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## Cocktail Essentials

# M ost recipes and ideas taken from <br> Classic \& Contemporary Cocktails by Linda D oeser 

## INT RODUCTION

Precisely where the word "cocktail" came from is uncertain.
A popular piece of folklore describes how a M exican princess called X octle offered a mixed drink to an A merican visitor to her father's court who confused her name with that of the drink itself. A nother suggestion is that the spoon used
for mixing drinks reminded imbibing race goers of the docked tails of nonthoroughbred horses, called cocktails.

There are many other flights of fancy, but modern
etymologists mostly agree that the word derives from coquetal, a French, wine-based drink.
W hatever the origins of the word cocktail, mixed drinks have existed since ancient times and the first recognizable cocktail dates from about the sixteenth century. Indeed, many classics have been around for much longer than most people think. The bourbon-based Old Fashioned, for example, first appeared at the end of the eighteenth century. W e know that the word cocktail was already in use in 1809 in the U nited States and, thirty-five years later, when Charles Dickens described M ajor Pawkins as able to drink "more rum-toddy, mint-julep, gin-sling, and cock-tail, than any private gentleman of his acquaintance," it had reached Britain, too. Popular among the style-conscious and wealthy in the U nited States, cocktails were served before dinner in the most exclusive houses and hotels until W orld W ar I made them unfashionable. They have gone in and out of vogue ever since.
Following the war, young people, disillusioned by the elder generation and desperately seeking new experiences, pleasures, stimuli, and styles, developed a taste for a new range of cocktails. Ironically, Prohibition in the U nited States in the 1920s spurred on their development. Illegally produced liquor frequently tasted poisonous-and sometimes was-so its flavor needed to be disguised with fruit juices and mixers. No doubt, the naughtiness of drinking alcoholic cocktails also added to their appeal to the "bright young things" of the time. The craze quickly crossed the A tlantic and the best hotels in London, Paris, and M onte

Carlo, where the quality of gin and whiskey was more consistent, soon boasted their own cocktail bars. W orld W ar II brought an end to such revelry and, although drunk occasionally, cocktails remained out of style for decades until an exuberant renaissance in the 1970s. This resulted in another new generation of recipes, often featuring white rum and vodka, and tequila, which was just becoming known outside its native M exico. Inevitably, the pendulum swung against cocktails again until recently. Now, once more, the cocktail shaker is essential equipment in every fashionable city bar.


## EQUIPMENT

M aking, serving, and drinking cocktails should be fun. All you need is some basic equipment, a few ingredients, and a sense of adventure.

Classic cocktails are either shaken or stirred. A shaker is an essential piece of equipment, consisting of a container with an inner, perforated lid and an outer lid. B oth lids are secured while the mixture is shaken, together with cracked ice, and then the cocktail is strained through the perforated lid into a glass.
(T upperware's Sheerly Elegant B everage Shaker)
A mixing glass is a medium-size pitcher in which stirred cocktails can be mixed. It is usually made of uncolored glass so you can see what you are doing.
(Sheerly Elegant Pitcher-even safe outdoors!)
A long-handled bar spoon is perfect for stirring and a small strainer prevents the ice cubes-used during mixing-finding their way into the cocktail glass. Some modern cocktails, including slushes, are made in a blender or food processor, so if you have one, by all means make use of it. A ny cocktail that is made by shaking can also be made in a blender.

M easuring cups, sometimes called "jiggers," and spoons are essential for getting the proportions right-guessing does not work. (U se T upperware's 2-oz. M idget to equal a "M easure.") A corkscrew (T upperware's is the best!!), bottle opener, and sharp knife (T upperware's Chef Series) are crucial.

O ther useful, but nonessential, tools include a citrus reamer, an ice bucket and tongs, a punch bowl
(Sheerly Elegant Grande B owl), a serving pitcher, and a zester or grater. (T upperware's M ini G rater is awesome!)

If you have a juicer, this is useful for making large quantities of fresh juice for cocktails!

