

ENGINEER'S BOOK
ABOUT COOKING AND BAKING

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Chapter 1

Theoretical Introduction

Cooking and baking is the tastiest form of applied science. Is it a very special discipline where physics, chemistry and biology meet, sprinkled with light mathematics, to form an incredible experience for both, the creator and the taster. Understanding the underlying fundamental concepts is essential to success.

1.1 Measuring Ingredients

Measuring ingredients is the first step of the process. In cooking, we frequently measure approximately, eyeball, etc. so that they are in the right ballpark or add/season to taste. We consider recipes a set of guidelines rather than a set of rules to be strictly followed. And in most cases such an approach is perfectly reasonable.

Baking, on the other hand, is considerably less forgiving. An error of 5% in one of the measurements could be the difference between a resounding success and a crushing failure (or several more hours in the kitchen). It is thus important to minimise the error.

Nowadays, weighs are commonplace. A decent kitchen weigh is precise and accurate to 1g, and capable of weighing up to 5kg. We can measure anything in grams, from flour, through batter, to oil, without the need to worry about the density, the temperature or the fact that we left our measuring cup at home. Thus, the majority of the measurements in the recipes are in grams. If you do not own a kitchen weigh yet, get one. It will make your life significantly easier.

Volumetric or customary measurements frequently appear in older recipes. Several hundred years ago, people did not commonly have access to a standardised device for measuring weight, thus they used volume. However, volumetric measurements, such as cups or spoons, are intrinsically inconsistent. How much is a cup of flour? That depends on how large the cup in question is and how compressed the flour is. How much is a spoon of milk? Again, depends on the size of the spoon. Inconsistent measurements lead to inconsistent results. And we all know that consistency is the key. Nevertheless, it is important to be able to convert the customary units to grams:

- a cup of flour is about 170g,
- a cup of liquid is 240ml,
- a large egg (or just egg) is between 55g and 65g,

- a spoon (or tablespoon) is around 15ml,
- a teaspoon is approximately 5ml,
- a stick of butter is about 113g.

The above definitions may (and will) vary by region.

1.1.1 Baker's Percentage

A universal method of measuring the amount of an ingredient in baking is the baker's percentage. It is a notation indicating the proportion of an ingredient relative to the total weight of the flour used in the recipe:

$$\text{baker's percentage} = 100\% \times \frac{\text{mass}_{\text{ingredient}}}{\text{mass}_{\text{flour}}}$$

For example, a recipe calling for 65% water will require 292.5g of water if 450g of flour are used ($\frac{450 \times 65\%}{100\%} = 450 \times 0.65 \approx 292.5$).

1.1.2 Measuring Flour

1.1.3 Sugar and Spices

If you are uncertain or have your doubts, the better approach is to be conservative with how much you add. It is usually possible to season to taste later on or incorporate an ingredient into the finished product another way (e.g. sprinkle powdered sugar on top of a cake, make frosting slightly sweeter to balance the overall sweetness), but it is impossible to reduce the amount of an already combined ingredient. Flavour, which we worked hard to develop, will be muted by overwhelming sweetness, saltiness or heat.

Additionally, preparing dishes less spicy, salty or sweet makes them more universal as a taster can choose to season it more, to satisfy their palate, or

eat it mild. A great example is the thai cuisine which is, for some, notoriously hot and, despite being delicious, inedible.

1.2 Flour

In Europe there are several prevailing systems for labeling flour types, however, all correspond to a certain standardised process. A sample of flour is incinerated in a laboratory oven at a very high temperature for a long time. The amount of ash residue indicates the amount of whole grain that was present in the flour.

When the ash is measured in milligrams per 100g of flour, the German flour types are obtained, such as 450 or 550. Similarly, the French types are the same ash measured in milligrams per 10g of flour, e.g. 45 or 55 which correspond to the German types 450 and 550. The Italians took a different approach and instead assigned the most commonly used flour types numbers 00, 0, 1 and 2. Those correspond to the German 405, 550, 800 and 1050. In general, the higher type flours have higher protein content, but beyond 1100 the protein content begins to drop slightly.

The number (or the ash content) indicates the coarseness of the flour.

