

Jacob's Hovis Digestives: Dunking, Cheese and Baking

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Jacob's Hovis Digestives: Dunking, Cheese and Baking, in summary: Semi-sweet with a salty edge and a soft crumb, this digestive carries the Hovis name beside Jacob's. Dunk it for two seconds, try it with cheddar, or crush it for a cheesecake base.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in September 2026.

A digestive is the rare biscuit that works at both ends of a meal, as happy under a slice of cheddar as it is beside a mug of tea. This one puts the Hovis name on the Jacob's pack, and it plays that double role well.

Sweet, savoury or both

Most [biscuits](#) pick a side. A digestive sits in the middle: sweet enough to read as a biscuit, with a noticeably salty edge and a nutty cereal flavour that stop it tasting like a sweet. That balance is the reason the style has lasted so long, and it is why the same packet can go out with the teapot in the afternoon and with the [cheese](#) after supper.

According to the published pack listing, the Hovis name appears on the front alongside the baker's. Treat that as branding rather than a recipe note, and turn to the ingredient panel on the current pack for what is in the biscuit and for allergen advice. What matters at the table is how it behaves, and that is where a digestive has more tricks than most.

The two-second dunk

The crumb is short, sandy and absorbent, which is excellent news for [dunking](#) and a warning at the same time. Two seconds in the cup is enough for the tea to soak in and soften the biscuit; much longer and half of it stays behind. Because the sweetness is moderate, a dunked digestive tastes of tea and cereal rather than turning sickly.

That makes the choice of tea important. A strong cup with milk, such as a builder's-strength [English breakfast](#), an [Assam](#) or a Kenyan blend, keeps its character after the biscuit has been through it, while a delicate tea is wasted here. Coffee works too: a medium roast with milk is our pick, though black is fine, since the cereal note stands up to bitterness.

Cheese on top, crumbs underneath

Cheddar on a digestive sounds odd until you try it, and in parts of Britain it is as ordinary as dunking. The salty edge carries a strong cheese, while the gentle sweetness does something of the work a chutney would. A slice of mature cheddar on a digestive, with a mug of tea beside it, deserves one fair try before you dismiss the idea.

Plenty of boxes never reach the table at all. Crushed fine, a digestive becomes a uniform, sandy crumb that binds with melted butter and firms up, which makes it the classic base for a cheesecake, a lemon tart or a [chocolate](#) fridge cake. Crush it properly, go easy on the butter and press the base cold. Anyone who wants a crisp snap should look elsewhere; for baking, the soft crumb is the point.

The packs we stock

- [Jacob's Hovis Digestives Biscuits, 250g](#) (barcode 5000137440903)

What to drink with it

- [Twinings Loose Leaf Earl Grey Tea, 125g](#): Brewed strong with milk, loose-leaf [Earl Grey](#) has the body to survive a dunked digestive.
- [Teapigs Darjeeling Earl Grey, 15 Tea Bags 37.5g](#): A black Earl Grey that suits a late-afternoon plate of digestives and cheddar.
- [Tetley Green Tea with Mango and Passion Fruit, 50 Tea Bags 100g](#): A fruity green cup to serve with a slice of cheesecake built on a crushed digestive base.

Elsewhere in the Jacob's range

The full range is on the [Jacob's brand page](#).

FAQ

Why is it called a digestive? The name dates from nineteenth-century Scotland and a belief of the time about the biscuit. It is simply a historical name and says nothing about what the biscuit does.

How long should you dunk a digestive? About two seconds, then straight out. The crumb soaks up tea quickly, so any longer risks losing half the biscuit.

Can you eat cheese on a digestive biscuit? Yes. It is a long-standing British habit, and a salty, semi-sweet biscuit carries a mature cheddar well.

Are digestives good for a cheesecake base? They are the classic choice. Crush them fine, mix with a modest amount of melted butter and press the base while cold.

What does Hovis on the pack mean? The pack carries the Hovis name alongside Jacob's. For what is in the biscuit, check the ingredient panel on the current pack.

Curator's note: Two seconds in a strong mug, or a thin slice of cheddar on top. If I could keep only one biscuit in the tin, it would be a digestive. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Jacob's Hovis Digestives: Dunking, Cheese and Baking

Field	Detail
Brand	Jacob's
Packs we stock	250g
Category	Crackers & Crispbreads
Dunkable	Yes, about two seconds
Best with	A strong tea with milk, or mature cheddar
Baking	Crushes well for a cheesecake base

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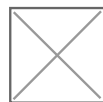
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