

Leibniz Butter Biscuits: The 52-Tooth Original

From the teas.co.uk wiki

Leibniz Butter Biscuits: The 52-Tooth Original, in summary: Leibniz is Bahlsen's plain butter biscuit, first baked in Hanover in 1891 and still the toothed rectangle with 52 teeth. It is crisp rather than short, takes a quick dunk and makes a firm dessert base.

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

The Leibniz biscuit is older than the German word for biscuit: Bahlsen coined Keks in 1911, twenty years after the first Leibniz came out. It is still the reference point for the plain butter biscuit, crisp, golden and deliberately undecorated.

A polymath's name and a toothed edge

Hermann Bahlsen founded his company in Hanover in 1889 and launched the first Leibniz biscuit in 1891, naming it after Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the city's celebrated polymath. Two years later it won a gold medal at the World's Fair in Chicago. Bahlsen is still family-owned and still based in Hanover, and the biscuit is still a flat golden rectangle with its name pressed into the centre.

The toothed edge is the signature: the brand says the original is only genuine with 52 teeth. It is practical as well as recognisable. A notched rim chips less in the packet than a straight cut, breaks more cleanly in the hand and leaves a ridge to grip so fingers stay off the flat surface. Freshness was thought about early too; in 1904 Bahlsen introduced the TET pack, a cardboard pack made to keep the [biscuits](#) fresh.

Butter biscuit, not shortbread

People often file Leibniz beside [shortbread](#), but the two are built in opposite ways. Shortbread carries a lot of fat against its flour and crumbles or melts under pressure. A butter biscuit is drier, crisper and stronger, so it snaps with an audible break. The published ingredients bear that out: wheat flour leads, then sugar, then butter at 12%, with whole milk powder and egg powder further down the list.

That strength is what makes it useful beyond the tin. Crushed and bound with melted butter, it makes a cheesecake base that stays firm under a wet filling, better in our view than a digestive. It carries a slice of [cheese](#) without snapping in half, and it sits happily under something sweeter, such as fruit or a spoonful of jam, because its own sweetness is kept in check.

Dunking, tea and keeping it crisp

Leibniz takes a [dunk](#), but a short one: a second, two at the most. It holds together longer than a rich tea, yet it is thin and dry, so once hot tea soaks in it goes all at once. Give it a strong cup with milk, such as an [English Breakfast](#) or an [Assam](#). The dry, clean break works just as well beside a milky coffee, or beside [Earl Grey](#) at eleven.

Butter is the only flavour, so freshness decides everything; once a Leibniz softens there is no chocolate or filling to rescue it. Keep the pack sealed, or tip the biscuits into an airtight tin once it is open, and buy the size you will finish. If you want chocolate on top, Choco Leibniz sits in our Bahlsen range. This plain one is the everyday original, and the one to keep in the cupboard.

The packs we stock

- [Leibniz Butter Biscuits, 200g](#) (barcode 4017100370007)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for Leibniz Butter Biscuits, 200g says it contains wheat (gluten), milk and egg. Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Wheat Flour, Sugar, Butter (12%), Invert Sugar Syrup, Raising Agents: Sodium Carbonates, Diphosphates, Whey Products (Milk), Whole Milk Powder, Salt, Emulsifier: Lecithins, Flavourings (Milk), Whole Hen's Egg Powder, Acid: Citric Acid.

Typical values per 100g Per 100g

Energy	435 kcal
Fat	12g
of which saturates	7,8g
Carbohydrate	72g
of which sugars	21g
Fibre	2,8g
Protein	8,4g
Salt	1,5g

Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to drink with it

- [Dilmah Earl Grey, 20 Tea Bags 30g](#): Bergamot brightness against a plain butter snap is our favourite mid-morning match for this biscuit.
- [Teapigs Darjeeling, 15 Tea Bags 37.5g](#): A lighter, more delicate black tea that leaves room for the butter to come through.
- [Twinings Lady Grey, 80 Tea Bags 200g](#): For an afternoon pot, a softer Grey blend that lets the plain biscuit lead.

- [Tetley Redbush Vanilla, 40 Tea Bags 100g](#): Vanilla and butter are old friends, and a mild redbush cup suits the evening tin.

Elsewhere in the Leibniz range

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

FAQ

Why does a Leibniz biscuit have 52 teeth? The toothed edge is its signature, and the brand says the original is only genuine with 52. The notches also make the rim less likely to chip.

Who was the Leibniz biscuit named after? Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the Hanover polymath. Bahlsen named its first butter biscuit after him in 1891.

What allergens are in Leibniz Butter Biscuits? Per the published ingredient list it contains wheat (gluten), milk and egg. Check the current UK pack, as recipes and allergen advice can change.

Can you dunk a Leibniz? Yes, briefly. One or two seconds in a strong tea is enough before the thin biscuit starts to give.

Is Leibniz the same as shortbread? No. It is a crisp butter biscuit that snaps, whereas shortbread is richer in fat and crumbles.

Curator's note: This is the biscuit to reach for when the tea matters more than what comes with it. Plain, crisp and gone in two bites, which is exactly its job. Lee, [teas.co.uk](#), Tunbridge Wells.

In short: Leibniz Butter Biscuits: The 52-Tooth Original

Field	Detail
Brand	Leibniz
Packs we stock	200g
Category	Breakfast Biscuits
Allergens (as published)	It contains wheat (gluten), milk and egg.
Dunkable	Yes, one or two seconds
Best with	Earl Grey, or a strong breakfast cup with milk
Also good for	Cheesecake bases and cheese

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- [Tea and Biscuits](#)
- [Biscuit Dunking Physics: The Real Science](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
- [Tea With Cake: The Pairing That Never Fails \(If You Get It Right\)](#)
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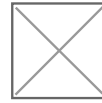
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