

Pastry Can Be Easy

By JOYCE TOTTEN

Do you have a natural born touch with pies? Or have you prepared some tough pastries and decided to live a pie-less life?

Maybe you substitute all sorts of fancy desserts for the traditional holiday pies. Yet someone looks forward to an all-American pie. And it's really not too hard—if you know the tricks.

Little things can make the difference between poor and proud pies. You should roll the dough with a light, but firm touch from the center out along imaginary wheel spokes.

Lift the roller at the rim, and the dough should be only an eighth of an inch thick. I prefer a pastry cloth and a knit cover on the rolling pin (they come in sets) because there is less sticking and hence less need to add flour, which at the rolling stage is likely to toughen the dough. Too much water is the most frequent cause of tough crust.

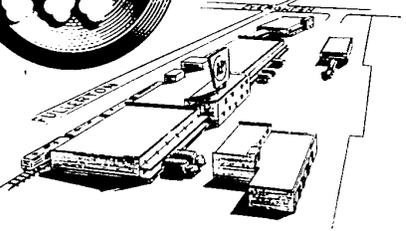
Once you are pie-minded, you'll start reading, clipping, filing, testing, comparing recipes, and exchanging pie lore with every good cook in the neighborhood.

Here is a pastry for trying—especially if you have had difficulties.



we care

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