

MALTED GINGERBREAD MEN

Preparation time: Less than 30 minutes + chilling time **Cooking time:** Less than 30 minutes **Skill level:** Easy!

INGREDIENTS

- 350g plain flour
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 3 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 125a butter
- 175g dark brown
- 1 eaa
- 4 tablespoons malt extract
- Icing to decorate

METHOD

Place the spices, sugar, butter and malt extract into a saucepan and heat gently until the butter is melted and the sugar fully dissolved. Add the bicarbonate of soda and quickly stir in. Remove from the heat and cool for a few minutes. Meanwhile weigh out flour into a bowl and add the egg. Pour the contents of the saucepan onto the flour and mix together with a spoon. Then, on a floured work surface, tip out the dough and flatten slightly. Wrap in cling film and place in the fridge for 10 minutes.

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C (fan) and line baking tray with greaseproof paper. Then roll the dough to about 4mm thick and using a pastry/dough cutter create your desired shapes. Place onto the lined tray and bake for approx. 10-12 minutes until biscuits are golden. Remove from oven and place on a wire racking to allow to cool. Decorate with an icing pen.



the undiscovered ingredient

Using these recipe cards we will try to show you how this fascinating ingredient can bring improvements to virtually all of your cooking. In addition to the recipe featured, why not try adding a dessert spoonful of malt extract to any sauce you make; into your gravy or try using malt extract in place of half of the sugar called for in your baking recipes. We know you will be surprised by the difference this can make.

We have used malt extract in this recipe as a replacement for golden syrup. Malt extract not only firms the biscuit giving it a little extra crunch and introduces a warm, golden colour. Interestingly it also enhances the warmth and fieriness of the ginger - often lost when made using simple sugar.

For this recipe you will need to have a jar of malt extract to hand. Malt is made from barley, a cereal grown extensively in our region; it is made by sprouting the barley just enough to allow natural enzymes to be developed in the barley that can convert starch into sugar. At Muntons our malt extract is made by adding just water and heat - nothing else. We crush our malt and soak this in hot water to encourage the natural enzymes to convert the barley starch into sugars and then boil this to drive off most of the water leaving the sticky glossy syrup that you spoon from the jar. Jars of malt are available from health food shops and pharmacists.

Muntons make more than just malt. For example Muntons are Europe's largest homebrew manufacturer, making beer and wine making kit that can be found in specialist homebrew shops, online and through some high error retailers.





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