



### **Cinnamon-Swirl Bread**

You know how homemade cinnamon swirl bread always falls apart when you cut it? The culprit is the sugar and/or butter that you spread on the dough before rolling. If you roll your dough out and sprinkle it with just cinnamon and a touch of sugar, your loaf will hold together much better.

- 2 1/2 teaspoons instant yeast
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 3 1/2 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
- 1/4 cup Baker's Special Dry Milk or nonfat dry milk
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 1 cup + 2 tablespoons warm water
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon mixed with 1 tablespoon sugar

**Manual/Mixer Method:** In a medium-sized mixing bowl, or the bowl of your electric mixer, combine all of the ingredients (except the cinnamon-sugar) and, using your hands, a spoon, or your mixer, mix until they form a shaggy mass that begins to pull away from the sides of the bowl. Let the mixture rest, covered, for 20 minutes; this gives the gluten time to relax and the flour a chance to absorb the liquid, meaning you'll use less flour when you're kneading the dough (which translates into a better-textured, higher-rising bread).

Knead the dough, by hand or mixer, for about 8 minutes, till it's become fairly smooth, adding additional water or flour if necessary. Knead for an additional 2 minutes or so, if you're kneading by hand and you feel the dough isn't quite smooth enough. Transfer the dough to a lightly oiled bowl, turning to coat all sides. Cover the bowl, and allow the dough to rise until it's noticeably puffy, about 1 hour.

Transfer the dough to a lightly oiled work surface, and let it rest for 5 minutes. Pat or roll it into an 8 x 15-inch rectangle, and sprinkle it evenly with the cinnamon-sugar. Starting with a short end, roll the dough into a tight log. Tuck the ends under, and place the loaf, seam side down, in a lightly greased 8 1/2 x 4 1/2-inch bread pan. Drape the pan with lightly greased plastic wrap (or cover it with an acrylic dough-rising cover), and let the dough rise for 1 to 1 1/2 hours, or till it's risen about 1 inch over the top of the pan.

Bake the bread in a preheated 375°F oven for 35 to 40 minutes, or until it tests done. Tent the bread with aluminum foil the final 10 minutes of baking, if it's getting too brown. Remove the bread from the pan and cool it completely on a wire rack. *Yield: 1 loaf.*