1.3 Gluten

1.3.1 Autolyse

1.3.2 Kneading

1.4 The Water Bath Method

1.4.1 Melting Chocolate

1.4.2 Making Custard

1.5 Thickening Sauces

1.6 Carryover Cooking

Chapter 2

Sauces

2.1 Marinara

Ingredients

- 400g of canned tomatoes or the equivalent in fresh tomatoes
- 3 cloves of garlic (crushed)
- 10 basil leaves
- olive oil
- salt
- sugar (optional)

Instructions

1. Blend tomatoes in a pot until smooth or chunky, depending on your preferred texture.
2. Add garlic, basil, a generous drizzle of olive oil, salt and sugar.
3. Boil on low heat until slightly reduced.

After the sauce is cooled, transfer to a glass container and remove the garlic.

Chapter 3

Pasta and Noodles

3.1 Eggless Pasta

My italian friend once told me "What are you doing?! There is no egg in spaghetti!". And I took that personally - there are no eggs in my spaghetti anymore. As surprising as it may be, most traditional italian pasta (e.g. spaghetti, lasagne, bigoli, vermicelli) do not contain eggs - they are made of flour and water. However, there is nothing stopping anyone from using eggs in spaghetti. It simply will not be "traditional". If you wish to use eggs, follow Egg Pasta (3.2).

The italian eggless pasta are very similar to the japanese Udon (3.3).

Several notes before we start:

- the recipe incorporates salt into the dough. While that is not exactly The Italian Way, in my experience, the thinner the pasta, the more one has to salt the water for the pasta to have any flavour. This is directly tied to the time required to boil the pasta. Fresh vermicelli, an extremely thin type of pasta, needs around 30 seconds of boiling time, which is not enough to infuse the salt from the water. Of course, we may dissolve 8% or more salt in the water (80g at 1L water) and the salt will infuse, but at that point I personally prefer to salt the dough and save some salt (16g at 200g flour).
- 45% is the absolute maximum for pasta and it is better to aim for 40%. The dough will be difficult to work, but at higher hydration the pasta will stick together and will be difficult to cut.

Ingredients

- wheat flour
- 40-45% water
- 8% salt (optional, see notes above)

Instructions

All the different types of pasta follow the same dough recipe. The difference comes from the shape, thickness and width of the final cut product. To produce round pasta, you need an attachment for a pasta machine. More complex shapes require a pasta extruder.

1. Mix flour and water, then knead until no more flour remains.
2. Leave to autolyse for 30 minutes to an hour.

If you own a pasta machine:

3. Roll the dough out using a rolling pin until it fits in the machine. Keep the dough mostly rectangular.
4. Run the dough through the machine several times until your preferred thickness.
5. Cut the sheet of dough into a desired length sheets. Sprinkle the sheets with flour to prevent sticking.
6. Using an attachment, cut the sheets into pasta.

If you do not own a pasta machine:

3. Roll the dough out using a rolling pin until your preferred thickness. Keep the sheet rectangular.
4. Sprinkle the sheet generously with flour, then fold the dough along the longer edge once or twice, depending on the size.
5. Cut the dough with a sharp knife along the shorter edge into roughly equally sized stripes.

The pasta is ready to be boiled or dried. Fresh pasta is good for about half a day. Dried pasta may be stored for months.

3.2 Egg Pasta

Fettuccine, Pappardelle, Tagliatelle, Tagliolini

See notes in the Eggless Pasta (3.1) section.

3.3 Udon

Ingredients

1. wheat flour
2. water 40%
3. salt 8%

Instructions

Mix and knead the ingredients into a rough dough. Cover and let rest for at least 30 minutes.

Once ready to make the noodles, divide into 150g balls. Using a rolling pin, roll a ball out to a thick sheet. Then, using a pasta machine, roll it to 3mm thickness (number 2 on Atlas 150) gradually decreasing the thickness setting on the machine. Fold in half, roll to 3mm thickness. Fold in half from the opposite end and roll to 3mm thickness. At this point the dough should be roughly in a rectangular shape. If it is not, continue folding and rolling. You may fold from both ends at the same time overlapping the folds or turn the dough 90 degrees and continue from there. Although udon is standardised to be at least 1.7mm in diameter (when round) or width (when square), there is no one true udon thickness, hence roll it to your preferences.

Once done, dust generously with flour. If you have a bigoli (3.5mm round), trenette (3.5mm square), spaghetti (2mm round) or spaghetti chitarra (2mm square) attachment, run your sheet through. Otherwise, place your sheet on a cutting board and fold in half twice ensuring that the layers are generously dusted with flour. Using a sharp knife cut using little pressure and moving your knife back and forth. Do not press as that might cause the noodle to stick to itself. Move the cut noodle to the side ensuring it does not stick to the other noodles (the freshly cut sides are sticky).

