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# FOURTH OF JULY

## *Fourth Crackers*

*The Fourth of July is always a fun family time. And the day is never complete without firecrackers. Since firecrackers do not transfer well over the internet, on the following pages you will find instructions to make some rather unique "firecrackers" for your celebrations. Below you will find "Chococrackers" that the whole family will enjoy. We enjoy setting the tables with red and white checked tables and using red bandannas for napkins. The children can join the fun by making the "Quietcrackers" for the guests and decorating the table with them.*

### *Chococrackers Supplies*

#### CUPCAKE INGREDIENTS

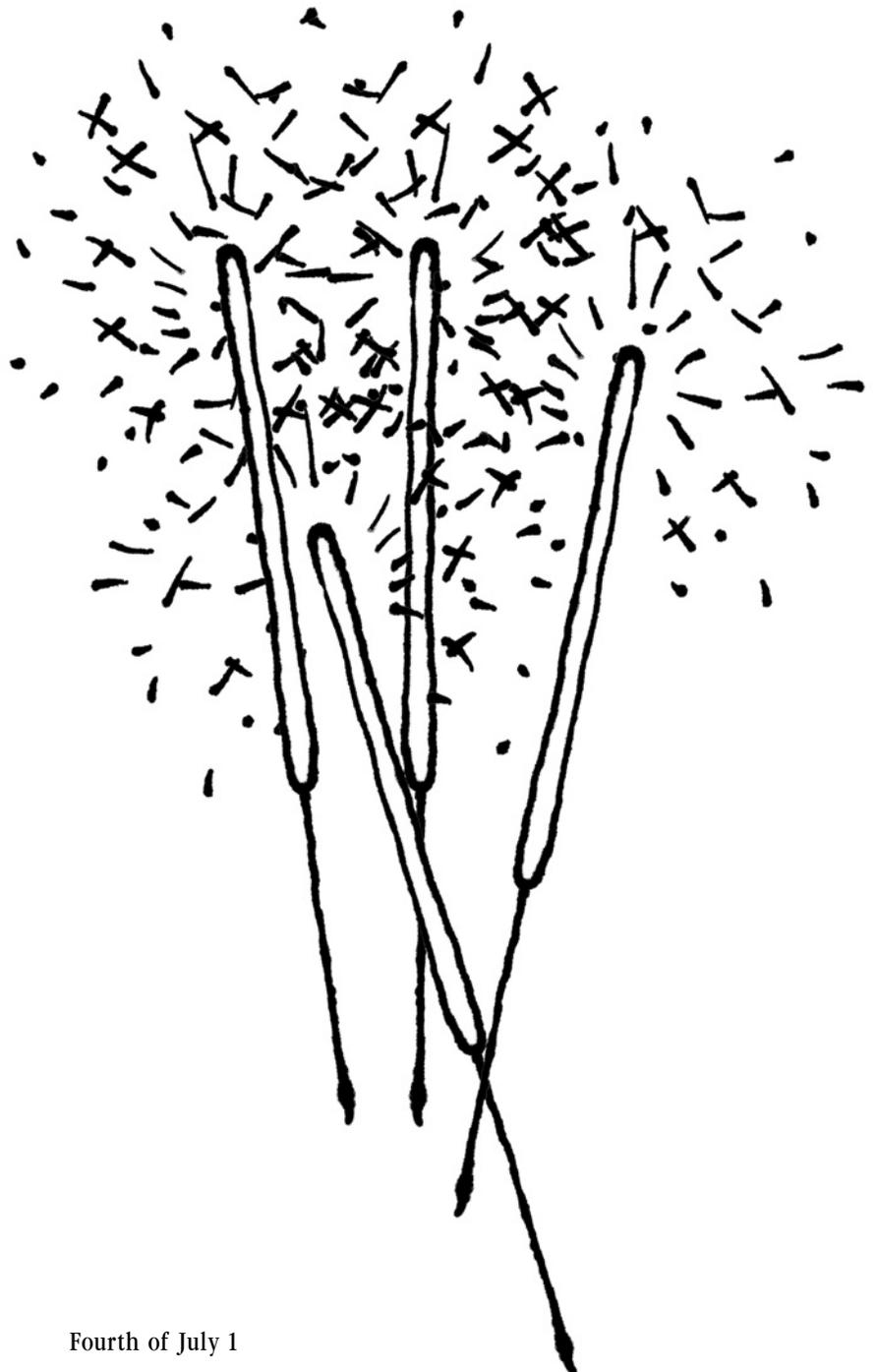
- 1 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 4 eggs
- 4 squares unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

#### ICING INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

#### ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- 1 box of sparklers
- red food coloring
- coconut or red sugar crystals
- clear blue decorating gel



