

BON APPETIT HON

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Chocolate Dump-It Cake

Amanda Hesser from Cooking for Mr. Latte

The recipe in the book calls for everything to be mixed together in a saucepan. If you follow this approach, make sure it's a large pan because will be a lot of batter. I used a 4 quart saucepan and it really wasn't big enough. The instructions also tell you to whisk the dry ingredients into the chocolate mixture. When I tried this, my flour clumped up into little balls which wouldn't break up without the help of a hand mixer. In the future, I will probably transfer the chocolate mixture into the bowl of my standing mixer and use the whisk attachment to incorporate the dry ingredients. Also, instead of a 9 inch tube pan, I made cupcakes. If making cupcakes, you'll want to rotate and switch your pans about halfway through the baking time and start to check for doneness after about 20 minutes.

I found the batter to be very thin. And while the cake isn't overly sweet, I like my chocolate to have a stronger presence. I wonder if substituting cocoa powder for half of the unsweetened chocolate would produce a bigger chocolate taste? I also added some espresso powder (maybe 2 teaspoons) to the chocolate mixture after it had cooled to try and enhance the chocolate flavor. And because I prefer the taste of dark chocolate over milk, I used bittersweet chips for the frosting.

- 2 cups sugar
- 4 ounces unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 pound unsalted butter (1 stick), plus more for greasing the pan
- 2 cups all purpose flour, plus more for dusting the pan
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt (the recipe calls for sea salt, I used kosher)
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon cider vinegar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream, at room temperature

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Put the sugar, unsweetened chocolate, butter, and water in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until all of the ingredients are melted and blended. Remove from the heat and let cool for 15 to 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, sift together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. In a small bowl, stir together the milk and vinegar. Grease and flour a 9 inch tube pan.

When the chocolate mixture has cooled, whisk in the milk mixture and eggs. In several additions, add in the dry ingredients. Do not overmix. When the mixture is smooth, add the vanilla and mix once or twice to blend.

Transfer the batter into the cake pan, set on top of a sheet pan, and bake on the middle rack until a skewer inserted in the center comes out clean, about 30 to 35 minutes. Let the cake cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the pan and cool on a rack.

While the cake is cooling, melt the chocolate chips in a double boiler then let cool completely to room temperature. If your chocolate and sour cream are not at the same temperature, the icing will be lumpy and grainy. Test by stirring a little of the sour cream and chocolate together in a bowl; if it mixes smoothly, it's ready. Stir the sour cream into the chocolate, 1/4 cup at a time, until the mixture is smooth.

When the cake is cool, frost it as is or cut it in half so you have two layers. You may want to make a larger batch of frosting if you have two layers.

Keep in the refrigerator and enjoy cold or at room temperature.

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