Boil water, at least 1L as the boiling process is long. Once the water is boiling, drop your noodles in, stir after 1 minute and then occasionally every

few minutes. Boiling udon takes at least 10 minutes, but it heavily depends on the thickness. Thicker noodles require longer boiling.

Strain your noodles and cool them with cold water or in an ice bath.

3.4 Soba

Chapter 4

Breads, Buns and Rolls

4.1 Pre-Ferment Bread

Ingredients

For a single loaf

Pre-Ferment (Poolish)

1. 150g flour (12%+ protein or type 650+)
2. 150g water (room temperature)
3. 1g fresh yeast

Dough

1. 400g flour (12%+ protein or type 650+)
2. 280g water (35C)
3. 6g fresh yeast
4. 10g salt

Instructions

Prepare the poolish by mixing all ingredients in a glass jar or a glass container. Leave to ferment in room temperature for 16-24 hours.

Once the poolish is ready, mix it with the ingredients for the dough in a large bowl until homogenous. Leave to rest for around 30 minutes, then fold several times onto itself. Repeat at least one more time and leave to rest for 30 minutes.

Take the dough out of the bowl onto a surface lightly sprinkled with flour. Fold the dough onto itself several times by grabbing an edge of the dough, stretching it up and bringing it to the opposite side. Work clockwise or counterclockwise. Flip the dough upside-down and shape into a ball to form a smooth surface by pulling the dough under itself. Keep the seam at the bottom of the ball throughout the process.

Prepare a proofing basket or line a large bowl with a clean kitchen towel and toss very generously with flour (otherwise the dough will stick to the towel). Toss the top of the dough with flour and place it seam side up in the proofing basket. Proof at room temperature for 30 minutes to one hour.

While the dough is proofing, heat the oven and a dutch oven (you may use a large steel pot with a lid as a replacement) to 250C. Once hot, sprinkle the bottom of the dutch oven with flour and carefully place the dough in it. Do not drop the dough as it will lose the gases built up during proofing resulting in a flatter loaf. Score the top of the bread deeply. Bake covered for 20 minutes, remove the cover and bake for 20 or more minutes to achieve dark brown crust.

4.2 Sourdough Bread

4.3 Tortillas

Ingredients

- flour
- 60% lukewarm water
- 10% oil
- 2% salt

Instructions

The recipe mentions a pan, however, any other flat metal surface, such as griddle, is fine.

1. Dissolve the salt in the water.
2. Add oil and flour, then mix until rough dough.
3. Leave to autolyse for 30 minutes.
4. Knead until homogenous, then leave to rest for 10 minutes.
5. Heat up the pan on medium heat.
6. Divide the dough into balls.
7. Using plenty flour, roll one ball at a time into a 1mm thick disc. Then place it on the pan. Once there is a visible light browning on the bottom side (around 30 seconds to 1 minute), flip over for about 20-30 seconds.
8. Stack the tortillas on a plate. Once done cooking all tortillas, cover the plate with tin foil or anything non-permeable to trap the steam in.

4.4 Pide

4.5 Burger Bun

This recipe makes 6 buns (150g).

Ingredients

1. 125g milk (lukewarm or room temperature)
2. 125g water (lukewarm or room temperature)
3. 20g yeast
4. 15g sugar
5. 1 whole egg + 1 egg yolk
6. 10g salt
7. 525g flour
8. 65g butter (softened)
9. sesame (optional)
10. 1 whole egg for egg wash

instructions

1. Mix together milk, water, yeast, sugar, salt and eggs.
2. Add flour, mix, then knead for up to 5 minutes.
3. Knead the butter into the dough and continue kneading until the dough does not stick anymore.
4. Form into a ball and leave for at least an hour to rise.
5. Divide into 6 even portions and shape into balls. Place on sheets of parchment paper, then lightly coat the tops of the buns with oil and gently flatten with the bottom of a glass.
6. Cover the buns with cloth and leave to proof for 30 minutes to an hour.

7. Preheat the oven to 190C.
8. Mix together an egg and a little water (about a tablespoon), then brush the tops of the buns with the egg wash. Coat generously with sesame.
9. Bake for 17-20 minutes.

4.6 Hoagie Roll

Chapter 5

Pizza

5.1 Pizza Dough

Ingredients

1. wheat flour
2. 60%+ water (room temperature)
3. 2% salt
4. 0.5% fresh yeast

Instructions

1. Mix water, salt and yeast until dissolved.
2. Add the flour and mix with a sturdy spoon until no loose flour remains, then leave to rest for 20-30 minutes.
3. Knead the dough until homogenous (2-5 minutes or however long you wish).
4. Shape the dough into a smooth ball.

