

# Carbs & Cals

# CARB & CALORIE COUNTER

Count your carbs & calories with over 1,700 food photos!  
The UK's #1 bestselling book for diabetes & weight loss



by **Chris Cheyette & Yello Balolia**  
Authors of the **#1** bestselling series

Supported by

**DIABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

# Carbs & Cals

## CARB & CALORIE COUNTER

Count your carbs & calories with over 1,700 food photos!

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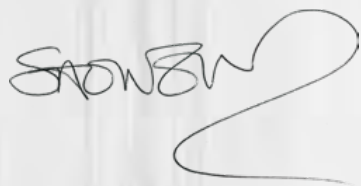
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# Foreword

Carbohydrate counting is an important part of diabetes management, especially for people with Type 1 diabetes.

Carbs & Cals is a great tool for those people with diabetes who count carbohydrates as part of the management of their condition. This easy-to-use visual reference guide allows you to compare what is on your plate with the pictures in the book, to find out the amount of carbohydrate and calories in the food you are eating. Knowing how many calories are in a portion of food is also really helpful information for people who are trying to lose weight, and may let you know that you need to eat a smaller portion or opt for something a little healthier.

Having all of this information at your fingertips, in an easy to understand format, will help to give you greater control over your diabetes and also give you the information you need to help you make healthier choices at meal times. Whatever your goals, we are sure that you will find Carbs & Cals a great help in achieving them.



Simon O'Neill

Director of Health Intelligence and Professional Liaison  
Diabetes UK

**DIABETES UK**  
**KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.**

[www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)

# Introduction

Welcome to *Carbs & Cals*. This book contains over 1,700 photos of a wide range of popular food and drink items. The carbohydrate, calorie, protein, fat, saturated fat and fibre values are clearly displayed in colour-coded circles below each photo. This highly visual approach makes it incredibly quick and easy to see the nutrient content of the food and drink you consume. *Carbs & Cals* is the perfect support tool for carbohydrate counting in diabetes, weight management, portion control and general healthy eating.

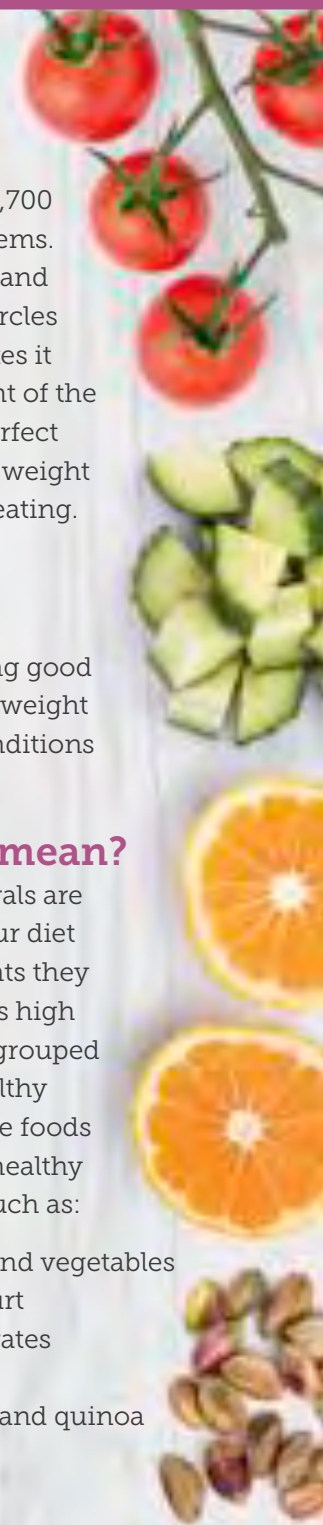
## Healthy Eating Principles

A healthy, balanced diet is important for maintaining good health, as it improves general wellbeing, helps with weight management and reduces the risk of long-term conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer.

## What does 'healthy eating' really mean?

Nutrients such as proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals are the building blocks for good health. Foods within our diet are grouped together according to the main nutrients they provide e.g. meat, fish, eggs and nuts are grouped as high quality proteins whilst milk, cheese and yogurt are grouped as dairy foods and are a rich source of calcium. Healthy eating means eating a wide variety of nutrient dense foods in the right proportions to achieve and maintain a healthy balanced weight and provide a range of nutrients such as:

- ★ Antioxidants, vitamins and minerals from fruit and vegetables
- ★ Calcium from dairy foods such as milk and yogurt
- ★ B vitamins and fibre from wholegrain carbohydrates such as oats, pearl barley and brown rice
- ★ Good quality protein from meat, fish, nuts, eggs and quinoa
- ★ Omega-3 oils from oily fish and nuts





## Tips for Healthy Eating

### Aim for three meals each day

Avoid skipping meals and spread breakfast, lunch and dinner across the day to keep your energy levels topped up and help you avoid snacking.

### Reach your 5-a-day fruit & veg!

The World Health Organisation recommends eating a minimum of 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day to reduce the risk of long-term conditions such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes. They are packed with vitamins and minerals, are excellent sources of dietary fibre and are low in fat and calories. When choosing fruit & veg, select a rainbow of colours, as this will provide a wider variety of vitamins and minerals.

Dried Apricots 30g

1  
5-a-day

Grilled Salmon 130g

34g  
Protein

### Eat more fish!

Fish is a good source of protein. It is recommended to have at least 2 portions of fish per week, including 1 portion of oily fish, such as mackerel, salmon, fresh tuna or trout. Oily fish contains a type of polyunsaturated fat called omega-3, which lowers triglyceride levels and helps protect against heart disease. People with diabetes are advised to have at least 2 portions of oily fish per week.

### Eat more plant based proteins such as beans and lentils

Pulses such as beans, peas and lentils are a cheap source of protein and have many nutritional benefits, including:

- ★ Count as one of your 5-a-day
- ★ Low in fat and calories
- ★ High in soluble fibre (known to improve cholesterol levels)
- ★ If you have diabetes, pulses have minimal effect on your blood glucose levels

1  
5-a-day

7g  
Fibre

Kidney Beans 80g

### Choose wholegrain carbohydrates

Wholegrain carbohydrates provide energy, are a good source of B vitamins and a great source of fibre. Examples of wholegrain foods include wholegrain breakfast cereals such as porridge, whole wheat pasta, wholegrain bread, and brown rice.

