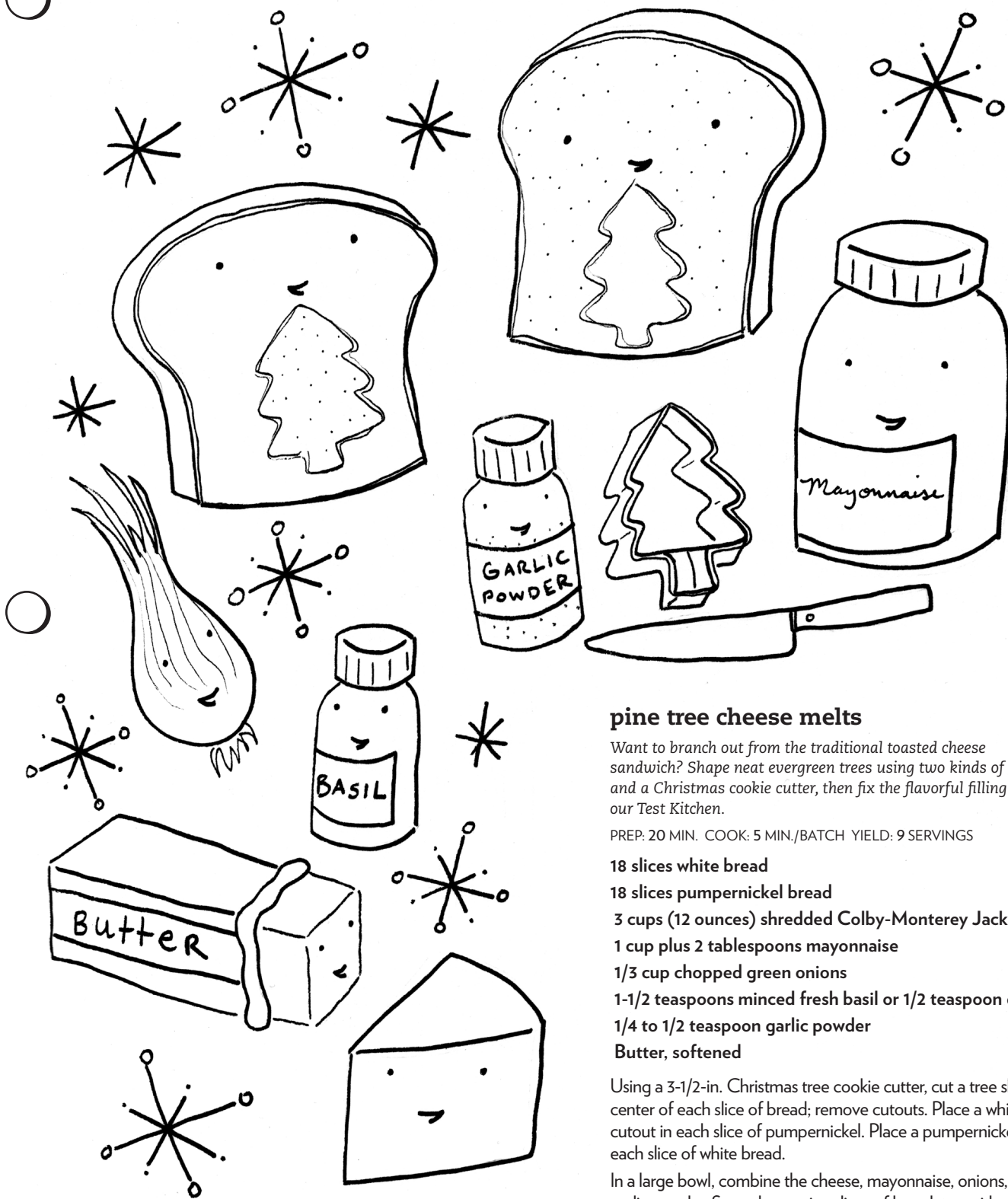


pine tree cheese melts



pine tree cheese melts

Want to branch out from the traditional toasted cheese sandwich? Shape neat evergreen trees using two kinds of bread and a Christmas cookie cutter, then fix the flavorful filling from our Test Kitchen.

PREP: 20 MIN. COOK: 5 MIN./BATCH YIELD: 9 SERVINGS

- 18 slices white bread
- 18 slices pumpernickel bread
- 3 cups (12 ounces) shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup chopped green onions
- 1-1/2 teaspoons minced fresh basil or 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- Butter, softened

Using a 3-1/2-in. Christmas tree cookie cutter, cut a tree shape in the center of each slice of bread; remove cutouts. Place a white bread cutout in each slice of pumpernickel. Place a pumpernickel cutout in each slice of white bread.

In a large bowl, combine the cheese, mayonnaise, onions, basil and garlic powder. Spread over nine slices of bread; top with remaining bread. Butter outside of sandwiches. Cook in a large skillet over medium heat until golden brown on both sides.

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