

# Yearning for peanut brittle? Try this

## POLLY'S POINTERS



POLLY FISHER

By Polly Fisher

**DEAR POLLY** — Do you have a recipe for peanut brittle? My husband just loves it, and I'd like to surprise him with a homemade batch. — MARY

**DEAR MARY** — This easy recipe will delight peanut fans of all ages. It's from Mildred Brand's "Ideals Candy Cookbook" (Ideals Publishing Corp., 1979).

Cook 3 cups sugar, 1 1/4 cup light corn syrup and 1 cup water to 240 degrees on a candy thermometer. Add 5 cups raw peanuts. Cook to 295 degrees, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add 2 tablespoons butter and stir until melted. Add 1/4 teaspoon baking soda and 1 teaspoon salt, stirring vigorously. Pour out on a buttered slab and spread as thinly as possible. Break or cut into pieces when cool.

Although the recipe specifies raw peanuts, I've found that unsalted dry-roasted peanuts work as well, but add them with the butter after cooking the syrup to 295 degrees. I hope your husband enjoys his treat! — POLLY

**DEAR POLLY** — This is my favorite pointer: Make a ring of masking tape (with the sticky side out) just big enough to insert one or two fingers. Leave this in your package of coffee filters. Each time you need a filter, snag it with the tape; only one comes out at a time with no effort, sparing arthritic fingers. — ELAINE

**DEAR POLLY** — Here is a good way to remove blood from clothing.

Pre-soak in cold water at least 30 minutes. If stain remains, soak in lukewarm ammonia water (3 tablespoons ammonia per gallon of water). Rinse. If stain remains, work in detergent and wash, using a bleach safe for the fabric. — YOLANDA

**DEAR POLLY** — How long can fresh pasta be kept before cooking? — B.N.

**DEAR B.N.** — Fresh pasta can be stored in the refrigerator for a day or two. Any longer and it tends to dry out. However, you can freeze it for a month or a bit longer very successfully. I cook frozen pasta without thawing, just dropping the frozen pasta into the boiling water. Of course, it takes a bit longer to cook than fresh, unfrozen pasta. The frozen pasta can also be thawed in the refrigerator before cooking, if you prefer. Serve it, as always, with your favorite sauce, and you have the flavor of fresh pasta with the storage convenience of dried! — POLLY

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK:** This easy Mushroom Scramble cooks up fast and flavorful in the microwave, making a delicious brunch, lunch or supper entree.

In a 1 1/2 quart microwave-safe casserole or serving dish, mix 1/4 cup chopped celery and 1/4 cup chopped onion. Cook two minutes on high or 100 percent power. Top with 1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms. In a bowl, beat together 8 eggs, 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Pour egg mixture over cooked vegetables and cover dish with lid or vented plastic wrap. Cook three minutes on high.

Using a rubber spatula or wooden spoon, break up the cooked portions and push them toward the center. Cook two to three minutes more, breaking up the mixture once or twice, until thickened, but before the eggs reach the desired doneness. Stir again, cover and let the mixture stand two to three minutes to finish cooking. Makes four servings.

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