2g  
Fibre

Brown Rice 155g

### Limit sugar and sugary foods

Latest guidelines are to limit our added sugar ('free sugar') intake to 30g per day, to address the increasing obesity and type 2 diabetes epidemic. You can enjoy a small amount of sugar as part of your healthy diet, but choose sugar free options where possible, for example sugar free or diet fizzy drinks/squash. Cutting down your sugar intake will help with weight maintenance, weight loss and dental health.

### Choose lower fat dairy products

Milk, yogurts and cheese are a great source of calcium, which is important for keeping our bones and teeth strong. Aim for 3 portions of dairy per day (one portion is 200ml milk, 125g pot yogurt or matchbox size cheese).

1g  
Fat

Natural Yogurt (low fat) 125g



## Choose healthy fats

Choose foods high in monounsaturated fats (such as avocado, olive oil and nuts) and polyunsaturated fats (oily fish and seeds). Limit saturated fat, to maintain healthy cholesterol levels and for heart health.

Good suggestions include:

- ★ Choose lean meat cuts and limit the amount of processed meat, such as burgers and sausages
- ★ Remove the visible fat from meat, and skin from chicken
- ★ Use olive oil in cooking and salad dressings
- ★ Nuts are a great nutritious snack compared to chocolate or crisps

## Drink alcohol in moderation

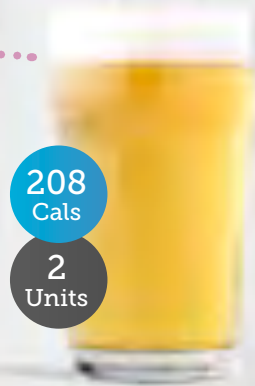
New guidelines (currently in consultation) recommend that men and women do not drink more than 14 units of alcohol per week and that it is best spread evenly across the week. Having several alcohol free days a week is a good way to cut down. If weight maintenance or weight loss is your goal, cutting back on alcohol will help, as alcohol is high in calories and these calories have no nutritional value.

## Limit salt intake to 6g per day

A diet that is high in salt can raise your blood pressure, increasing the risk of stroke and heart disease. Use herbs and spices, instead of salt, for flavour and where possible aim to cook fresh rather than relying on processed foods. Read labels to choose lower salt options where possible.

## Diabetic products

Diabetic foods are of no benefit to people with diabetes. They tend to be more expensive than the conventional products, can be high in fat and calories, often still affect blood glucose levels and may have a laxative effect.

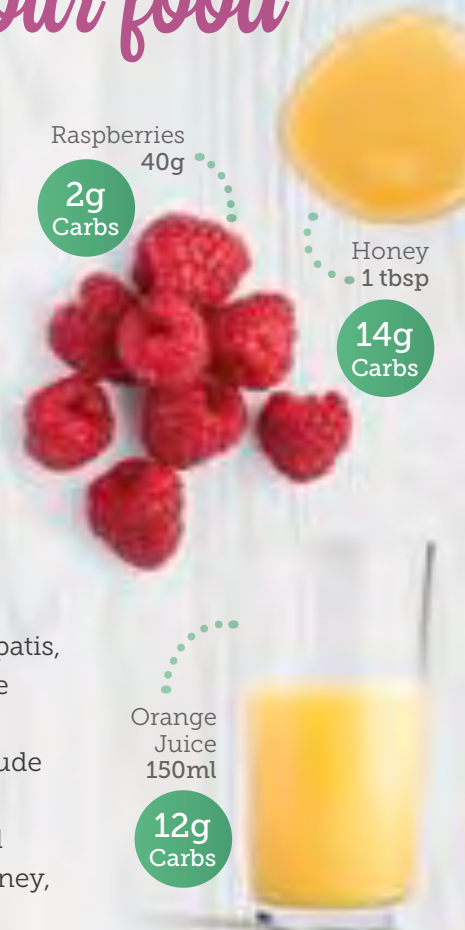


# Nutrients in our food

## Carbohydrate

The term carbohydrate encompasses a variety of foods, from the sugar we put in our hot drinks to the humble potato. Carbohydrate has become a forbidden word in recent times, in part due to the rise of celebrity fad diets. However, our bodies need it! It is the body's main source of glucose for energy and the brain's preferred source of energy!

The two main types are starchy carbohydrates and sugars. Starchy carbohydrates include bread, pasta, chapatis, potatoes, yam and cereals. Sugars can be categorised as natural sugars and added sugars (or 'free sugars'). Free sugars include those added to food by manufacturers, cooks or consumers (such as granulated sugar) and those naturally present in honey, syrups and unsweetened fruit juice.



Natural Sugars	Free Sugars	
Fruit sugar (known as fructose) is present in all types of whole fruit	Table sugar (sucrose)	Honey
Milk sugar (known as lactose) is present in milk and yogurt	Glucose syrup	Unsweetened fruit juice

## How much carbohydrate should I eat each day?

Carbohydrate requirements vary depending on:

- ★ gender
- ★ age
- ★ weight
- ★ physical activity

Science does not support the popular belief that starchy foods cause more weight gain than other foods. Starchy foods, fruit and vegetables should probably contribute around 50% of your energy needs. Some people may prefer to get more of their calories from other food groups and thus have a lower carbohydrate intake. For people with diabetes, there is a lot of debate in support of a lower carbohydrate intake to improve long-term blood glucose control. However, this may not be appropriate for everyone, and there is no evidence that this approach is better than others in the long term, which is why Diabetes UK guidelines encourage the need for an individualised approach.

## Sugar should not play such a significant role in our diets!

In 2015, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) updated its recommendations on the amount of free sugars in our diet, to address the growing obesity and diabetes crisis and reduce the risk of tooth decay.

## What are the new recommendations and what does that mean to your daily diet?

SACN advises that free sugars should account for no more than 5% of a person's daily energy intake.

