COFFEE SNAPS

provenance This is a classic recipe from a 1974 edition of "The Joy of Cooking" that I inherited from my mom. I dress it up a bit because I'm fancy that way.

mix in a small bowl: 4 t. Kahlua

2 t. instant expresso powder

whisk together 2.5 cups all-purpose flour in another bowl: 1/4 t. ground cinnamon

1/8 t. salt

beat together 1/2 lb (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

until creamed: 3/4 packed dark brown sugar

Add expresso/Kahlua mixture to butter/sugar mixture, beating on low speed until blended.

Gradually add the flour mixture on low speed until a dough forms.

Form the dough into a log, wrap in plastic and refrigerate at least 6 hours. At this point the dough can be used, or put into the frezer for several months.

to bake: Preheat oven to 350F and line cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Slice chilled dough into 3/8-inch rounds with a sharp knife. Transfer to cookie sheet about 1" apart. Bake 8-12 minutes, until the tops look dry and slightly brown around the edges. (I like them slightly underbaked.) They will harden as they cool.

make it fancy: 1/2 cup granulated sugar

1/2 t. cinnamon

1/2 cup chocolate chips, melted

Once the cookies are cool, mix granulated sugar and cinnamon together. Melt the chocolate chips in a small bowl.

Dip one end of the cookie into the chocolate, tap off excess, and then dip the cookie into the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Set cookie back on parchment paper to dry.