

Kenco Decaf Instant: Making the Evening Mug

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Kenco Decaf Instant: Making the Evening Mug, in summary: Kenco's decaffeinated instant, in a 190g jar, is for the late cup. It is not caffeine free, since a trace always remains. Let the kettle settle, make a paste first and add milk last for a cleaner, fuller mug.

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

This jar has been through two separate processes: most of the [caffeine](#) came out of the green bean, and the roasted coffee was later brewed and dried into granules. Roast character is what comes through both, and a few kettle habits decide how much of it reaches the mug.

What decaf and instant each take away

It helps to separate the two processes, because only one of them is a real limit. Decaffeination happens to the green bean before roasting and strips out the bulk of the caffeine, though never every trace, along with some of the compounds that would otherwise become aroma. Making instant means brewing at a factory and drying the result, which costs body and the most delicate scents. Together they give a cup that is clean and mild rather than fragrant.

What remains reads as a medium roast: roasted grain with a light nuttiness, soft acidity and little bitterness, and it stays gentle even as the mug goes cold. That is exactly what most people want at nine in the evening. If avoiding caffeine is a strict need rather than a way of winding down, choose a herbal infusion instead, because no decaffeinated coffee is caffeine free.

Three habits at the kettle

Water poured at a full rolling boil scorches soluble coffee, and that is where the flat, faintly burnt note instant is so often blamed for comes from. Give the kettle about half a minute to settle after it clicks. Use a rounded teaspoon rather than a stingy one, and stir the granules into a smooth paste with a splash of the hot water before you fill the mug.

Milk goes in last. Pour it early and the cold milk drags the temperature down before the granules have dissolved, leaving part of the coffee undissolved, and that reads as weak however much you used. At a rounded teaspoon a mug, the jar gives roughly a hundred cups by our own reckoning; a heaped spoon brings that down quickly, so a jar that empties fast is usually a spoon problem.

The late jar in the Kenco line-up

Kenco's everyday range is built around a handful of familiar jars. Rich is the bold, full-bodied cup and Smooth blends freeze-dried instant with roast and ground coffee; [Decaf](#) covers the late mug, and the Millicano and sachet lattes sit alongside. Decaf will not pass for a cafetiere and does not try to. Judged as a quiet cup for after dinner, needing only a kettle, a spoon and a mug, it does its job well.

The name goes back to 1923 and a Mayfair shop in Vere Street run by a cooperative of Kenyan farmers. It became the Kenco Coffee Company in 1962, and freeze-dried instant followed in the 1980s. The brand now belongs to JDE Peet's, and since 2024 its instant refill packs have been paper, which Kenco says are more than 85 percent paper and recyclable at home.

The packs we stock

- [Kenco Decaf Instant Coffee, 190g](#) (barcode 8711000599532)

What to eat with it

- [Border Butterscotch Crunch Organic Biscuits, 135g](#): butterscotch sweetness meets the roasted, lightly nutty character of a mild evening decaf.
- [Lu Le Petit Cookie with Chunky Rich Chocolate Chips, 184g](#): chunky [chocolate](#) chips give a low-bitterness cup something richer to sit beside after dinner.
- [Border Classic Biscuit Sharing Pack, 400g](#): a sharing pack to open after dinner, when guests want a coffee with most of the caffeine left out.

Elsewhere in the Kenco range

- [Kenco Classic Latte Instant Coffee, 20 Sachets](#)
- [Kenco Gold Indulgence Instant Coffee, 190g](#)
- [Kenco Iced Hot Salted Caramel Latte Instant Coffee, 20 Sachets](#)
- [Kenco Iced Hot Vanilla Latte Instant Coffee, 8 Sachets](#)
- [Kenco Latte Instant Coffee Sachets, 8 Sachets 130.4g](#)
- [Kenco Millicano Cadbury Mocha Instant Coffee, 250g](#)

The full range is on the [Kenco brand page](#).

FAQ

Is Kenco Decaf caffeine free? No. Decaffeination removes most of the caffeine but a trace remains, as it does in every decaf coffee.

How hot should the water be for decaf instant? Just off the boil. Let the kettle stand for about half a minute so the granules do not scorch.

Why does my decaf taste weak? Usually the milk went in too early and stopped the granules dissolving. Make a paste, fill with hot water, then add milk.

How many mugs are in a 190g jar? Roughly a hundred at a rounded teaspoon each, by our reckoning; a heavier spoon means fewer.

When is the decaf jar the right choice? For the after-dinner or late-evening cup, when you want the taste of coffee with most of the caffeine gone.

Curator's note: Let the kettle breathe, make the paste, milk last. Do those three things and this is a quiet, clean mug at nine at night that asks nothing more of you. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Kenco Decaf Instant: Making the Evening Mug

Field	Detail
Brand	Kenco
Packs we stock	190g
Category	Instant Coffee
Caffeine	decaffeinated
Caffeine	Decaffeinated, not caffeine free
Best time	After dinner and late evening
Best with	A butterscotch biscuit or a chocolate chip cookie

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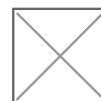
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