Our Favorite Buttermilk Biscuits

However you make them, you'll be rewarded with layer upon buttery layer of buttermilk biscuit perfection.

By Southern Living Test Kitchen Updated on November 24, 2023

Active Time: 25 mins Total Time: 50 mins Yield: 12 to 14 biscuits

Ingredients

1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick), frozen

2 1/2 cups self-rising flour

1 cup chilled buttermilk

Parchment paper

2 Tbsp. butter, melted

Directions

Step 1

Grate butter:

Preheat oven to 475°F. Grate frozen butter using large holes of a box grater. Toss together grated butter and flour in a medium bowl. Chill 10 minutes.

Step 2

Add buttermilk to flour mixture:

Make a well in center of mixture. Add buttermilk, and stir 15 times. Dough will be sticky.

Step 3

Turn out dough:

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Lightly sprinkle flour over top of dough.

Step 4

Roll dough and fold to create layers:

Using a lightly floured rolling pin, roll dough into a 3/4-inch-thick rectangle (about 9 x 5 inches).

Fold dough in half so short ends meet. Repeat rolling and folding process 4 more times.

Step 5

Roll out dough, and cut biscuits:

Roll dough to 1/2-inch thickness.

Cut with a 2 1/2-inch floured round cutter, reshaping scraps and flouring as needed.

Step 6

Arrange biscuits on baking pan:

Place dough rounds on a parchment paper-lined jelly-roll pan.

Step 7

Bake biscuits:

Bake at 475°F for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Brush with melted butter.

Chef's Notes

For Pillowy Dinner Rolls: Cut in 1/2 cup cold shortening instead of cold butter. You'll get a soft biscuit that stays tender, even when cool. Plus, shortening has a neutral flavor that will complement anything on your dinner plate.