The NHS Change4Life campaign has introduced 'Sugar Swaps' to help people reduce their sugar intake and reach these new recommendations. Simple practical sugar swap ideas include:

- ★ Replacing a sugary drink with a diet drink
- ★ Choosing a plain oatcake or crackers instead of a sweet biscuit
- ★ Replace sugar coated breakfast cereals with wholegrain plain cereals such as wheat biscuits

**change  
4 life**



## Protein

### Why do you need protein?

Sources of protein include meat, fish, eggs, pulses, nuts and tofu. Protein has a number of uses in the human body:

- ★ Cell growth
- ★ Maintenance and repair of cells
- ★ Proper functioning of the immune system
- ★ Production of hormones and enzymes

### How much do you need?

For most adults, 1g of protein per kg of body weight is enough to meet the daily requirements. If you weigh 70kg, for example, a protein intake of 70g is sufficient. In the UK, protein intake is usually in excess of requirements.

Endurance and strength athletes are likely to require higher amounts of protein in their diet (up to 1.7g per kg of body weight per day). Protein acts as an additional source of fuel and also provides the building blocks for muscle repair and development.

### Can I eat more than the recommendations?

Some high protein foods (such as full fat dairy products and meat) are high in saturated fat, which is not good for heart health. Eating larger quantities of protein has not been shown to improve sports performance or increase muscle mass. The body is only able to use a certain amount of protein and eating large amounts offers no additional nutritional benefit. Excess intake of protein is not advisable for people with kidney disease.





## Fat

### Why is fat is an essential part of our diet?

- ★ It is a major source of energy for the body
- ★ It is essential for the absorption of the fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K
- ★ It insulates the body and provides a protective layer around the essential organs
- ★ It is a structural component of all cell membranes

### Main types of fat

Type / Source	Effect on body
<b>Saturated fat</b> Animal sources, such as meat fat and processed meat, milk, cheese and butter, and also in vegetable sources, such as coconut oil and palm oil	Raises total cholesterol levels and unhealthy LDL cholesterol levels, increasing the risk of heart disease  May impair glucose control by increasing insulin resistance
<b>Monounsaturated fat</b> Olive and rapeseed oil, some nuts and seeds, avocados and in some spreads	Lowers unhealthy LDL cholesterol levels, but does not lower healthy HDL levels, thus decreasing the risk of heart disease
<b>Polyunsaturated fat</b> Sunflower oil and spreads, corn oil, oily fish (such as mackerel), nuts and seeds	Lowers unhealthy LDL cholesterol levels, but may also lower healthy HDL cholesterol levels  Omega-3, found in oily fish, lowers blood triglyceride levels

Information on the fat and saturated fat content of foods and drinks is included in this book to help you to monitor your fat intake and stay within your requirements.



17g  
Fat

Red  
Leicester  
50g

Pumpkin  
Seeds  
10g

5g  
Fat



Smoked  
Mackerel  
75g

18g  
Fat



The table below shows the adult reference intake (RI, formerly known as GDA) for fat and saturated fat. The RIs for an adult are based on the requirements for an average female with no special dietary requirements and an assumed energy intake of 2000 calories. Your individual needs may be higher or lower, depending on your calorie requirements and your specific nutritional goals.

Energy or nutrient	Reference Intake
Energy	2000 calories
Total Fat	70g
Saturated Fat	20g

### Why should we watch our intake of fat?

Fat contains the most calories per gram when compared to carbohydrate, protein and alcohol. Therefore, eating too much of it can lead to weight gain, which increases the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers.

### A word on processed foods

The term 'processed' applies to any food that has been altered from its natural state in some way, either for safety reasons or convenience. Meats including salami, bacon, sausages, ham and pâté all come under the umbrella of processed meats. When meat is preserved by smoking, curing or salting, or by the addition of preservatives, cancer-causing substances (carcinogens) can be formed.

There is strong evidence linking the consumption of processed meat with bowel cancer. Therefore, the Department of Health has advised that people who eat more than 90g (cooked weight) of red and processed meat a day cut down to 70g (500g per week) and choose unprocessed meat where possible, or turn to a plant source of protein instead e.g. beans, soya, nuts and seeds.

Sausages  
110g

24g  
Fat

Bacon  
36g

10g  
Fat

Ham Slice  
30g

1g  
Fat



## Fibre

### What is all the fuss about fibre?

Dietary fibre is only found in foods of plant origin, such as fruit, vegetables, cereals and pulses. It has no calories and it passes through the gut largely undigested. There are two types of fibre, soluble and insoluble, and most foods containing fibre have a mixture of the two.

### Why should we eat it?

Strong evidence shows that increasing total fibre intake, particularly cereal grains and wholegrains, is associated with a lower risk of cardio-metabolic disease and colo-rectal cancer. Increasing fibre intake can help with weight loss, as it slows down the rate at which the stomach is emptying, helping to keep you fuller for longer. The proven benefits of fibre have led to the SACN revising its recommendations and advising people to increase their daily intake of fibre.

The new recommendations are:

Age Range	Fibre Intake per day
2 - 5	15g
5 - 11	20g
11 - 16	25g
16 - 18 and older	30g

### How can we reach our 30g fibre per day?

The National Diet and Nutrition Survey in 2011 found that the most commonly consumed food type was bread. This would explain why the average fibre intake is only 19g per day. If we are to meet these new recommendations, we need to change our eating habits. This book can help you work out if you are meeting your daily fibre requirement.

4g  
Fibre

Apple Rings  
30g

3g  
Fibre

Mango 80g

7g  
Fibre

Soya Beans 80g

3g  
Fibre

Muesli 30g

### Simple swaps

#### Corn Flakes v Muesli

Oats and fruit boost the intake of soluble fibre, to help slow down the rate at which glucose enters the bloodstream.

1g  
Fibre

Corn Flakes 30g

3g  
Fibre

Muesli 30g

#### Rice v Pearl Barley

Soluble fibre forms a gel-like substance in the stomach, keeping us feeling full for longer.