## Techniques

## GLASSES

Y ou can serve cocktails in any glasses you like. Small, V-shaped, stemmed glasses may be worth buying, but it is not essential to have a full range of O Id-fashioned, H ighball, Collins glasses, and so on. M edium and straight-sided glasses and wine glasses cover most contingencies. As part of their appeal is visual, cocktails are best served in clear, uncut glass.

Chill the glasses to ensure cocktails are cold.
T upperware's Sheerly Elegant Cocktail Stemware, Sheerly Elegant T umblers, \& Impressions T umblers work wonderfully for serving cocktails.
They are perfect for outdoor entertaining!

## INGREDIENTS

You can stock your bar over a period of time with the basics-it is not necessary to buy everything at once. A good selection of alcoholic drinks would include whisky, possibly Scotch and bourbon, brandy, gin, light and dark rum, triple sec, sweet and dry vermouth, vodka, and tequila. Y ou could also include Pernod, beer, and red and white wine. Keep champagne cocktails for special occasions. Select your stock according to your tastes-for example, it would be extravagant to buy Scotch, I rish, Canadian,

A merican blended, and bourbon.
Standard mixes include club soda, sparkling mineral water, cola, ginger ale, and tonic water. Freshly squeezed juice is best, but when buying juice in a bottle or carton, avoid any with added sugar or extra "padding." Cranberry juice, for example, may be bulked with grape juice. Commercial brands of grapefruit, orange, cranberry, and tomato juices are useful.

A good supply of fresh lemons, limes, and oranges is essential. Fresh fruit is best, but if you use canned, buy it in natural juice rather than syrup, and drain well. O ther useful decorations and condiments include A ngostura bitters, W orcestershire sauce, and cocktail cherries. Finally, you can never have too much ice!


## CRACKING AND CRUSHING ICE

Store ice in freezer until just before use. Cracked ice is used in both shaken and stirred cocktails.

To crack ice, put ice cubes into a strong plastic bag and hit it against an outside wall, or put the ice between clean cloths on a sturdy counter and crush with a wooden mallet or rolling pin.

Crushed ice is used in cocktails made in a blender. To crush ice, crack it as before but break it into much smaller pieces.

## FROSTING GLASSES

Glasses can be frosted with sugar-or fine or coarse salt in the case of the M argarita. Simply rub the rim of the glass with a wedge of lemon or lime, then dip the rim into a saucer of superfine sugar or fine salt until it is coated.

## MAKING SUGAR SYRUP

To make sugar syrup, put 4 tablespoons water and 4 tablespoons superfine sugar into a small pan (T upperware's Chef Series 1 Qt. Covered Nonstick Saucepan) and stir over low heat until the sugar has dissolved.

Bring to a boil, then continue to boil, without stirring, for 1-2 minutes. Let cool, then refrigerate in a covered T upperware container for up to 2 weeks.

## SHAKEN OR STIRRED?

To make a shaken cocktail, put fresh cracked ice into a cocktail shaker and pour over the other ingredients immediately. Secure the lids and shake vigorously for 10-20 seconds, until the outside of the shaker is coated in condensation. Strain into a glass and serve at once. To make a stirred cocktail, again use fresh cracked ice and pour over the ingredients immediately. Using a long-handled spoon, stir vigorously, without splashing, for 20 seconds, then strain into a glass and serve at once.


## Martini

For many, this is the ultimate cocktail. It is named after its inventor, M artini de A nna de Toggia, and not the famous

brand of vermouth. The original version comprised equal measures of gin and vermouth, now know as a Fifty-Fifty, but the proportions vary, up to the UItra Dry M artini, when the glass is merely rinsed out with vermouth before the gin is poured in.

## Serves 1

- $4-6$ cracked ice cubes
- 3 measuresgin
- 1 tsp dry vermouth, or to taste
- cocktail olive,to decorate

1 Put the cracked ice cubesinto a mixing glass. Pour the gin and vermouth over the ice and stir well to mix.
2. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass and decorate with a cocktail olive.
(Or,for the) ames B ond effect, shaken not stirred, put ingredients in B everage Shaker and shake!)

## C hocolate Martini

Everything tastes better when you add chocolate.
Martini'sare no exception!

