

Millionaire's Shortbread

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By Andrea Geary

For a caramel filling with the right texture, monitor the temperature with an instant-read thermometer. We prefer Ghirardelli 60% Cacao Bittersweet Chocolate Premium Baking Bar for this recipe. Grating a portion of the chocolate is important for getting the chocolate to set properly; the small holes on a box grater work well for this task. Stir often while melting the chocolate, and don't overheat it.

Crust

2 1/2 cups (12 1/2 oz) all-purpose flour
1/2 cup (3 1/2 oz) granulated sugar
3/4 tsp salt
16 tbsp unsalted butter, melted

Filling

1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
1 cup packed (7 oz) brown sugar
1/2 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup corn syrup
8 tbsp unsalted butter
1/2 tsp salt

Chocolate

8 oz bittersweet chocolate (6 oz chopped fine; 2 oz grated)
(Remember, 8oz bars are usually divided into 8 1oz segments)

1. **FOR THE CRUST:** Adjust oven rack to lower-middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Make foil sling for 13-by-9-inch baking pan by folding 2 long sheet of aluminum foil; first sheet should be 13 in wide and second sheet should be 9 in wide. Lay sheets of foil in pan perpendicular to each other, with extra foil hanging over edges of pan. Push foil into corners and up sides of pan, smoothing foil flush to pan. Combine flour, sugar, and salt in medium bowl. Add melted butter and stir with rubber spatula until flour is evenly moistened. Crumble dough evenly over bottom of prepared pan. Using your fingertips and palm of your hand, press and smooth dough into even thickness. Using fork, pierce dough at 1in intervals. Bake until light golden brown and firm to touch, about 25 to 30 minutes. Transfer pan to wire rack. Using sturdy metal spatula, press on entire surface of warm crust to compress (this will

make finished bars easier to cut). Let crust cool until it is just warm, at least 20 minutes.

2. **FOR THE FILLING:** Stir all ingredients together in large, heavy-bottomed saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until mixture registers between 236 and 239 degrees (temperature will fluctuate), 16 to 20 minutes. Pour over crust and spread to even thickness (mixture will be very hot). Let cool completely, about 1 1/2 hours.
3. **FOR THE CHOCOLATE:** Microwave chopped chocolate in bowl at 50% power, stirring every 15 seconds, until melted but not much warmer than body temperature (check by holding in palm of your hand), 1-2 minutes. Add grated chocolate and stir until smooth, returning to microwave for no more than 5 seconds at a time to finish melting if necessary. Spread chocolate evenly over surface of filling. Refrigerate shortbread until chocolate is just set, about 10 minutes.

Using foil overhang, lift shortbread out of pan and transfer to cutting board; discard foil. Using serrated knife and gentle sawing motion, cut shortbread in half crosswise to create two 6 1/2 by 9-in rectangles. Cut each rectangle in half to make four 2 1/2 by 9-in strips. Cut each strip crosswise into 10 equal pieces. Shortbread can be stored at room temperature between layers of parchment for up to 1 week.)

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