For "immediate" use:

5. Leave the dough for around 4 hours, covered, to bulk rise.
6. Portion into equally sized balls and leave to rest for at least 30 minutes.

For overnight storage:

5. Portion into containers, ideally the target weight balls. The containers must be large enough to accommodate expansion of the dough.
6. Move the containers into a fridge for the night.
7. Remove from the fridge at least an hour before using. If not portioned into balls, do it immediately after removing from the fridge to allow the dough to relax.

5.2 Pizza Napoletana

The recommended weight of one portion of dough is 250g.

Instructions

1. Prepare the dough. See Pizza Dough (5.1).
2. Prepare your preferred sauce. For example, see Marinara (2.1).
3. Prepare your toppings. If using fresh mozzarella, dry it lightly.
4. Stretch the pizza dough.
5. Spread a generous amount of sauce on the dough. Do not do it in advance as the might become soggy.
6. Place the toppings, cheese first.
7. Bake at 250 °C for around 8 minutes in a home oven or at 450 °C for 90 seconds in a wood oven (or pizza oven).

5.3 Calzone

5.4 Panzerotti

5.5 Focaccia

Chapter 6

Meats

6.1 Pulled Pork

Chapter 7

Burgers

7.1 Beef Burgers

7.2 Pulled Pork Burgers

7.3 Crispy Chicken Burgers

7.4 Vegetarian Burgers

Chapter 8

Sandwiches

8.1 Chopped Cheese

8.2 Chicken Sandwich

Chapter 9

Sides

9.1 Spring Rolls

9.1.1 Wrappers

Ingredients

1. wheat flour
2. 50% water
3. 10% oil
4. 2% salt

Instructions

1. Mix the ingredients into rough dough and leave to autolyse for 30 minutes to an hour.
2. Knead the dough lightly to ensure it is homogenous, form into a ball and leave to rest for 30 minutes up to overnight in the fridge.
3. Measure out 35g portions of the dough and roll them into 1mm thick sheets, then cut into squares. Dust generously with flour to ensure they do not stick when stacked. If using a pasta machine, roll the entire dough into 1mm thick sheet, then cut into squares.

9.1.2 Filling

Ingredients

1. 250g ground pork
2. 1 carrot
3. 2 leaves of napa cabbage
4. 1/2 red bell pepper
5. scallion

6. 2 cloves of garlic

Marinade

1. 15ml soy sauce
2. 5ml sesame oil
3. 5g sugar

Sauce

1. 30ml fish sauce
2. 30ml oyster sauce
3. 15g sugar

Instructions

1. Mix the marinade ingredients together, then mix the marinade with the ground pork.
2. Mix the sauce ingredients to allow the sugar to dissolve.
3. Cut all vegetables into thin slices.
4. Heat up your wok, then fry the meat on low heat until lightly browned.
- 5.

Chapter 10

Main Courses

10.1 Chicken Broccoli

10.2 Katsu Chicken

10.3 Sweet-Sour Chicken

The sweetness of the sauce comes from the pineapple juice and the pineapple chunks, while the sour taste is attributed to the rice vinegar. Balance those to your liking. Additionally, the pineapple juice, if not on hand, may be replaced by a sugar syrup.

The colour of the sauce ranges from an intense red to a dark brown depending on the ingredients used. Industrial food colouring will yield a bright red. Tomato products, such as concentrate, puree, ketchup, will result in dark red. The addition of soy sauce will darken the colour farther into browns.

The chicken may be battered and fried, however, this recipe is intended to be as quick and cheap as possible so that it is possible to make it when running short on time, hence this step is omitted.

Ingredients

Chicken and Vegetables

1. one small chicken breast
2. red bell pepper (may use more varieties for more vivid colours)
3. red onion
4. 100-150g pineapple
5. 4 cloves of garlic
6. 2cm knob of ginger
7. spring onions for garnish

Sauce

1. 120g pineapple juice
2. 30g tomato concentrate, tomato puree, ketchup
3. 30ml soy sauce

4. 30ml rice vinegar
5. MSG (optional)
6. potato starch

Instructions

Preheat your wok on highest heat at any point during the prep.

First, prepare all ingredients as the cooking process will be rather short and fast paced. Cut the spring onions and set aside in a bowl. Cut bell pepper, onion and pineapple into large chunks (at least 1cm), set aside. Mince garlic and ginger, and set aside separated. Cut the chicken breast into large chunks (at least 2cm).