## Serves 1

- 4-6 cracked ice cubes
- 4 partsvodka
- 2 partschocolate liqueur
- 1 Hershey's Kissor chocolate curl

1 Combine vodka and liqueur in Sheerly
Elegant B everage Shaker with ice cubes and shake.
2. Serve in chilled Tupperware Sheerly Elegant Cocktail Stemware and garnish with Hershey's K iss or chocolate curl.

## Daiquiri

Daiquiri is a town in C uba, where thisdrink was said to have been invented in the early part of the twentieth century. A businessman had run out of imported gin and so had to make do with the local
drink - rum - which, at the time, was of unreliable quality. To ensure that hisguests would find it palatable he mixed it with other ingredients. Thisclassic has since given rise to almost innumerable variations.

## Serves 1

- 4-6 cracked ice cubes
- 2 measureswhite rum
- 3/ 4 measure lime juice
- $\quad 1 / 2$ tsp sugar syrup (see recipe)

1 Put the cracked ice cubes into the Sheerly
Elegant B everage Shaker. Pour the rum. Lime juice, and sugar syrup over the ice. Shake vigorously until a frost forms.
2. Strain into the chilled Sheerly Elegant Cocktail Stemware.

## Margarita

The traditional way to drink tequila is to shake a little salt on the back of your hand between the thumb and forefinger and, hol ding a wedge of lime or lemon, lick the salt, suck the fruit, and then down a shot of tequila in one. This cocktail, attributed to Francisco M orales and invented in 1942 in M exico, is a more civilized version.

Serves 1

- lime wedge
- C oarse salt
- 4-6 cracked ice cubes
- 3 measures of white tequila
- 1measure triple sec
- 2 measureslime juice.

1 Rub the rim of a chilled Sheerly Elegant C ocktail Stemware with the lime wedge and then dip in a saucer of coarse salt to frost.
2. Put the cracked ice cubes into the B everage Shaker. Pour the tequila, triple sec, and lime juice over the ice. Shake vigorously until a frost forms.
3. Strain into the prepared Cocktail Stemware and decorate with the limeslice.


## Tequila Mockingbird



In spite of the horrible literary pun in the name,this popular cocktail is fast becoming a modern classic.

## Serves 1

- 4-6 cracked ice cubes
- 2 measureswhitetequila
- 1measure white crème de menthe
- 1measure fresh lime juice

1 Put the cracked ice cubes into the Sheerly Elegant B everage Shaker. A dd the tequila, crème de menthe, and lime juice. Shake vigorously until a frost forms.
2. Strain into chilled C ocktail Stemware.

## Of course, when consuming any alcoholic beverage, use moderation and NEVER DRINK \& DRIVE!

ktsils

## Mudslide

This rather ominous- sounding cock tail is actually a gorgeously creamy and richly flavored concoction that is deliciouswhatever the weather conditions.

Serves 1

- $4-6$ cracked ice cubes
- 1½ measures Kahlúa
- 112 measures B ailey's Irish C ream
- $11 / 2$ measuresvodka

1 Put the cracked ice cubes into the Sheerly Elegant B everage Shaker. Pour the K ahlúa, B ailey's Irish C ream, and vodka over the ice. (C an add chocolate syrup if desired.) Shake vigorously until a frost forms.
2. Strain into the chilled Sheerly Elegant Cocktail Stemware.

## C aribbean C hampagne

B oth rum and bananasare naturally associated with the tropics, but wine does not spring so readily to mind when the C aribbean is mentioned. However, remember that France sharesa long history with many C aribbean islands, such as M artinique and Guadeloupe.

Serves 1

- 1/2 measure white run
- 1/2 measure crème de banane
- chilled champagne, to top off
- Slice of banana, to decorate

1 Pour the rum and crème banane into a chilled champagne flute. Top off with champagne.
2. Stir gently to mix and decorate with a slice of banana.

## Compliments of Your T upperware Specialist:

Island Cooler
Nothing could be more refreshing on a hot summer'sday than thiscolorful combination of tropical fruit juices. To get into the party mood, go to town with the decoration.

