

REAL SIMPLE

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brownie mixes

Just because you know the brownies came from a box doesn't mean anyone else needs to. Here, **four sweet treats that taste like homemade.**

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brownie points

Chocolate cravings come in all shapes and sizes, but brownie cravings come in two: cakey and fudgy. Although many mixes promise that you can achieve either consistency from a single box just by adding an extra egg or a few more minutes of baking, the result is often (but not always) a disappointingly mediocre hybrid. Here, the best nationally available mixes for any chocolate fix.

best cakey



winner

CHERRYBROOK KITCHEN FUDGE BROWNIE

"Wow!" was heard over and over again as testers tried these moist brownies. The "perfect cakelike texture" was "consistent from the center of the pan to the corners," and the dark chocolate flavor was pleasing to adults and kids alike. Contains no trans fats, dairy, eggs, or nuts.

TO BUY: \$5 for a 16-ounce box.



runner-up

GHIRARDELLI CHOCOLATE SYRUP

Most brownies in this category were either dry or gooey. Not these. Testers found the texture to be "exceptionally moist," "spongy," and "crumbly in a good way." And the flavor was "about as rich as it gets." You could appease all but the most extreme fudgy fans with a batch of these.

TO BUY: \$2.50 for an 18.75-ounce box.