

Do-it-yourself icing features festive Yule ring

A home economist and businesswoman who recently launched a campaign to interest more women in home baking, is sharing a new holiday serving idea, along with her own recipe, for a festive Christmas ring.

The suggestion from Catherine Clark, founder of a bread firm, is a decorate-your-own Swedish dough ring which gives family and friends the fun, and choice, of adding or subtracting icing calories to their own slice of this holiday treat.

The baked ring, trimmed with a bow, fresh greens, and centered with a bowl of icing for guests to dip into or not, as they choose, is beautiful enough to be the edible centerpiece wreath on your Christmas dinner table or balance a tea or coffee service at the other end of a party table.

"The recipe is large enough to be impressive, about 16 inches in diameter," Catherine Clark says, "although, if you are inspired to make several special gifts for neighbors, the recipe makes two wreaths of a charming eight to ten inches in diameter."

She sometimes prefers the two smaller rings on a party table, in combination with fat, non-drip Christmas candles.

The larger ring can be displayed and served on a platter made by cutting a circle of fairly heavy cardboard one and one-half inches larger in diameter than the baked wreath and covering it with aluminum foil.

This base not only adds a decorative sparkle, but is highly practical for cutting and serving the wreath. It's also a project for children and husbands, adding to the family fun of holiday baking.

CHRISTMAS RING

Dough:
 3/4 cup scalded milk
 1/2 cup butter or margarine
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 cup warm water
 1 pkg. (1/4 oz.) compressed yeast
 OR 1 pkg. dry yeast

3/4 cup sifted all-purpose flour
 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
 An additional 1/4 to 1/2 cup flour for kneading

Filling:
 1/4 cup soft butter or margarine
 1/4 cup granulated sugar, creamed together
 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract

1/2 cup toasted ground almonds
 1 cup finely chopped candied mixed fruit

Icing:
 Blend together:
 2 cups powdered sugar
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 5-6 tablespoons Half & Half cream

After dough has doubled in bulk, turn out on a floured board. Roll into a 22"x10" rectangle.

Mix filling ingredients (except for candied fruit) and spread evenly over the dough, then sprinkle finely chopped candied fruit on top of filling. Roll up from long side as in a jelly roll, wetting the edge to seal it.

Place sealed-edge-down, shaping dough into a ring on a 16"x14" cookie sheet, sealing the two ends together firmly. Take a pair of shears in hand and snip the roll a good 1/4 of the way through, approaching it vertically from the top and snipping every 1/2 inches. Turn the pieces on their sides, alternately right and left, so that fruit is visible. Place an inverted overproof custard cup or bowl in the center of the ring to keep the open center round during baking. This insures adequate space for a bowl of icing or a non-drip candle, if you prefer, at serving time.

Cover with wax paper in a warm and sheltered place until the ring increases about half again in size. Allow about an hour. Just before putting in the oven, gently wash top with beaten egg, using a soft pastry or paint brush. Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 minutes.



This tea ring for a holiday buffet table comes with the icing separate, so guests can add or subtract calories as the diet demands.

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Compromise brings 2 kinds of packaging

"Child-resistant packaging is paying off," says Janet Voorhes, Michigan State University home economist, Oakland County Cooperative Extension Service. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, fewer children have been poisoned by aspirin since the new safety packaging regulations went into effect in 1972.

But the child-safe packages are difficult for many older or physically disabled persons to open. So compromise has been made. Now some standard packaging is back on the market. New regulations are in force for the packaging and labeling of potentially hazardous household substances.

Manufacturers now may use their standard packaging for one size of a particular product. But that product

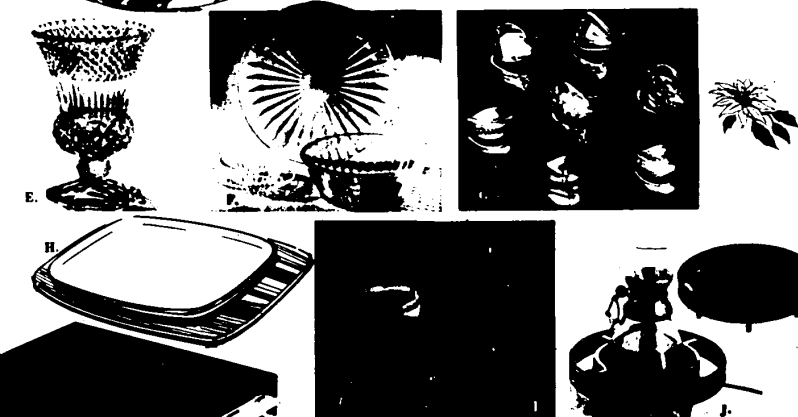
size must carry the warning label: "This package for households without young children."

The substance also must be made in another size in child-resistant packaging. The one exception is that liquid drain cleaners with 10% or more sodium and/or potassium hydroxide must be issued in child-safe containers.

These warning statements must be marked clearly and conspicuously in capital letters within a border—both on the container itself and on any outer package or wrappers. Items too small to carry this entire statement must read: "Product not child resistant." Labels must include first-aid information too. The warning label law does not apply to prescription drugs.



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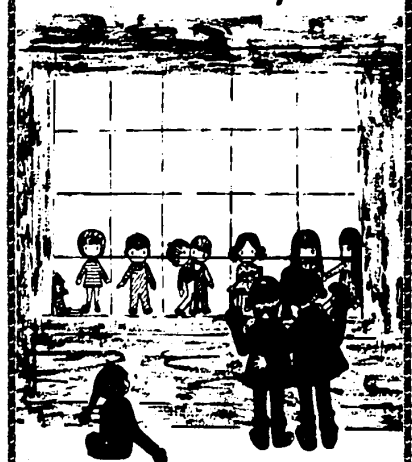
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