## Serves 1

- 8-10 cracked ice cubes
- 2 measuresorange juice
- 1measure lemonjuice
- 1measure pineapple juice
- 1measure papaya juice
- I/ 2 tsp grenadine
- Sparkling mineral water, to top off
- Pineapple wedges,cocktail cherries,to decorate

1 Put 4-6 cracked ice cubesinto a cock tail shaker. Pour the orange juice, Iemon juice, pineapple juice, papaya juice, and grenadine over the ice. Shake vigorously until a frost forms.
2. Half fill a chilled Sheerly Elegant Tumbler or ImpressionsTumbler and pour the cocktail over them. Top off with sparking mineral water and stir gently. Decorate with pineapple wedges and cocktail cherries speared on a cocktail stick.

## Sparkling Peach Melba

Peach M elba wasa dessert invented by Escoffier, chef at the Savoy Hotel in London, in honor of the A ustralian opera singer Dame Nellie M elba. This simple, but perfect partnership of peachesand raspberries has become a classic combination, now transformed into a wonderfully refreshing cocktail.

## Serves 1

- I/ 4 cup frozen raspberries
- 4 measures peach juice
- Sparkling mineral water, to top off

1 Rub the raspberries through a wire strainer with the back of a spoon, then transfer the purèe to the Sheerly Elegant B everage Shaker.
2. Pour the peach juice into the $B$ everage Shaker and shake vigorously until a frost forms.
3. Strain into a chilled Sheerly Elegant Tumbler and top off with sparkling mineral water. Stir gently.



## Shirley Temple

Thisisone of the most famous of classic nonalcoholic cocktails. Shirley Temple Black became a respected diplomat, but thiscocktail datesfrom the dayswhen she wasan immensely popular child film star in the 1930 s.

Serves 1

- 8-10 cracked ice cubes
- 2 measureslemon juice
- I/ 2 measure grenadine
- I/ 2 measure sugar syrup (see recipe)
- ginger ale,to top off
- slice of orange, cocktail cherry, to decorate


1 Put 4-6 cracked ice cubesinto the Sheerly Elegant B everage Shaker. Pour the lemon juice, grenadine, and sugar syrup over the ice and shake vigorously.
2. Half fill a chilled Impressions $11-0 z$ Tumbler with cracked ice cubes and strain the cocktail over them. Top off with ginger ale. Decorate with an orange slice and a cocktail cherry.
Faux K ir
A nonal coholic version of a classic
wine cock tail, thisdrink is just as
colorful and tasty. French and Italian
fruit syrupsare often the best quality
and have the most intense flavor.

## Serves 1

- 1 measure chilled raspberry syrup
- chilled white grape juice,to top off
- twist of Iemon peel, to decorate

1 Pour the raspberry syrup into a chilled Sheerly Elegant C ocktail Stemware or wine glass. Top off with the grape juice.
2. Stir well to mix and decorate with the lemon twist.
Mocha Slush
Sefinitely for people with a sweet
tooth, thisisa chocoholic'sdream and

## Tupperware Products You'll Want to Have

- Sheerly Elegant Collection:
- Cocktail Stemware
- Beverage Shaker
- Tumbler Set
- Pitcher
- Serving Bowls
- Bottle Stopper Set
- Olive Oil Caddy \& Bottles
- Dipping Coasters
- Impressions 16-oz \& 11-oz Tumblers
- Impressions 1 Gallon Pitcher
- Impressions 2 Qt. Pitcher
- Classic Sheer Midgets Set
- Micro Pitcher Set
- Mini Grate ' N Measure Grater
- E-Series Can Opener
- Ice Cream Scoop
- Vertical \& Horizontal Peeler
- UpLifter Corkscrew
- Chef Series Knives \& Shears
- Easy-Lift Cutting Board
- Chef Series Culinary Collection
- Taste of Tupperware Recipe Book
- Chef Series Seasoning Blends - FridgeSmart Containers
- Freezer Mates Fresh \& Pure Ice Tray
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- PLUS MANY MORE!!

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