In a bowl mix the pineapple juice, tomato product, soy sauce, vinegar and MSG. In another bowl mix the starch with a little bit of water to make a slurry. Remember to stir the slurry before adding it as the starch will settle at the bottom.

To the hot wok add a little bit of oil and spread it around the wok to cover its surface. Add chicken and fry on one side until browned lightly, then stir so that the other side is not pink anymore and transfer to a large bowl. You should not be taking too long to fry the chicken as the carryover cooking will do its job.

Next, add a little bit of oil and fry the bell pepper and onion stirring frequently. After around 1 minute, add the pineapple and fry stirring for 1 more minute. Transfer to the bowl with chicken.

Once again, add a little bit of oil and fry the aromatics (garlic and ginger) for about 30 seconds. You may save about 30% of your garlic for the end to give the dish additional spice and garlicky taste. Pour in the sauce and boil for 30 seconds. Pour the slurry slowly to thicken the sauce to desired thickness remembering to stir constantly as the slurry will quickly set into gel.

Once the sauce is thickened, transfer all the vegetables and the chicken to the wok, stir and toss until thoroughly coated and cut the heat. If saved some of the garlic, add it now and stir.

Serve with rice and garnish with the spring onion.

10.4 Zuǒ Zōngtáng Jī (General Tso's Chicken)

10.5 Chénpí Jī (Orange Chicken)

10.6 Yaki Udon

10.7 Döner

10.8 Quesadilla

10.9 Garnek (Hotpot)

A lot of the flavour of the hotpot comes from the fat rendered from the meat, hence it is best to pick sausage and pork belly that are high in fat content.

Ingredients

1. 250g sausage
2. 500g pork belly
3. 1 carrot
4. 1 red bell pepper
5. 1/2 small white cabbage
6. 400g potatoes
7. 5 garlic
8. ground cumin
9. ground pepper
10. 2 bay leaves
11. coriander seeds
12. paprika
13. basil
14. potato starch

Instructions

Use a stainless steel pot.

1. Cut sausage (preferably rangiri) and pork belly (cubes) into large chunks, then fry in the pot until lightly browned.

2. Peel vegetables, then cut carrot (rangiri), pepper, cabbage and potatoes into large chunks. Add to the pot, then fill the pot with water until it covers the contents.
3. Peel and mince garlic. Add all aromatics, herbs, spices. Leave to cook at least until the potatoes are tender.
4. Mix potato starch with water to make a slurry, then add slowly while mixing to the pot to thicken lightly.

Chapter 11

Cookies and Biscuits

11.1 Savoiardi

Ingredients

1. 2 eggs
2. 40g sugar
3. 40g flour
4. 20g starch

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 200C.
2. Separate the yolks from the whites.
3. Add sugar to the whites and whip until smooth and forms peaks.
4. Whip the yolks until pale and foamy.
5. Fold the yolks gently into the whites until homogenous.
6. Incorporate the flour and the starch into the eggs so that no lumps remain.
7. Fill a piping bag with the batter and pipe the fingers onto a parchment paper.
8. Bake for 7 minutes.

11.2 Oatmeal Cookies

Ingredients

For about 18 cookies:

1. 250g oatmeal
2. 200g flour (type 450-650)
3. 150g butter
4. 2 eggs
5. 4g salt
6. 4g cinnamon
7. dried fruits (for example cranberry)
8. 100g 64% chocolate or chocolate chips
9. brown sugar, honey or caramel (optional)
10. water (optional)

Instructions

Preheat your oven to about 165C.

Take a steel pot and set it over medium heat. Add butter and brown until butter solids appear and the liquid turns golden brown. It is important to transfer the liquid butter to a bowl or another container, or cool the pot in a water bath until it is around room temperature because otherwise the butter might burn from the heat stored in the pot.

Blend half the oatmeal coarsely, transfer to a container, then blend the dried fruits until they turn into tiny pieces. We do not want to turn them into a paste, though. Cut the chocolate into rough 5mm squares.

Take a large bowl and mix eggs and sugar. Add butter and mix until com-

bined, then add flour and whisk until the mass turns smooth. Add your remaining ingredients and mix until the mass is uniform. If the mass is crumbly, add some water.

Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Scoop a small portion of the dough, form into a rough ball, then lay on the tray and press down until about 1cm thick. Repeat to make 9 cookies. Bake for 17 minutes or until the bottom of the cookies is brown.