0g  
Fibre

Basmati Rice  
96g

3g  
Fibre

Pearl Barley  
80g

#### Crisps v Nuts

Soluble fibre in nuts can help lower cholesterol, reducing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

1g  
Fibre

Crisps 18g

2g  
Fibre

Hazelnuts  
20g

#### White Bread v Granary Bread

Increases the intake of insoluble fibre, which speeds up the time it takes for food to pass through your gut, so aids a healthy, regular digestive system.

1g  
Fibre

White Bread  
(medium slice)  
33g

2g  
Fibre

Granary Bread  
(medium slice)  
33g

**Important note:** Any increase in dietary fibre consumption should be accompanied by an increase in fluid intake.



## Alcohol

Although most people can enjoy moderate consumption of alcohol safely, exceeding the recommended limit of 14 units per week and/or binge drinking can contribute to a number of health problems, such as liver disease, cancer, high blood pressure and obesity.

### Do you know the limit?

This is what 14 units looks like:



Over the years, the alcohol content of most drinks has risen and a drink may therefore contain more units of alcohol than you think. The number of units each alcoholic drink portion contains has been included in this book to make it easier for you to monitor your alcohol intake.

### Does alcohol provide any nutritional benefit?

Alcohol contains 7 calories per gram and these are usually 'empty calories', meaning they are of no nutritional value – an important consideration for weight management.

To keep on top of your calorie intake, choose sugar free mixers instead of sugary ones or fruit juice.

## Calories

Calories are not nutrients in themselves; they are actually the units used to measure the amount of energy in food and drink. The number of calories varies according to the nutritional composition of each item of food and drink we consume. The calorie content per gram of carbohydrate, protein, fat and alcohol is as follows:

1g carbohydrate = 4 cals

1g protein = 4 cals

1g fat = 9 cals

1g alcohol = 7 cals

Fat has twice the amount of calories per gram compared to carbohydrate and protein, which explains why if you eat foods that are high in fat, you are likely to consume more calories and gain weight.

### How many calories should I aim for each day?

Age, gender, physical activity levels and weight goal (maintenance, weight loss or gain) all affect your calorie requirements. A registered dietitian can help give you a more accurate idea. The reference intake for calories is 2,000 for an average adult, who has no special dietary needs.

### Why count calories?

Calorie counting helps you understand the number of calories in food and drink you consume. You can then choose appropriate food to avoid excess, select healthier options (usually lower fat options) and maintain a healthy weight. If you are currently gaining weight, this indicates that you are consuming more calories than you burn through physical activity and while doing your everyday activities. This can easily happen:

**100 cals** per day extra = **36,500 cals** over a year = Weight gain of around **5kg / 10lb** in one year

This book makes it easier to see where you can reduce portion sizes or make lower fat and calorie choices in order to lose weight. It can also help you to identify where you can make small changes that actually make a big overall difference.

Chocolate  
Digestive  
15g

**73**  
Cals



# Guide to Weight Loss

## Take a moment to ask yourself:

- ★ Why do I want to lose weight?
- ★ What is my weight goal (realistic goal)?
- ★ What have I tried before that has worked?
- ★ What hasn't worked before in the past (e.g. diet too strict)?
- ★ What support do I need? Is it the right time for me?

Losing weight in a healthy way is a big challenge. Setting yourself realistic expectations is key! Evidence shows us that short term 'quick fix' diets don't usually work, as they are unsustainable and may even be dangerous to health. Losing weight gradually is more beneficial in the long term.

Studies have shown that losing 5-10% of your body weight can bring significant health benefits, including a reduction in blood pressure, cholesterol and triglyceride levels and a lowered risk of type 2 diabetes, to name just a few.

## Keeping the weight off can be even harder. Some words of support:

- ★ If you don't achieve your target/re-gain some of the weight you lost, do not despair! Accept the occasional slip up as a learning experience, focus on your aim and always remember your hard work and the progress you have made.
- ★ Whatever your goals may be, it is important to discuss your diet plan and what you want to get out of it with your healthcare team. Let them know your main aim and they will help you set realistic short-term goals to help you get there.



## What is a healthy weight?

Your Body Mass Index (BMI) is a measure of your weight in relation to your height, and tells you whether you are a healthy weight. You can use our online BMI calculator at [www.carbsandcals.com/BMI](http://www.carbsandcals.com/BMI), ask your healthcare team, or work it out yourself using the following equation:

$$\text{BMI} = \text{Weight (kg)} \div \text{Height (m)}^2$$

For example, if your weight is 72kg and your height is 1.68m, then your BMI =  $72 \div (1.68 \times 1.68) = 25.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$ . Once you have your BMI, you can see which range it falls into by comparing it to this table:

BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Category
Under 18.5	Underweight
18.5 - 24.9 Asian: 18.5 - 22.9	Healthy weight
25 - 29.9	Overweight
30 - 35	Obese
Over 35	Morbidly obese

**Important note:** If you have a large amount of muscle, your BMI may be in the overweight range, even though you have little body fat. **People from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds should aim for low BMI cut-offs.**

Waist circumference, an indication of body fat distribution, is another way to check your weight. Measure the circumference of your waist at the midway point between the bottom of your ribs and the top of your hips.

The table below shows the waist sizes that increase the risk of a number of health conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and stroke. Having a BMI of 25 or over increases your risk too.

	At Increased Risk	At High Risk
<b>Men</b>	Over 94cm / 37 inches Asian: Over 90cm / 35.5 inches	Over 102cm / 40 inches
<b>Women</b>	Over 80cm / 31.5 inches	Over 88cm / 34.5 inches



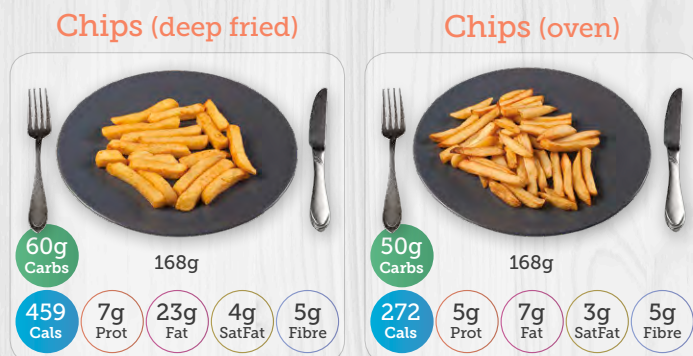
## How to lose weight safely

A safe weight loss rate is 0.5-1kg (1-2 lbs) of body weight each week. Losing more weight than this may place you at risk of nutrient deficiencies. Reducing your dietary intake by about 600 calories per day (4,200 calories per week) can help you achieve weight loss at this safe rate. This reduction could be by diet alone or by a combination of diet and increased physical activity.