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### CUPCAKE DIRECTIONS

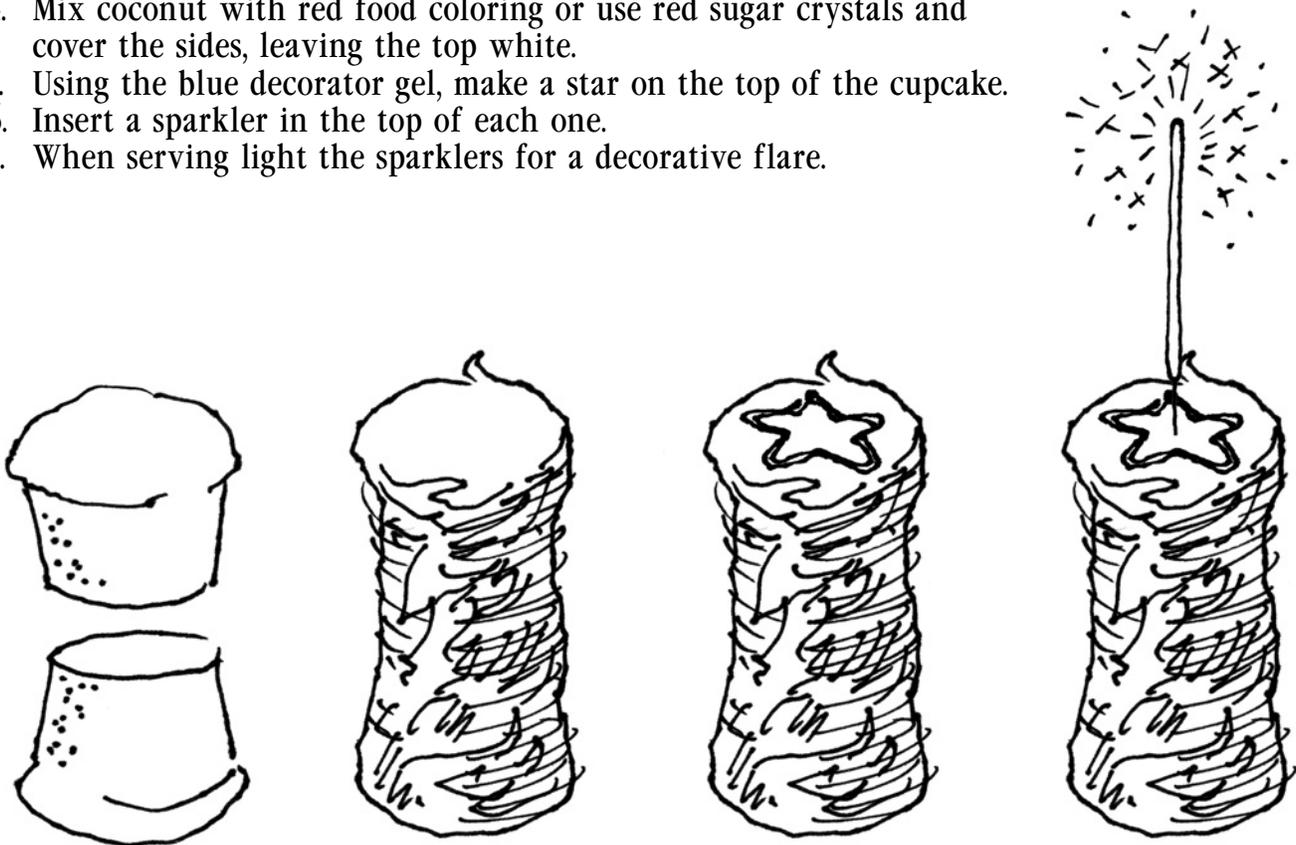
Combine sugar, flour, and eggs. Blend, do not over beat. Melt chocolate and butter in a double boiler. Cool. Combine flour mixture, chocolate mixture and vanilla. Blend and pour into greased muffin tins, about 3/4 full. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes. (Makes 16 individual cupcakes and will make 8 chococrackers.)

### ICING DIRECTIONS

In medium bowl beat first three ingredients, then add the rest of the ingredients and beat until smooth.

### ASSEMBLY DIRECTIONS

1. Cook cupcakes and cool. Make icing.
2. Attach the bottoms of two cupcakes using icing to hold them together.
3. Ice the cupcakes, covering all surfaces.
4. Mix coconut with red food coloring or use red sugar crystals and cover the sides, leaving the top white.
5. Using the blue decorator gel, make a star on the top of the cupcake.
6. Insert a sparkler in the top of each one.
7. When serving light the sparklers for a decorative flare.





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*Overlap the other end here and secure here with tape.*



*Overlap the other end here and secure here with tape.*