Chapter 12

Desserts

12.1 Tiramisu

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 50g sugar
- 500g mascarpone
- 20 savoiardi (for a recipe, see Savoiardi (11.1))
- 300ml espresso (lukewarm or cold)
- cocoa powder

Instructions

The coffee must not be hot as otherwise the savoiardi dipped in it will melt the mascarpone creme.

If you follow the order of whipping, you won't have to clean your mixer. Otherwise, make sure to not stain the whites with any yolks or mascarpone, and to not introduce mascarpone to your yolks.

1. Separate whites from yolks.
2. Whip the whites with sugar until stiff.
3. Whip yolks until pale.
4. Whip the mascarpone until softened. Do not overwhip or it will turn into butter.
5. Fold the yolks into the whites, then fold the mascarpone in batches into the mix until smooth. Do it gently and as little as possible or the eggs will lose all the air.
6. Lay the first layer of savoiardi dipping them in the coffee (do not soak them!) just before placing them.
7. Place a thick layer of the mascarpone.

8. Repeat with the next layer.
9. Refrigerate for at least 8h, preferably overnight.
10. Dust a piece with cocoa powder before serving.

Cocoa powder absorbs the moisture from the creme, thus dusting before serving ensures it remains powdery and light.

12.2 Panna Cotta

Panna Cotta may be served and garnished in a variety of ways, e.g. layered in a glass or inverted onto a plate with a side of fruits. In this recipe we will be making a 3-layer Panna Cotta in whiskey glasses, however, the recipe for the cream itself may be used to make any variety of Panna Cotta. For a traditional Panna Cotta, omit the chocolate.

Ingredients

For 3 servings:

Cream

- 500ml cream 36% or 30%
- 25g sugar
- 7g gelatin (powder, for other kinds use the appropriate method to dissolve)
- vanilla bean (optional)

Chocolate

- 30g dark chocolate 64%+
- 20g butter
- powdered sugar (optional)

Fruit Sauce

- 100g strawberries, peaches or any other fruits
- mint (optional)
- sugar (optional)

Garnish

- 1 large strawberry, 1 slice of peach or a part of the fruit used to make the sauce
- 2 mint leaves

Instructions

1. In a small bowl, mix 3-4 spoons of cream with the gelatin.
2. Pour the cream into a large pot and add the sugar. Set over small heat. If you are using vanilla or other spices, add them now.
3. Pour in the cream mixed with the gelatin and mix until thoroughly incorporated.
4. Once the temperature reaches 75 °C, cut the heat and distribute evenly into 400ml whiskey glasses.
5. Cover tightly with plastic foil and place in the fridge for at least 4h. The foil prevents the cream from developing a hard skin.

Once the cream sets and you are ready to serve the dessert, prepare the chocolate and the fruit sauce:

1. Melt the chocolate and the butter in a water bath. Adjust the sweetness with the powdered sugar.
2. Blend the fruits and the mint. You may optionally cook the fruits before/after blending (add the mint after cooking once cooled to preserve the intensity of the flavour). Frozen fruits will taste worse, thus it is advisable to introduce additional flavour, e.g. sour through the addition of lemon juice.
3. Prepare the garnish.
4. Remove the cover from a glass and wipe any moisture from the inside and the outside.
5. Layer chocolate thinly as it has quite an intense flavour.
6. Pour the sauce gently on top and garnish with fruit and mint.

12.3 Brownies

There are two types of brownies - fudgy and cakey. Fudgy brownies are chewy, gooey, moist, while cakey brownies resemble a very dense genoise. It is up to your personal preference which type you will make.

The proportions of fats (from butter and chocolate) and flour will vary the fudginess of the brownies. For fudgy brownies add more fat (butter and chocolate) and for cakey brownies add more flour. The mixing technique, the baking time and the temperature also affect the texture of the brownies. For fudgy brownies, barely mix the ingredients and bake shorter, while for cakey brownies do the exact opposite - ensure the ingredients are thoroughly incorporated, preferably using a mixer, and the brownies are baked for a longer time. Additionally, for the cakey brownies, add baking powder to improve the height and the fluffiness .

Farthermore, using less sugar will prevent the sweetness from overwhelming the bitter taste of the chocolate and the cocoa resulting in a richer flavour variety (the following recipe already reflects that). However, the sugar, when baking, caramelises at the top forming a light crust. Adding too little sugar will result in no crust and extremely bitter brownies.

