



Otis Molasses Bread

Makes one 2-pound loaf

Ingredients

- Oil or butter for the bread pan
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup white whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp fine sea salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups buttermilk or kefir
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup blackstrap molasses
- About $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp soft butter to brush on the top after it comes out of the oven

Instructions

Preheat oven to 325 F, and grease a 4 x 8 or 5 x 9 inch bread pan

In a large bowl, mix together the dry ingredients.

In a glass bowl or large four cup Pyrex measuring cup, whisk together buttermilk or kefir, egg and molasses. I did some research, and kefir is a perfect substitute for buttermilk.

Pour the liquid into the dry ingredients and stir together with a spatula just until combined. It's very thick. Do not overbeat. The batter is really really thick and hard to mix...Scoop into the prepared bread pan, even out the top with an oiled knife.

Bake about 55-60 min (mine just took 55 minutes) until the center tests done with a toothpick. Cool on a rack five minutes, then turn out onto a rack to cool. Excellent warm, room temperature or toasted. With butter, of course.

Cook's Notes:

I used kefir since this was spontaneous decision to bake - Rachel found the recipe and texted it to me and the loaf was in the oven less than an hour later. Fortunately, I had all the ingredients on hand.

I did brush the top of the loaf after it cooled for 15 minutes with about a half a teaspoon of soft butter so it would be shinier. The original recipe said to run an offset spatula around the perimeter of the loaf before removing it from the pan, but my newish bread pan released the loaf no problem. (Use a pan for a one-pound loaf. It is anodized steel and I bought two after making Babka with Kal)

My verdict: excellent recipe, very close to the original, just not as dark in color. Maybe they use more molasses? Burned sugar? The truth is that this tasted so great I hate to mess around with the recipe, so I'll leave it as is. It might not be an exact replica, but it's close enough for me.

WOWZA this tasted great. We cut into it after cooling for just 20 minutes Five slices later... well, you get the picture.

AND finally, I can just hear some of you saying "I am not a baker." OK, but this is a seven-ingredient, quick bread that you stir together by hand You can do this!