Melting Chocolate

Chocolate melts at a fairly low temperature. The main concerns are to avoid overheating and contact with water. Here are some methods:

9.3.1 Microwaving

- Break the chocolate into small chunks and place in a microwave-safe bowl
- Microwave on high for a few (10-15) seconds and check.
- Repeat microwaving for a few seconds and checking until the chocolate is melted.

9.3.2 Water Heating

- Fill a saucepan about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way with water.
- Break the chocolate into small chunks and place in a heat resistant bowl. (Note that the bowl needs to be enough bigger than the saucepan that the bottom doesn't touch the water when placed in the saucepan.)
- Put the saucepan on the stove and set the burner as low as it will go.
- Place the bowl in the saucepan and wait until the chocolate starts to melt.
- Stir occasionally until the chocolate is fully melted.

9.3.3 Stove Top

If you are brave, careful, foolish, or some combination, you can try just melting the chocolate on the stovetop. This may work best with an electric stove.

- Turn the burner on low.
- Break the chocolate into small chunks and place in a saucepan.
- Once the burner has reached temperature, turn it off.
- Place the saucepan on the burner.
- Stir occasionally until the chocolate is fully melted.
- If the burner cools too much before the chocolate is fully melted, remove the saucepan, heat the burner, turn it off, and replace the saucepan.

9.4 Braids

Braids can help things look fancier. A braided loaf of bread looks much fancier than just a plain loaf. As I was looking into various braids, I discovered that there is a branch of mathematics dedicated to braids called braid theory. It seems to be related to knot theory. I will try to restrain my digressions, but if you're interested, there is lots of material on the web for further research.

First, some notation. For each strand i , two operators are defined. The σ_i^{-1} operation moves strand i over strand $i + 1$. The σ_i operation moves strand i under strand $i + 1$. If you have n strands, then the operators are not defined for $i = n$, since there is no strand $n + 1$.

To be a little more concrete, assume that there are three strands so, $n = 3$, and that the strands are laid horizontally with strand 1 at the top. To make a normal three strand braid, you first move strand 1 over strand 2. Then you move strand 3 over strand 2. And repeat these two steps until you are finished. The first move is just σ_1^{-1} . The second move has to be expressed as σ_2 . This moves strand 2 under strand 3, which is the same thing as moving strand 3 over strand 2. For 3 strands, the notation σ_3 is meaningless since it would move strand 3 under strand 4 and there is no strand 4. So the notation for a normal 3 strand braid is $\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2$, repeated until finished.

When you have many strands, sometimes multiple moves will happen at approximately the same place. I am using the notation $[\sigma_i, \sigma_j]$, where $|i - j| > 2$, to indicate this.

9.4.1 One Strand

This is the basic loaf. Included only for completeness. I suppose I could have also included zero strands, but that just takes nothing and produces nothing.

9.4.2 Two Strands

This is really a simple twist (see figure 9.1).

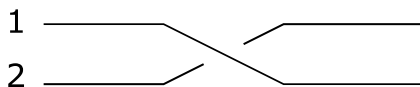


Figure 9.1: Two Strand Braid, Strand 1 Over Strand 2 (σ_1^{-1})

Procedure

- Divide the dough into two equal lumps.
- Roll each lump into long strand.
- Lay the strands side-by-side and squeeze one end together.
- Move the first strand over the second strand (σ_1^{-1}).
- Repeat (σ_1^{-1}) until the end of the strands is reached.
- Squeeze the last end together.

9.4.3 Three Strands

This is what most people think of when they think of a braid. This is the typical three strand braid (see figure 9.2).

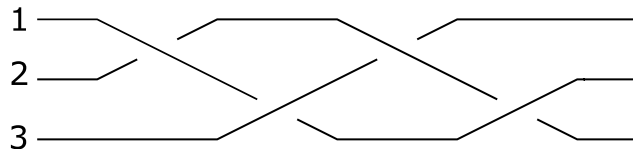


Figure 9.2: Three Strand Braid, $(\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2)$ Repeated

Procedure

- Divide the dough into three equal lumps.
- Roll each lump into long strand.
- Lay the strands side-by-side and squeeze one end together.
- Move the first strand over the second strand (σ_1^{-1}), then move the third strand over the second strand (σ_2).
- Repeat $(\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2)$ until the end of the strands is reached.
- Squeeze the last end together.

9.4.4 Four Strands

There are probably multiple ways to do four or more strand braids. I'm just listing the ones that I've used.

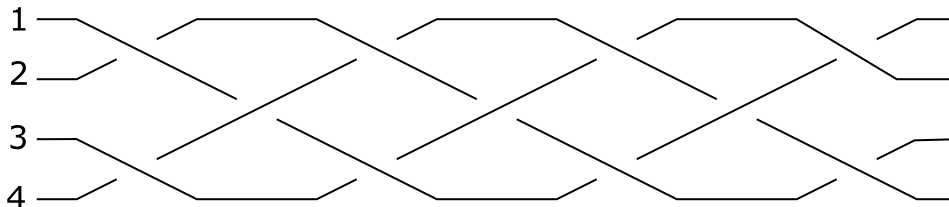


Figure 9.3: Four Strand Braid, $([\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_3^{-1}]\sigma_2)$ Repeated

Procedure

- Divide the dough into four equal lumps.
- Roll each lump into long strand.

- Lay the strands side-by-side and squeeze one end together.
- Move the first strand over the second strand and the third strand over the fourth strand ($[\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_3^{-1}]$).
- Then move the second strand under the third strand (σ_2).
- Squeeze the last end together.

9.4.5 Five Strands

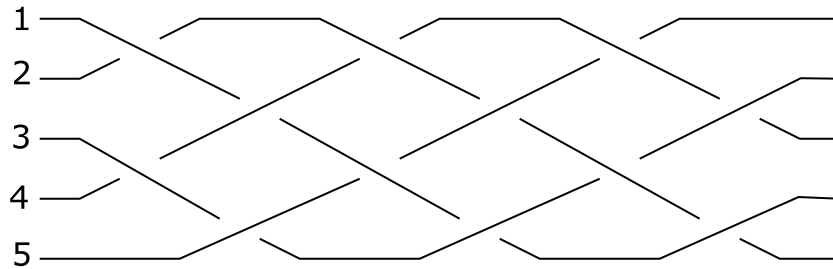


Figure 9.4: Five Strand Braid, $([\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_3^{-1}][\sigma_2\sigma_4])$ Repeated

Procedure

- Divide the dough into five equal lumps.
- Roll each lump into long strand.
- Lay the strands side-by-side and squeeze one end together.
- Move the first strand over the second strand and third strand over the fourth strand ($[\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_3^{-1}]$).
- Move the second strand under the third strand and the fourth strand under the fifth strand ($[\sigma_2\sigma_4]$).
- Repeat $([\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_3^{-1}][\sigma_2\sigma_4])$ until the end of the strands is reached.
- Squeeze the last end together.