The following recipe is for a 22x22cm baking pan of fudgy brownies.

Ingredients

1. 180g 64% chocolate
2. 115g butter
3. 110g white sugar
4. 3 eggs
5. 60g flour
6. 50g cocoa powder
7. 7g salt

8. 120g 64% chopped chocolate or chocolate chips

Preheat your oven to 165C and line a 22x22cm baking pan with parchment paper.

In a water bath, melt the chocolate and the butter stirring occasionally to combine. Once fully melted, take off the heat source, add sugar and salt, and mix. Beat the living hell out of the eggs with a mixer (at least 10 minutes). Pour in the chocolate mixing continuously on low speed. Add the dry ingredients (flour, cocoa powder) and the chopped chocolate or chocolate chips. Fold gently until no flour pockets remain (we do not want to deflate the batter).

Pour the batter into the pan and bake for 18-20 minutes. Let cool in the pan on a wire rack for several hours before cutting. Cut into 9 pieces.

Chapter 13

Pastry

13.1 Tart Shell (Pâte Sablée)

Pâte Sablée (French shortcrust pastry) is one of the three basic kinds of "crumbly" pastry (pâte friable). The crunchy and crumbly texture combined with a slight sweet tone makes this dough ideal for sweet tarts.

Ingredients

- 100g butter (room temperature)
- 72g powder sugar
- 20g almond powder (substitute flour if no almond powder)
- 30g corn/potato starch
- 36g whole eggs (whisked, room temperature)
- 170g flour (400 or 600)
- 2g salt

Instructions

Use a mixer. Throughout the entire process, all mixing should be done "lightly", that is shortly and on low speed. We do not want to incorporate much air into the dough so as to prevent it from rising in the oven.

1. Beat the butter.
2. Sift in the powdered sugar, the almond powder and the starch. Mix until combined.
3. Mix the eggs in, adding in batches to prevent lumping of the dough.
4. Sift in the flour and mix until rough crumbly dough forms.
5. Transfer the dough onto a silicon mat.
6. Work the dough using a bench scraper or any other tool until it is homogenous. It is also possible to do this by hand, however, the warmth

will melt the butter, altering the texture.

7. Place the dough between two sheets of parchment paper. This eliminates the need to use additional flour and makes the scraps from cutting reusable.
8. Roll out the dough to 2mm thickness.
9. Chill the dough in a fridge for 1-2 hours. This step is optional, but is highly recommended as soft dough is difficult to work with.

It is best to prepare the tart shells on a perforated silicone mat on which we will also bake. Moving them onto the mat from another surface might prove difficult. Make sure your mat is heat resistant up to 180 °C.

10. Cut the bottoms of the shells out (press the tart rings into the dough).
11. Cut strips slightly taller than the tart ring. Tightly line the sides of the tart rings with the strips. Make sure the dough is not too cold as it might snap. Cut the excess leaving a slight overlap, then press the ends of the strips together.
12. Trim the excess dough from the top, cutting towards the outside.
13. Bake at 160 °C for ~15 minutes.

The tart shells may be stored for several weeks in a dry environment.

13.2 Crème Pâtissière (Pastry Cream)

Crème Pâtissière is a type of thick custard made of milk and eggs. This recipe incorporates sugar, making the cream perfect to be used directly or as a base of another cream in tarts, *èlcairs*, *choux*, etc.

Ingredients

- 265g milk
- vanilla bean
- 50g sugar
- 65g egg yolks
- 20g corn/potato starch
- 20g butter

Instructions

Use a whisk, preferably a narrow one.

1. Pour milk into a saucepan, add the vanilla seeds and the bean, then heat to around 60°C to infuse the vanilla flavour.
2. Whisk the yolks, sugar and the starch until smooth.
3. Once infused, pour the milk into the egg mixture in small batches while whisking.
4. Strain the whole mixture into the saucepan.
5. Set it over a small heat and whisk continuously. The cream will thicken considerably around the boiling point. Once it does, whisk vigorously for about a minute.
6. Take off the heat and whisk for another minute. The cream should loosen up and have a shiny appearance.

7. Add the butter and blend until the cream becomes smooth.
8. Transfer to another container (optional) and cover with the surface with plastic foil to prevent forming a skin.
9. Refrigerate. Once cold, the cream will have a jelly-like consistency. Whisk before using.

13.3 Tarte au Citron (Lemon Tart)

This recipe makes 4 tarts, thus 4 Ø10cm Tart Shell (Pâte Sablée) (13.1) are required.

