

Rabel Betshmuel inspired lattice



for decorating the
cardamom apple walnut pie

This is a very difficult technique, so make sure you follow the directions carefully, and only attempt if you're already super comfortable working with pie dough (a simple lattice or double-crust would look absolutely lovely, and would be way friendlier for beginners). And be sure to visit the blog post to watch the video.

1. Make a stencil for the squiggly lines. Find a piece of plastic that you can easily cut through with scissors, but that's sturdy enough to hold up to tracing around with a paring knife (I used an inexpensive soft-shell binder cover). Draw (on the plastic) an 11-inch-long wavy s-curve line (the length of a sheet of printer paper) that's about 2 1/4 inches from peak to valley and 3/4 inch thick—use Rabel's print as inspiration (see original blog post). Carefully cut it out, and then wash it.
2. When you roll out the second sheet of pie dough, place it on a piece of parchment paper on a sheet pan, and make sure its top is still lightly floured (do not do this right on the counter).
3. Place the squiggly stencil as close to the edge of the dough as possible, and trace it with a paring knife on both sides. Carefully lift the stencil away (try not to lift the dough up from underneath it), and remove any excess scrappy pieces from around it. Leave the cut-out squiggly line exactly where it is on the parchment—moving it at this point will misshape it.
4. Place the stencil as close to the cutout squiggly line as possible (try to get it to nest together a little), and trace another squiggly line on both sides with a paring knife. Again, remove scrappy pieces, and carefully lift the stencil away, leaving the squiggle behind on the sheet pan. Repeat until you run out of space.
5. Take the scraps and gently scrunch them together (try not to overwork them). Roll them out again, transfer the dough sheet to another piece of parchment on a sheet pan, and continue tracing out more squiggly lines, and leaving them on the parchment.

6. You might need to repeat the whole process one more time (collecting the scraps, and rolling them out again), but you can stop tracing squiggles as soon as you have 8 good ones (4 of which are long enough to span the center of the pie, about 10 or 11 inches).
7. Use the back of a pastry tip (or something similarly shaped) to punch out little circles from the leftover scraps, and roll the scraps out one more time if you don't have enough nice scraps leftover from the final pass. You'll need about 20-25 little circles, depending on the size of your s-curve. Save any leftover scraps for filling in gaps later on.
8. Put the sheet pans of squiggly lines and dots in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Once they're firm, but still slightly flexible, remove them from the refrigerator and get ready to weave. Do not skip this chilling step.
9. Find 2 pieces of a similar length, and place them next to each other. They should line up so that one line's valley is at the same level as the other line's peak—flip over one of the squiggles like you're turning the page of a book if it doesn't line up right.
10. Weave them together by interlocking the top two curves so they form a circle. Carefully twist it around itself all the way down, until they all line up to make circles. Adjust them slightly until they line up perfectly. Once they line up, optionally dab a little bit of water at the spots where they meet to help them stay in place.
11. Once you're done weaving all of them together, you'll be left with 4 braids. Move them back to the refrigerator if they're starting to become too flexible.
12. Place the longest braids toward the center of the pie, and the shorter ones on the sides, all going in the same direction. Readjust them if necessary. Place the dots in the center of each of the circles (if any of the openings are way too gappy, place an extra dot or a little bit of scrap dough into the opening first, and then place a dot on top, covering the scrap dough entirely). Trim away any excess dough, and crimp everything together. Proceed with the Cardamom and Tea cardamom apple walnut pie recipe at step 10.