



PREP: 2 hours  
COOK: 40 min  
SERVES: 18-20

## Monochrome Banana Cake

We teamed up with the ultra creative Cakes by Cliff to bring you this divine banana cake filled with Salted Caramel and Choc Espresso flavoured swiss meringue buttercream! Dazzle your friends with this amazing monochrome piping technique!

### Ingredients

#### Banana Cake

350g butter  
1 ½ cups (330g) caster sugar  
4 large eggs  
2 tsp Queen Finest Single Origin Vanilla Extract Madagascar  
5 very ripe bananas, peeled and mashed  
2 tsp baking soda  
½ cup (125ml) hot milk  
3 cups (450g) flour  
2 tsp baking powder

### Method - Banana Cake

#### STEP 1

Preheat oven 150°C (fan forced) and line three 15cm round cake tins with baking paper.

#### STEP 2

Using a stand mixer, cream butter and sugar until pale. Add and combine eggs one at a time. Add Vanilla Extract and mashed bananas and combine.

#### STEP 3

In a heat proof jug, microwave milk and add Bicarbonate Soda (it will froth up). Mix into banana mixture. Sift in flour and Baking Powder and fold until just combined (it's important not to over mix).

#### STEP 4

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## Ingredients

### Swiss Meringue Buttercream

2 1/4 cups (495g) caster sugar  
250g of pasteurized egg whites  
(approx 8 extra large egg whites)  
500g butter, room temperature  
1-2 tsp Queen Choc Espresso Flavour  
for Icing  
1-2 tsp of Queen Salted Caramel  
Flavour for Icing  
1-2 tsp of Queen Natural Vanilla  
Extract  
1 tube of Queen Black Food Colour  
Gel

### Assembly

Edible Decorations (sprinkles, crushed  
meringue, edible flowers)  
Piping bags with small circle tip

## Method - Banana Cake

Pour mixture into prepared cake tins and bake for 40 minutes or until an inserted skewer comes out clean.

## Method - Swiss Meringue Buttercream

### STEP 1

Over a double boiler, mix sugar and egg whites together until sugar is dissolved. To test, rub a little mixture between your fingers. If it is no longer grainy, it is ready.

### STEP 2

Using a stand mixer with a whisk attachment, beat the egg syrup until it forms a meringue state with stiff peaks (at least 10 minutes on high speed).

### STEP 3

Add butter a few cubes at a time and mix until mixture comes together to form a buttercream. The mixture may appear clumpy at first - this is normal. Keep mixing and it will become smooth.

### STEP 4

Weight about 400g of buttercream and mix in Choc Espresso Flavour for Icing. Weigh another bowl of about 400g of buttercream and mix in Salted Caramel Flavour for Icing. Mix Vanilla Extract into remaining buttercream for piping.

## Method - Assembly

### STEP 1

Once cakes are cool, use a large serrated knife or cake level to carefully trim the tops of the cakes to ensure they are level.

### STEP 2

Place one layer of cake in the middle of a plate or cake board. Spread a generous amount of Salted Caramel buttercream on the cake. Add a second layer of cake and spread a generous amount of Choc Espresso buttercream on the cake. Add the third and final layer of cake. Spread a thin layer of Salted Caramel buttercream on top and around the assembled cake and smooth the edge using an offset spatula or scraper. Place cake in fridge for 30 minutes.

### STEP 3

For the piping buttercream, add a few drops of Black Food Colour Gel into the Vanilla buttercream and mix well to get a light grey colour. Put a small amount into the piping bag and pipe around cake. Squeeze any left over grey buttercream back into the bowl and add more Black Food Colour Gel to create a darker shade of grey. Pipe around cake. Repeat for a third, darker shade of grey.

### STEP 4

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### Method - Assembly

Using any leftover buttercream and a large circle tip, pipe buttercream kisses on top of cake and decorate with edible decorations.

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