Ingredients (Lemon Curd)

- 125g lemon juice
- zest of the lemons (optional)
- 65g egg yolks
- 110g whole eggs
- 95g sugar
- 2.5g gelatin
- 80g butter (optional)

Lemon zest has a rich lemon flavour and since we already are using the lemons, we might also zest them before squeezing the juice. While optional, the zest improves the flavour and is recommended. Butter improves the mouthfeel - makes the whole curd smoother.

Instructions

Vigorous stirring, especially using metal utensils, in a metal pot will cause a metallic aftertaste in the curd due to the acid from the lemon reacting with the metal. Prefer using a silicone spatula instead of a metal whisk.

1. Zest the lemons.
2. Squeeze the lemons.
3. Mix the gelatin with 20g of the lemon juice.
4. Combine the remaining lemon juice, zest, yolks, eggs and sugar in a pot, then set it over low heat. Stir gently and constantly to prevent

curdling.

5. Once the curd thickens considerably, remove from the heat and continue stirring for up to a minute.
6. While still hot (around 50 °C), add the gelatin and mix to dissolve.
7. Add the butter and blend with an immersion blender until smooth.
8. Fill the shells with the curd and move to a fridge to chill and set for about an hour.

Ingredients (Lemon Meringue)

- 30g water
 - 70g sugar
 - 25g sugar
 - 65g egg whites
 - 15g lemon juice
 - 1.5g gelatin
 - lemon zest
- } Sugar Syrup
- } French Meringue

Instructions

1. Dissolve the gelatin in the lemon juice by heating it up to 40 °C.
2. Make the sugar syrup by combining the water and the sugar in a pot, then setting it on low heat until it reaches around 120 °C.
3. In the meantime, make the french meringue by beating the egg whites with the sugar.
4. Pour the hot sugar syrup into the meringue in small batches while mixing constantly.

5. Immediately after add the lemon juice with the gelatine and mix to incorporate.
6. Once cooled, transfer to a pastry bag with a tip of your choice.
7. Pipe on top of the curd.
8. Sprinkle with the lemon zest.
9. Move to a fridge to chill and set for about an hour.

13.4 Crescent Rolls

Ingredients

13.5 Pączki (Berliner, Doughnuts)

Ingredients

Chapter 14

Cakes

14.1 Genoise

14.2 Shortcake

14.3 Carrot Cake

This recipe is scaled to a 15cm (diameter) cake tin.

Ingredients

1. 120g eggs (room temperature)
2. 70g sugar (prefer brown for better moisture retention, but white is also perfect)
3. 77g oil (odourless, e.g. canola)
4. 110g flour
5. 55g almond powder (substitute with flour if not available)
6. 3g cinnamon
7. 6.5g baking powder
8. 2g salt
9. 170g carrots (mass after peeling)
10. 50g walnuts
11. 50g raisins

Instructions

1. Line the bottom and the sides of your tin with parchment paper.
2. Preheat oven to 165C.
3. Submerge raisins in rum/water/liquid of your choice and leave to soak.
4. Grate carrots on the fine side of your grater.
5. Chop walnuts.
6. Whisk eggs and sugar.

7. Add oil and whisk until well combined.
8. Add dry ingredients (flour, almond powder, cinnamon, baking powder, salt) and mix well with a spatula.
9. Add carrots, walnuts, drained raisins and mix.
10. Pour into the tin. Drop the tin from about 10cm to remove large air bubbles in the batter.
11. Bake 40-45 mins.
12. Invert onto a cooling rack, remove the tin and the parchment paper. cool for 10 mins, then flip up-side-down and continue cooling until edible or room temperature.
13. Slice into 3 layers of 1.5cm to 2cm height. Layer with cream cheese frosting.

14.4 Cream Cheese Frosting

Ingredients

1. 320g cream cheese (room temperature)
2. 120g powder sugar
3. 160g butter (room temperature)
4. 3.5g lemon zest
5. 30g heavy cream

Instructions

1. Mix the cream cheese with the powder sugar.
2. In another bowl mix the the butter to soften it. This helps ensure there will be no clumps of butter in the frosting.
3. Add the butter to the cream cheese and mix until homogenous.
4. Add lemon zest and heavy cream. Mix until homogenous.
5. Chill in the fridge for about 20 minutes before using.

14.5 Szarlotka (Apple Cake)

1. 400g flour
2. 150g butter
3. 2 egg yolks (about 30g)
4. 150g cream 30% or 36%
5. 8g salt
6. 75g sugar