Does 600 calories sound unrealistic? Try breaking it up into smaller 100–200 calorie reductions. For example, eat a smaller portion at a meal, or choose a lower-calorie drink, and you can easily save yourself 100 calories. Small changes like these can make a big difference! A simple sandwich swap could save over 180 calories.

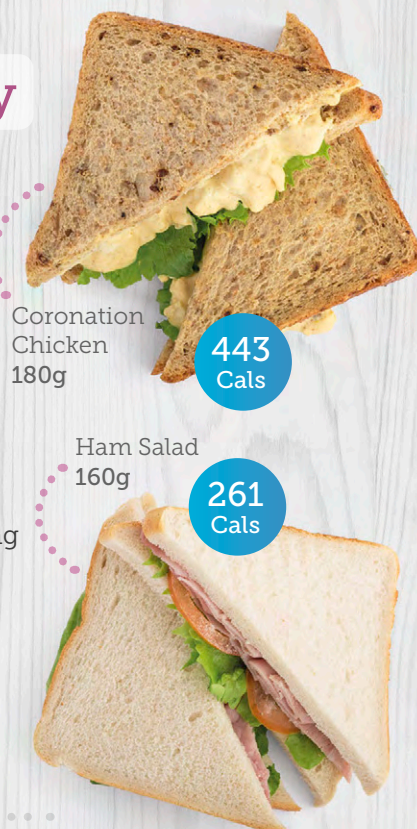
This book makes it easier to see which foods to eat in smaller quantities or avoid altogether if you are trying to cut down on calories or reduce your fat intake.

For example, you could consider swapping deep fried chips with oven chips and thus save 187 calories and 16g fat.



### Calories matter:

Evidence shows that different diets can work, if you stick to them! For success, find the right diet that suits you and your lifestyle.



## Which diet is right for me?

Calorie reduction and weight loss can be achieved in a number of ways, and different types of diet suit different people. Some diets aren't considered to be nutritionally balanced because they don't provide all the nutrients your body requires. They usually involve cutting out whole food groups entirely, for example carbohydrates or dairy foods. It is unnecessary to avoid whole food groups to lose weight and this could even be dangerous. A Registered Dietitian can give you individualised advice about which diets may suit you best.

### ★ Low Calorie

Low calorie diets are defined as 800 to 1,600 calories per day. This can be achieved through careful selection of foods and controlling portion sizes.

### ★ Low Fat

Fat contains more calories per gram than any other nutrient, so reducing the fat content of foods is a great way to lower calorie intake.

### ★ Very Low Calorie

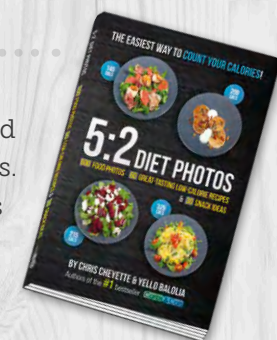
This involves eating under 800 calories per day for up to 12 weeks and often relies on commercial meal-replacement products. Very Low Calorie diets should only be followed under supervision, ideally from a Registered Dietitian, and may require medical monitoring.

### ★ Low Carbohydrate / High Protein

Foods high in protein help you to feel fuller for longer, so increasing the proportion of protein in the diet and reducing the amount of carbohydrate may help to lower overall calories. Depending on the level of carbohydrate restriction and on careful selection of foods, it should be possible to achieve a healthy balance with this diet.

### ★ Intermittent Fasting / 5:2 Diet

The 5:2 diet works by fasting on 2 days of the week and eating a healthy balanced diet on the remaining 5 days. This achieves a 25% reduction in calories. Other forms of fasting include alternate day fasting. Check out our 5:2 Diet Photos book at [www.carbsandcals.com/5-2](http://www.carbsandcals.com/5-2)



# Diabetes

Diabetes is a condition where glucose levels in the blood are too high, because the body cannot use the glucose properly. Diabetes can lead to heart disease, eye and kidney problems, which can be prevented by keeping blood glucose, blood fats and blood pressure levels within the normal range and maintaining a healthy active lifestyle.

## Type 1 diabetes

Type 1 diabetes develops when the body's immune system destroys the cells of the pancreas that produce insulin. The pancreas is then unable to produce insulin, leading to increased blood glucose levels. It is treated by daily insulin administration, through injections or a pump.

## Type 2 diabetes

Type 2 diabetes is more common than type 1. It develops when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin, or when the body can't use it effectively (known as insulin resistance). Type 2 is often associated with being overweight and usually occurs after the age of 40 (or from 25 for people of South Asian origin). It is also becoming more common in younger people of all ethnicities, due to rising levels of obesity.

Type 2 diabetes is primarily treated with a healthy diet and increased physical activity. However, it is a progressive condition and following a healthy eating plan and being physically active are often not enough to control blood glucose levels. If this is the case, your healthcare team may advise you to take diabetes medication and/or insulin.

### Is it possible to prevent type 2 diabetes?

There is strong evidence that lifestyle changes, including weight loss strategies such as calorie restriction, can prevent type 2 diabetes in high-risk individuals. Every 1kg lost can lead to a 16% reduction in the risk of developing type 2 diabetes in overweight people.

## Carbohydrate counting

Carbohydrate is the main nutrient that affects the rise in blood glucose levels and therefore carbohydrate counting has a key role in the management of type 1 diabetes. Carbohydrate counting is also being incorporated into the education and management of type 2 diabetes and diabetes in pregnancy.

