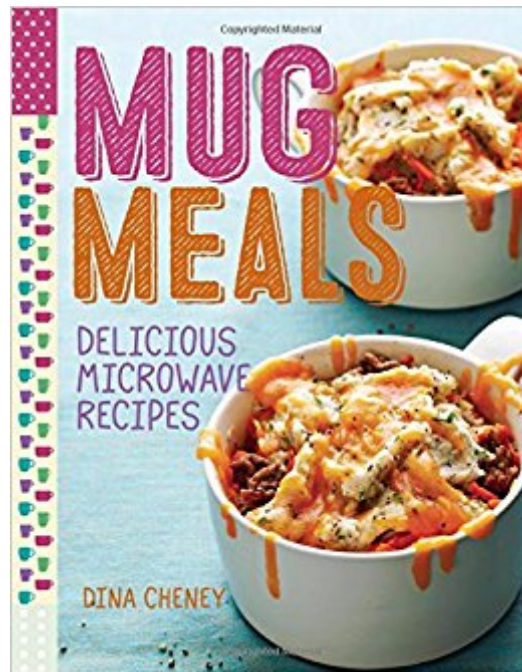




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# Mug Meals: Delicious Microwave Recipes



## Synopsis

Cooking for one can be fun and easy. Mug Meals offers 125 incredibly flavorful, no-hassle, single-serving recipes, made with just a few fresh ingredients. It's the easy answer to "What can I make, fast?" And a welcome solution for busy families, teens on the go, college students, singles, and seniors. Look at all the helpful features it offers: Simple and satisfying recipes-for-one make the perfect size meal. Never eat watery frozen meals or expensive take-out again. The pantry supply list will keep you stocked with the essentials. 40 colorful photographs of tasty mug meals will inspire you. Secret weapon: your microwave. It really can be used for more than popping popcorn. The straightforward microwave basics section will teach you the ins and outs of microwave cooking. To get started, all you need is: One mug. A microwave. Some fresh ingredients. 125 hearty meals in minutes. Quickly create that home-cooked dish you've been craving with mouthwatering meals-in-a-mug for any time of day. Here are just a few to whet your appetite:

Breakfast--Savory Summer Corn Oatmeal with Bacon; Double Berry French Toast; Lox and Bagel Strata. Lunch--Moroccan Pumpkin and Chickpea Stew; White Bean Gratin with Olives and Lemon; Double Carrot Soup. Dinner--Chinese Chicken with Noodles and Black Bean Sauce; Classic Shepherd's Pie; Lasagna. Dessert--Mango Coconut Crumble; Molten Chocolate Cake with Truffle Filling; Peach and Cornbread Shortcake, to name only a few. Instant one-cup clean-up! No more loads of leftovers that inevitably get tossed in the trash. Put an end to over-buying ingredients only to have them spoil in the crisper. Enjoy instant success with recipes that call for only a few ingredients and cook in one cup, so clean-up is a snap. And your meal in a mug is oh-so delicious!

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Taunton Press (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1627109161

ISBN-13: 978-1627109161

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 75 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,986 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking Methods > Microwave Cooking #275 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine

## Customer Reviews

Dina Cheney, a graduate of the Institute of Culinary Education, is the author of *Meatless All Day*, *Year-Round Slow Cooker*, *Tasting Club*, and *Williams-Sonoma New Flavors for Salads*. She is a regular contributor to *Clean Eating* and *Specialty Food*. For more than three years, Dina was the "Taste Test" columnist for *Every Day with Rachael Ray*. Dina also has written for *Parents*, *Fine Cooking*, *Prevention.com*, *Dr. Oz The Good Life*, *Coastal Living*, *Cooking Light*, *The Huffington Post*, and more.

“Mug Meals: Delicious Microwave Recipes” by Dina Cheney is a beautifully illustrated cookbook based on recipes which can be cooked in a 12 ounce mug (though the author points out that using a 16 ounce mug works as well and maybe helps with keeping the microwave clean.) I became interested in this book because it involves more work than throwing four ingredients into a mug and heating it up. While there are a few simpler items included, this is not a book of simple flavor recipes it is a book of interesting and somewhat complex ingredient meals/desserts that are simple to make. You will need a decently stocked pantry to make all of the recipes. Good news for beginners is that you can buy the items as you go along and you will end up with a well-stocked pantry by the time you have worked your way through the book. The Introduction explains the premise of the book, gives some background, pantry tips, and even cooking suggestions for some items. After the introduction, the book is divided into three categories: Breakfast, Lunch/Dinner, and Desserts. The recipes in the book are fairly evenly divided, which is very good news for those (like myself) who like to make scrumptious breakfasts. So many cookbooks give only a few pages to making omelets, scrambles, and casseroles (albeit with a number of variations listed in fine print.) It was a real pleasure to see recipe after recipe that varied so much in content and flavor. I’m also an individual who likes breakfast for lunch and dinner, so having unusual breakfast meals adds to my use of the cookbook throughout the day. The Lunch/Dinner section does rely fairly heavily on having certain pre-cooked items ready (e.g., ground meats, quinoa, and rice.) This is true to a lesser extent for breakfasts. The author suggests that you make these ahead of time and keep time in the refrigerator for a number of days. You can also freeze them in the amounts you need for your meals (use a zip-lock bag for easy cleanup) and thaw them overnight in the refrigerator. I really liked that the author explained how to cook each of these needed precooked items (though I generally use a one-to-one ratio for my quinoa.) It makes the

