

1. Cookies I – Linz Tarts Cookies and Vanilla Walnut Crescents 2024

Linz Tarts Cookies

About 25 - 30 cookie sandwiches

Ingredients:

3 cups of all-purpose flour + **Extra flour** for flouring surface

2 cups of confectioners' sugar

½ TSP of baking powder

Lemon zest from one lemon

2 ½ sticks (10 OZ) of butter - soft (room temperature)

2 large eggs

1 TSP of Vanilla Extract

Filling:

About **1 cup** of strawberry preserve -- adjust if needed

Optional Final Touch:

Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar

Tools:

Measuring Spoons & Measuring Cups

Kitchen Mixer with Flat Beater Attachment or Hand Mixer

Whisk

Small Hand Grater or Zester

Plastic Wrap

Bowl Scraper or Silicone Spatula

Rolling Pin

3" Round Cookie Cutter (or any other cookie cutters you like for example Christmas Cookie Cutters)

Icing Spatula

4 Medium Size Baking Sheets with Parchment Paper or Silicone Mat

Directions:

1. Dough:

1.1. Place into a kitchen mixer with a flat beater attachment:

3 cups of flour
2 cups of confectioners' sugar
½ TSP of baking powder
Lemon zest from one lemon

Shortly stir together using a hand whisk until nicely combined (about 1 minute).

1.2. Add:

2 ½ sticks of butter - soft
2 large eggs
1 TSP of Vanilla Extract

Process at a slow speed until all ingredients are partially combined.

1.3. Then increase the speed to medium-high and process until the dough is formed (about 2 - 3 minutes).

Note: The cookie dough will be sticky after processing. It will harden during the following resting time in the fridge.

2. Resting time:

2.1. Wrap the dough with plastic wrap (scoop it on the wrap and then cover it with the wrap).

Tip:

If you want to work with the dough soon, form it into a disk, not into a roll shape.

2.2. Let cool in the refrigerator until partially, but not totally, hardened (about 1 hour).

Important: If the dough in the refrigerator fully hardens (if left for a longer time, for example, overnight), remove from the refrigerator about an hour before cookie cutting.

3. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

4. Cut the cookies:

Notes:

- Work one-by-one on a floured surface. The dough needs to always sit on a floured surface during flattening to be able to separate the cut cookies that are ready to bake.
- It is essential to work fast with the dough.
- If it becomes hard to work with the dough after a while (it will become too soft to form the crescents), place it back in the refrigerator for further processing to let it cool and harden.
- Optionally, you can keep placing scraps from the dough into the fridge before further processing to prevent the dough from softening.

- 4.1. Place the dough on a floured surface and lightly flour the top of the dough.
- 4.2. Using a rolling pin, flatten the dough into about 1/8" – 3/16" thickness (based on your preference). If the dough starts sticking, add flour.
- 4.3. Cut the cookie using the cookie cutter of your choice.

Important:

If you are using multiple different options of cookie cutters, make sure you cut even numbers of each shape -- to be able to later create a "sandwich".

- 4.4. Gently place cookies on the baking sheet with parchment paper.

Important:

Make sure they are not touching each other (about 12 - 15 on each baking sheet).

Tip:

Make manipulation with the vanilla bottoms easier by using an icing spatula.

- 4.5. With the leftovers from the cut dough: quickly form the dough from them (with your hands) and roll them again with a rolling pin to cut more cookies.

5. Bake:

- 5.1. Bake in a preheated oven until fully baked. The surface turns from a doughy texture to solid but slightly fluffy (about 8 - 10 minutes).
- 5.2. Rotate the baking sheets in the middle of baking.

Notes:

- If flattened unevenly (even just slightly), each cookie can have a slightly different baking time, so closely watch when you get close to the end of baking and remove each, one by one if necessary.
- Right after baking, the cookies have a soft texture, which can make some people confused and think it is a sign of underbaking; this is why some people tend to extend the baking time and overbake cookies. To ensure cookies are properly baked, watch the surface texture and bake the cookies for at least 8 minutes to reach the best results.

5.3. Let totally cool on the baking sheet before assembly (or using an icing spatula, move to the cooling rack).

6. Assemble the cookie sandwich:

- 6.1. Spread the preserve on one cookie and cover it with the other.
- 6.2. Place into the refrigerator for at least one hour before serving.
- 6.3. Optionally, sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

Note:

Refrigeration of the cookies is optional but not necessary.

Tips:

- If parts of the ingredients stick to the side of the kitchen mixer during processing, stop the mixer, and use a spatula to mix it back in. Then, continue processing.
- You can leave the dough to rest in the refrigerator longer (up to 3 days) - Remove and leave at room temperature for about 1 hour before processing.