### Carb counting for type 1 diabetes

For people with type 1 diabetes, carbohydrate counting allows them to adjust their insulin dose according to their carbohydrate intake (in meals and snacks) and manage everyday life including:

- ★ alcohol intake   ★ stress   ★ illness
- ★ activity levels including sports and hobbies

There is strong evidence that matching insulin doses to carbohydrate intake improves blood glucose levels. Understanding and learning the carbohydrate in food and drink allows insulin doses to be adjusted accurately, to keep blood glucose levels as near normal as possible. Healthy dietary principles already discussed at the beginning of this book and regular physical activity are also important in the management of type 1 diabetes.

### Carb counting for type 2 diabetes

In type 2 diabetes, the evidence about the effect of carbohydrate counting, even in those treated with insulin, is still inconclusive. What we do know is the larger the carbohydrate intake, the greater the rise in blood glucose levels after eating. Therefore, carbohydrate counting can help people with type 2 diabetes manage their carbohydrate intake at mealtimes and snacks, and may be an effective strategy in controlling blood glucose levels and weight maintenance/loss.

People with type 2 diabetes on a flexible insulin regimen may find that matching their insulin dose to carbohydrate improves their blood glucose levels. Your healthcare team will be able to provide you with the appropriate advice on which treatment is best for you.



## Learning to count carbs

If you are new to carb counting, the following is a good place to start:

1. Learn what carb counting is and how to estimate the amount of carbs in food and drinks you consume in your diet by using this book, along with other methods such as weighing food and checking labels.
2. Understand how food, drink, diabetes medication, alcohol and exercise affects blood glucose levels and learn to manage these factors.
3. If you have diabetes and are on multiple daily injections (basal bolus) or use an insulin pump, this book can help you with insulin dose adjustment, i.e. how to match your quick-acting insulin to carbohydrate using your personal insulin-to-carbohydrate ratio.

The carb content of food and drink can be estimated either in grams or as carb portions (CPs). **Use the method that works best for you.**

This book shows the carb content in grams. To convert to CPs:

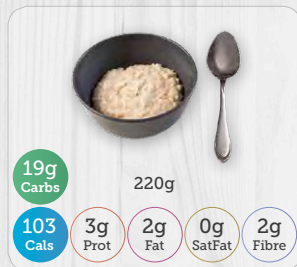
Total carb content (g)  
10

For example 100g  
chips contains  
30g carbs:

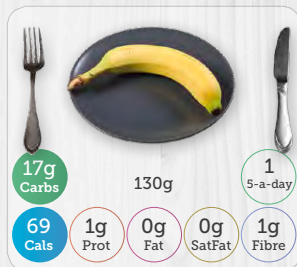
$\frac{30g}{10} = 3CPs$

You can use this book to calculate the **total carbs** in a meal:

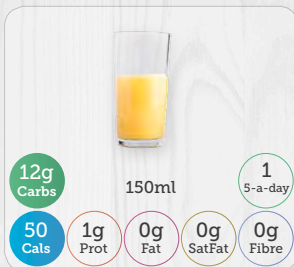
### Porridge (with water)



### Banana



### Orange Juice



Porridge: 19g + Banana: 17g + Juice: 12g = **48g Carbs or 5CPs**

Learning to estimate the carbohydrate content of food and drink is a valuable skill that is worth mastering. It will become easier with practice and in time second nature to you. Build your confidence up by calculating the carbohydrate content of foods you eat regularly in your diet, as these will have the greatest impact on your blood glucose levels and overall diabetes control. Calculating the carbohydrate in meals when eating out/with friends or in a takeaway will be difficult and will involve some estimating. By reflecting back upon your experience you can see if your calculations were right or if adjustments need to be made next time.

By focusing on carbohydrate only, it is easy to lose sight of the overall nutrient composition of the diet. For example, focusing on carbohydrate only and forgetting the calorie and fat content of food may lead to undesirable weight gain and increased risk of complications, such as heart disease. Remember the tips for healthy eating already discussed, as these still apply:

**Aim for three meals each day.**

Reach your 5-a-day!

**Eat more fish!**

Eat more pulses

**Limit sugar and sugary foods**

Drink alcohol in moderation

**Cut down on fat, particularly saturated fat**

Choose lower fat dairy products

**Limit salt intake to 6g a day**

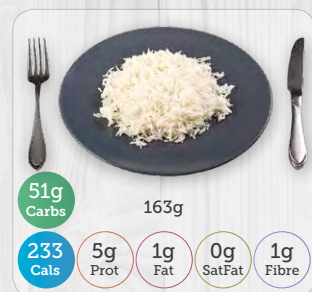
This book makes carbohydrate counting easier when at home or out and about, and helps you keep an eye on the overall nutrient composition and calorie content of your diet too!

**Example:** A portion of crème brûlée only contains 19g carbs, but it has 27g fat and 333 cals. A portion of basmati rice contains 51g carbs, 233 cals and only 1g fat.

### Crème Brûlée



### Basmati Rice



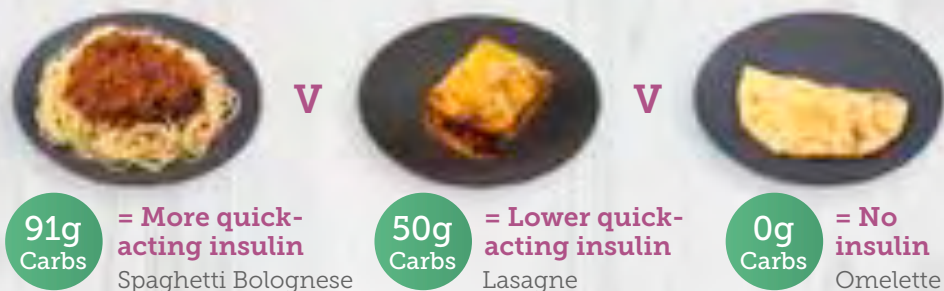
## Carbohydrate counting and insulin dose adjustment

The development of insulin has enabled people with diabetes to effectively adjust insulin doses to the carbohydrate content of their meals. This offers more flexible eating, reduces the risk of hypoglycaemia and improves blood glucose control.

