

An Unusual Culinary Column: Another Fun Food Discovery

By Karen Kain

When I discovered that you could make edible shot glasses by melting Jolly Rancher candies, I was pretty excited to give it a whirl. A plethora of ideas came into my head; cinnamon shot glasses with Fireball & Goldschlager shots. I thought of making chocolate shot glasses and filling them with chocolate mousse, perfect for most any party. You could also put Baileys and Godiva coffee liquor in the chocolate glasses. The alcohol takes on whatever the flavor of the shot glasses, so using plain vodka works nicely. My best friend's 60th birthday is coming up and I thought that this would be a perfect conversation starter for the party.

I had a great time playing with these glasses, but I want to share with you some of the things I learned along the way. I bought a bunch of different candies to experiment with and found that Red Hots don't work at all. I tried it three times and they just don't melt. Jolly Ranchers were the easiest to bake and the glasses turn out really colorful. When you mix up the candy colors you will get a vibrant stained glass look.

I also had success with butterscotch and peppermint candies. They took a bit longer to melt, so I baked them at a higher temperature, for longer. I do not recommend cooking the Jolly Ranchers with other candies, because Jolly Ranchers melt the quickest. The peppermint turned out great with fun

markings and the butterscotch candy has a great flavor and color. All the glasses get a bit sticky after a few days of making them. Once they get wet they will be sticky, humidity will also make them sticky. This is great for parties, but defiantly a use once kind of thing.

To make the shot glasses you need to get a mold. The mold that I found online was at wilton.com and it is called Cavity Round Silicone Shot Glass Mold, 570-0118 8 style green.

For the peppermint and butterscotch candy - Preheat the oven to 375° F. Stuff the molds full of candies and place extra pieces on the top. Bake until the candy is totally melted, about 20 minutes. I found these candies a bit tricky and half way through I ended up adding a few pieces of candy, so keep your eye on them as they cook. You want to remove the glasses from the oven before it bubbles.

For the Jolly Rancher candy - Preheat the oven to 350° F. Fill the mold with 13-14 Jolly Ranchers. It is fun to alternate the colors; or you can make each glass one color. I also bought cinnamon Jolly Ranchers, that glass came out a deep red color. Put the mold on a cookie sheet covered with tin foil and bake in the oven for about 9 minutes. Check it half way through, you may have to poke the candy down with a knife (being careful



not to burn yourself, this is HOT!) If the candy starts to bubble tap it with the tip of the knife to release the bubbles. You want to remove the glasses from the oven before it completely bubbles up. Allow them to cool completely before you



remove from the mold.

For the chocolate I used the Dolci Frutta melting chocolate. I had to make them twice because the first time I sprayed the mold with cooking spray and it left a funny color on the chocolate. The second time I tried it, I did not use any spray and it came out great. Just follow the directions from the container to melt the chocolate and pour into the mold right away. Tap the chocolate down a bit once you pour the chocolate in to make sure that the mold is completely full. Allow the chocolate to fully harden before you remove from the mold.

As always, I would love to hear what you are cooking.

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