recipes easier for someone with beginning cooking skills. A number of the recipes require cheese and unless you wish to shred your own (which I do), buying shredded cheese may work best for you. The Dessert section is simply gorgeous. So much choice and flavors and best of all, in sizes that won't encourage you to eat seconds of that wonderful sweet thing you made. It's even possible to make one dessert and then share it (which I just might consider doing with my husband.) Just looking at the pictures and reading the ingredients makes me want to cook every single one of them as each looks more delicious than the last. The cookbook is a keeper for the kitchen shelf. This is one to keep on hand to use all the time. It is so versatile for various cooks who want to make a portion appropriate meal: it is great for the single cook (beginner or advanced) who wants to make a great tasting recipe; for a family who wants to have recipes available for quick meals for an individual who needs their meal sooner rather than later (heading for class, practice, or what have you); and finally, for the cook, who like me, has cooked for a larger family and wants to make dishes for two that still capture the taste and feel of the "old days" while saving time and clean-up. I received a digital advance reader copy of this book from the publisher through Netgalley. I also purchased several copies of the book for myself and other family members.

Was not what was expected. More of a repurpose of leftovers.

My husband got this for me for work, thinking I could make fast "5 minute" recipes in the microwave. The recipes are not that at all. Almost all of the "meal" recipes (title of book) involve pre-cooking on the stovetop, some for up to 50 minutes. For example, cooking meats and preparing pasta, quinoa, farro, brown rice, etc. A more accurate title for the book would be "re-warming leftovers in a mug." No information for storing all of the bits and pieces you need to chop. For example, a recipe may call for 1-2 tablespoons each of fresh chopped onions, bell pepper, celery, parsley, etc. Clear info for storing and using leftovers (maybe cross referencing?) is needed. Otherwise, you are going to waste a lot of food making one mug meal. Too many of the recipes are esoteric, too gourmet for a mug, and completely impractical. E.g., poached apricots, breakfast farro (with the farro you've made ahead of time), smoked salmon melange, quinoa mug with a special brand of sausage (you make the quinoa and cook the sausage on stovetop). I don't understand who the audience for this book is. It doesn't seem like the publishers know either. I do have to say something about the photos. I am ok with creative license, but the photos here are entirely misleading. Lots of pictures of browning on muffins, cheese, and other recipes that are not possible in a microwave (I taught home Ec for many

years).Overall, a very misguided book.

I bought this for a college student, but it is more for someone with a full kitchen. Probably good for a single person who doesn't care for leftovers. No good for kids in a dorm room.

12/10/15 review: Mug Meals by Dina Cheney is an interesting book. On the plus side, the author offers some unusual and imaginative recipes for each mealtime. For example, for breakfast: apricot poached in Earl Grey tea, with granola; lox and bagel strata; and breakfast polenta with berries. For lunch: white bean "gratin" with olives and lemon; spring fried rice with asparagus; and pasta, bean, and tomato stew with kale. For dinner: Greek cauliflower with feta; white-bean, artichoke, and sun-dried tomato toss; and thai curried pumpkin bisque. For dessert: black forest cake with cherry preserves and coconut; pumpkin cake with coconut and lime; and warm cherry-almond pound cake. Those are only a few of the "125 options" presented in the book. The book includes a liquids/dry conversion chart and sections on Recipe Pointers, How to Use This Book, Cooking Techniques, cooking tools needed, Recommended Pantry (ingredients to have on hand), and Recommended (food) Brands. The author specifies that she uses mainly all-purpose flour, kosher salt, and 12- and 16-ounce mugs. While making food in a mug can be cool, any container of the right size would probably work just as well, so I don't intend to buy special mugs for these recipes. However, for the few recipes in this book that I do end up making, I will make sure I use containers larger than what is called for (e.g., I will use 18- and 20-ounce mugs or ramekins, instead of 12- and 16-ounce containers), and this is why: The recipe for Warm Peanut Noodles With Scallions lists 10 ingredients, and it says to use a 12-ounce mug, but the recipe calls for 1 and 1/2 cups (12 ounces) of cooked noodles, plus a total of nearly 6 tablespoons of other ingredients, which is an additional 3 ounces. I'm no math wizard, but I'm pretty sure that if I put 15 ounces of food in a 12-ounce container, that will equal a mess in my microwave. On the minus side, the table of contents says only "Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner," so if you are looking for a particular recipe, you have to page through the book to find it. There are some color photos, but not of every dish. The author uses only kosher salt, but does not say why, so I'm thinking my iodized table salt might work just as well. Speaking only for myself, too many of the recipes require too many ingredients (about 8 to 12), and quite a few recipes require something to be pre-cooked (noodles boiled in a pan, or ground meat browned in a skillet). Also, some recipes call for mixing dry ingredients in one bowl, wet ingredients in another, then combining them, and then pouring them into a mug. If I have to brown meat in a skillet, boil noodles in a saucepan, toast nuts in an oven or a skillet, and dirty up two mixing bowls

and various measuring cups and spoons, I may as well make a dish that serves 4 to 6 people, then just use a mug to heat up leftover portions for myself. Therefore, I probably will copy the 5 or 6 recipes I might like to make (e.g., meatloaf), then pass this book along to the library. For the reasons given, I give this book 2 Stars. Not recommended.

every good ,but u can cook on stove in small pan. love my quick meals

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