



## Fondant.com 2018 Advent Calendar (p1)

### Day 9



**Cookie Play Dough (images above: Santa & Rudy, Spirit Bear logo, & our amazing son, Brandon James Holmes)**

It was a snowy day December 8, 1980. *I will remember the day and date always.*

My sister and I were finishing up our holiday baking marathon. My 6-month-old baby boy Brandon, was watching us bump into each other from his carseat. It was late afternoon...no time to do much more but there was a bit of our Gramma Louella's roll out cookie dough left. I had thought we would have time to make Salt Dough ornaments (a HUGE craze back in the 70's thanks to magazines like *Women's Day*) but the snow was really piling up out there. It was definitely heading toward being a blizzard now and we had to wrap it up.

While waiting for our ride home, I decided to try something I'd never seen done before....make edible "salt dough". I added food color to the left-over dough and loaded it into my Tupperware® for the drive home. My husband Greg called. *The 4-wheel drive truck was stuck in the snow and he would try to come as soon as he could!*

I unpacked the tinted Granny dough and made a tray of shaped-dough cookies. They looked just like the ornaments I had made in the past but larger...cookie sized.

We baked them off and but for a bit of puffing and spreading (and lack of sweetness), the idea worked! It was the first batch of cookies in a very long line of many...after tweaking the recipe a bit. 11 years after that first batch, *Neiman-Marcus* placed their first order of 200 Nutcracker-shaped Play Dough cookies and started what would eventually become the foundation of the company I started with my husband --- Spirit Bear Company Specialty Baking® (*Greg designed the logo which has always been my favorite work of his*) and my career in commercial baking began!

***On the way out of the driveway, we heard on the radio that John Lennon had been shot outside his home in New York. December 8th forever became for me a memorable day for a very good reason and for a very sad one.***

## **Fondant.com 2018 Advent Calendar (p2)**

### **Day 9**

#### **Patty's Spirit Bear Cookie Play Dough**

For a dark dough, use the ginger dough from the DAY #1 Advent Calendar recipe.

Using your favorite roll-out cookie dough, make the dough adding an extra 1/2 cup sugar and eliminating the leavening (baking powder, baking soda, etc.). Portion up the dough, leaving half the dough plain (this will serve as white and you will have extra to tint later if you should run out of a certain "color"). Shape the dough anyway you like. Try to keep them of even thickness so they will bake evenly - this is the most difficult part when you first try this. Bake at 325 for about 20 minutes keeping an eye on the edges of the cookies after 15 minutes in the oven.

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