As mentioned earlier, the carbohydrate from the food and drink we consume is digested and broken down into glucose. This glucose enters the blood, from where it is then carried into the cells of the body by the hormone insulin.

- ★ **Long-acting insulin** (basal) deals with the glucose produced by the liver and influences the blood glucose levels between meals.
- ★ **Quick-acting insulin** (bolus) deals with the glucose produced from the carbohydrate in the food and drink that is consumed.

The amount of quick-acting insulin needed is directly related to the total amount of carbohydrate consumed. Meals with little or no carbohydrate e.g. omelette and salad generally do not need any quick-acting insulin, as your long-acting insulin will deal with the glucose that is produced by the liver, if the dose is correct for you.



If you are on multiple daily injections of insulin (basal-bolus or MDI regimen) or on an insulin pump, carbohydrate counting can help you decide how much insulin to use. If you are on 2 insulin injections a day, you may also find it useful to count carbohydrate in order to aim for consistent amounts of carbohydrate at meals and minimise big fluctuations in blood glucose.

## Calculating how much quick acting insulin to give

The amount of insulin that is required (known as insulin-to-carbohydrate ratio) varies from person to person and can also vary at different times of the day. Typically, most people start with 1 unit of quick-acting insulin for every 10g carbohydrate or 1CP. Your diabetes team will work with you to help you understand the appropriate insulin-to-carbohydrate ratio for you.

Learning how to adjust insulin doses and how to count carbohydrates can be a complex process. This book is not designed to teach you how to adjust your insulin, but to help you work out how much carbohydrate is in your diet. It is important that you have the support of appropriately trained healthcare professionals, such as a diabetes specialist nurse and diabetes specialist dietitian.

There are many structured education programmes offered in the UK, such as:

Type 1 diabetes	Type 2 diabetes	Type 1, 2 and those at risk of developing diabetes
		

## Alcohol and carbohydrate counting

This book includes a variety of alcoholic drinks and displays their carbohydrate values. People who are carbohydrate counting and adjusting their insulin should use these values as a reference guide only, as it is usually not recommended to take additional insulin for the carbohydrate found in most alcoholic drinks. Extreme caution should be taken when giving additional units of insulin with alcohol, as alcohol is associated with an increased risk of hypoglycaemia. Your diabetes team can advise you on this in greater detail.



## Glycaemic Index

The rate at which carbohydrate is broken down depends on the type of carbohydrate consumed; this is known as the Glycaemic Index (GI).

Food or drinks with a high GI are broken down quickly, causing a rapid rise in blood glucose levels.

Foods with a low GI are broken down slowly, giving a more gradual rise in blood glucose levels.

For people with diabetes, having an idea of the GI of food and drink can be helpful in predicting blood glucose fluctuations after eating or drinking. A registered dietitian can help you with more information on this subject.

It is important to bear in mind that GI does not take into account the other nutrients in a meal (protein, fat and fibre, which can slow down the absorption of glucose in the blood) or the amount of carbohydrate in the meal, which is a much better predictor of how high the blood glucose levels will go.

**A note of caution:** It is important to note that certain foods release glucose at a very slow rate and may not require insulin, or may require a reduced or delayed dose. Examples include foods such as pearl barley, peas, beans and lentils, and some vegetables such as sweetcorn, squash/pumpkin and parsnips. It is advisable to speak to your diabetes team about your insulin requirements for these foods as they may vary from person to person and depend on the portion size consumed.

Cola Bottles  
27g



Oats 20g



Sweetcorn  
40g



## Diabetes & Weight Management

Weight loss is the primary strategy to control blood glucose levels, especially in overweight or obese people with type 2 diabetes. People with type 1 diabetes should also keep to a healthy weight, as being overweight may put them at a higher risk of complications, such as heart disease.

Reducing the total calorie content of the diet and increasing physical activity levels are the best ways of losing weight healthily and keeping it off for good. To date, it is still unclear which is the most effective weight loss plan and which proportion of carbohydrate, protein and fat those with diabetes should consume in order to lose weight. Some people lose weight by following a low fat diet, while others do well on a low carbohydrate diet.

Recent evidence has shown that a very low calorie diet of under 800 calories per day for two months could reverse the insulin resistance that is common in type 2 diabetes and slow down the progressive decline of the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. However, more research is required to show the long-term benefit and it is important to discuss this kind of diet with your healthcare team before considering it as an option for weight loss.

Commercial diet programmes utilise a variety of weight loss methods, such as dietary advice, personalised meal plans, physical activity and group therapy. The evidence about the effect of such programmes on people with diabetes is still unknown. Fad diets, which usually promise quick weight loss by following a restrictive, nutrient-deficient diet of an unusual combination of foods, offer no benefit in the long term and most people put the weight back on.



Avocado  
70g





# How to use this book

This book has been written with complete practicality in mind. Simply follow the steps outlined below:

1. Decide what you want to eat or drink and find the meal, drink or snack in the book.
2. Look at the circles below the photo for the values you are interested in. These show the values for carbs, calories, protein, fat, saturated fat, fibre and 5-a-day.
3. Choose your portion size and assemble your meal.
4. Add up the carbs, cals, protein, fat, sat fat, fibre and 5-a-day values for the different food components, to give the totals for your meal.

12g  
Carbs



Orange Juice 150ml



16g  
Carbs

Toast with  
Peanut Butter



17g  
Carbs

Banana 130g

## Key points when using this book

- ★ To help with scale, each food photo displays either a knife and fork, or a dessert spoon. You may find it useful to measure your own dinnerware and compare against the dinnerware in the photos. Alternatively, you may wish to use plates and bowls that are the same size as the ones in the book.
- ★ The weight of each portion is stated below each photo, just in case you want to double check the weight of your own portion. **This is always the cooked/prepared weight.**
- ★ Values for carbohydrate, protein, fat, saturated fat and fibre are given to the nearest gram. Therefore, if a food has 0.4g of fat, the fat value will be listed as 0g. If a food has 0.6g of fat, the fat value will be listed as 1g.