Vanilla-walnut Crescents

About 35 - 40 mini crescents

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups** of walnuts - whole
- 2 cups** of all-purpose flour
- 1 cup** of confectioners' sugar
- ¼ TSP** of baking powder
- 1 ¾ sticks** (about 7 OZ) of butter - soft (room temperature)
- 1** large egg

Coating:

- 1 cup** of confectioners' sugar
- 1 bag** (about 1 TBSP) of vanilla sugar *

* Can be purchased on Amazon.com. Usually sold in a packaging of 5 individual bags, and costs about \$5 dollars. Alternatively, you can make your own in the comfort of your own home:

1. Place ½ cup of granulated sugar and pour over about 2 TSP of vanilla extract.
2. Do not cover and let fully dry overnight.
3. When dry, place into a small blender and process until smooth with little crystals.

Tools:

- Measuring Spoons & Measuring Cups
- Food Processor
- Kitchen Mixer with Flat Beater Attachment or Hand Mixer
- Whisk
- Small Hand Grater or Zester
- Plastic Wrap
- Medium Mixing Bowl (about 3 - 4 QT)
- Chef's Knife
- 2 Medium Size Baking Sheets with Parchment Paper or Silicone Mat
- Icing Spatula
- Sieve
- Cooling Rack

Directions:

1. Walnuts preparation:

- 1.1. Place into a food processor:

1 ½ cups of walnuts

Process on high speed until the fine texture is reached - no larger chunks are present (about 2 minutes).

2. Dough:

- 2.1. Place into a kitchen mixer with a flat beater attachment:

Processed walnuts from the previous step

2 cups of all-purpose flour

1 cup of confectioners' sugar

¼ TSP of baking powder

Shortly stir together using a hand whisk until nicely combined (about 1 minute).

- 2.2. Add:

1 ¾ sticks of butter - soft

1 large egg

Process at a slow speed until all ingredients are partially combined.

- 2.3. Then increase the speed to medium-high and process until the dough is formed (about 2 - 3 minutes).

3. Resting time:

- 3.1. Wrap the dough with plastic wrap: scoop it on the wrap and then cover it with the wrap and press to create a flat disk with a thickness of about $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

- 3.2. Let cool in the refrigerator until the dough at least partially hardens (about 30 minutes).

Important: If the dough in the refrigerator fully hardens (if left for a longer time, for example, overnight), remove from the refrigerator about a half hour to an hour before further processing.

4. **Preheat the oven to 350°F.**

5. **Sugar coating:**

5.1. Place into a medium mixing bowl:

1 cup of confectioners' sugar

1 bag of vanilla sugar

Thoroughly stir together with a whisk until nicely combined.

6. **Form the crescents:**

Notes:

- Work one-by-one on a non-floured surface.
- It is essential to work fast with the dough.
- If it becomes hard to work with the dough after a while (it will become too soft to form the crescents), place it back in the refrigerator for further processing to let it cool and harden.

6.1. Cut the dough into long strips and then roll each to a round diameter of about 1/2".

6.2. Cut each roll into similar segments (each about 3" long).

6.3. Bend each segment into a horseshoe shape by bending both ends towards each other and immediately placing them on a baking sheet.

Important:

Ensure they are not touching each other (you can have up to 24 on each baking sheet).

6.4. Repeat with all remaining.

7. **Bake:**

7.1. Bake in a preheated oven until fully baked. The surface turns from a doughy texture to a solid (about 10 - 12 minutes).

7.2. Rotate the baking sheets in the middle of baking.

Note:

Right after baking, the crescents have a soft texture, which can confuse some people and make them think it is a sign of underbaking; this is why some people tend to extend the baking time and overbake crescents.

7.3. Let partially cool on the baking sheet before further manipulation (for about 3 minutes).

8. Coat the crescents:

8.1. While still warm, coat each mini roll in sugar coating.

Tip:

Manipulate each crescent gently (you can use an icing spatula for easy manipulation).

8.2. Place the coated mini crescents on a cooling rack.

8.3. When all crescents are coated, place the remaining sugar mixture into a small sieve and gently sugar all crescents.

Tips:

- If parts of the ingredients stick to the side of the kitchen mixer during processing, stop the mixer, and use a spatula to mix it back in. Then, continue processing.
- You can leave the dough to rest in the refrigerator longer (up to 3 days) - Remove and leave at room temperature for about 1 hour before processing.

Disclaimer:

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