- ★ If you are eating a meal with more than one component (e.g. steak, chips and salad), you will need to find each component in the book and add them up separately. For example, your steak, chips and salad meal:

Sirloin Steak (fried)



0g Carbs  
610 Cals  
70g Prot  
37g Fat  
16g SatFat  
0g Fibre  
262g

Chips (oven)



30g Carbs  
162 Cals  
3g Prot  
4g Fat  
2g SatFat  
3g Fibre  
100g

Hollandaise Sauce



0g Carbs  
93 Cals  
1g Prot  
10g Fat  
6g SatFat  
0g Fibre  
13g, 1 tbsp

Mixed Salad Leaves



1g Carbs  
4 Cals  
0g Prot  
0g Fat  
0g SatFat  
1g Fibre  
40g  
1/2 5-a-day

- ★ All foods in the book are displayed on either a plate or bowl as shown below (the size is displayed at the top of each page as a reminder):



26cm Dinner Plate



20cm Side Plate



22cm Large Bowl

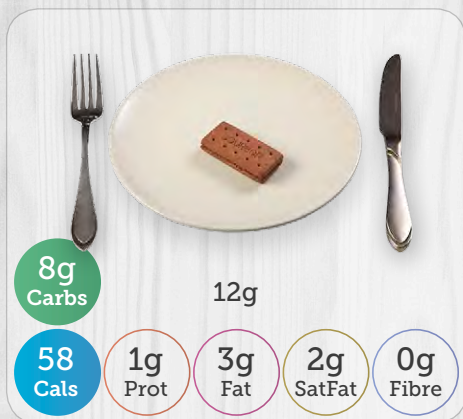


14cm Cereal Bowl

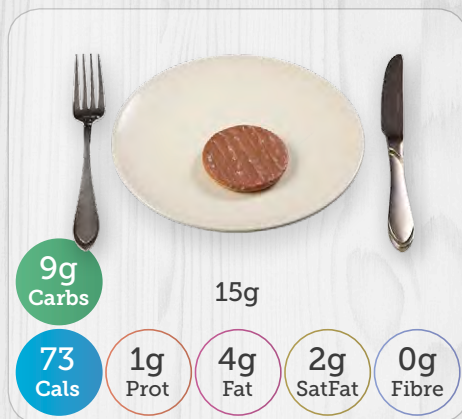
- ★ Each food in the book has between 1 and 6 portion photos to help you easily judge the nutrient and calorie content of your particular portion, simply by looking at the different photos. For example, a digestive biscuit is always the same size and therefore only 1 photo has been included. However, there are 6 different portion pictures of lasagne included, so that you can choose the portion that is closest to the portion on your plate.



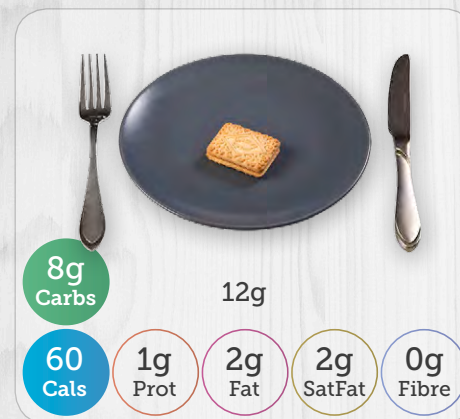
## Bourbon Cream



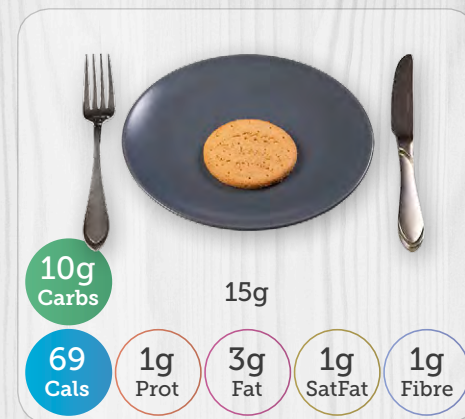
## Chocolate Digestive



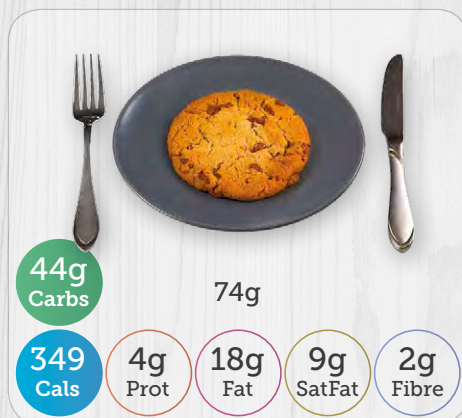
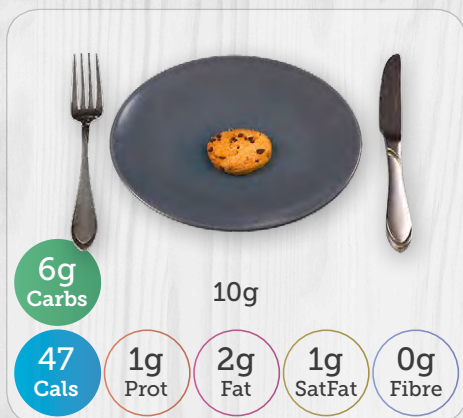
## Custard Cream



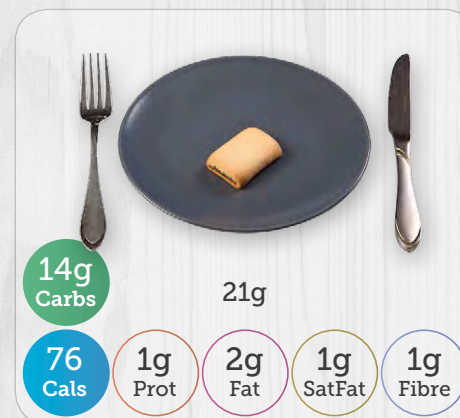
## Digestive



## Chocolate Chip Cookie



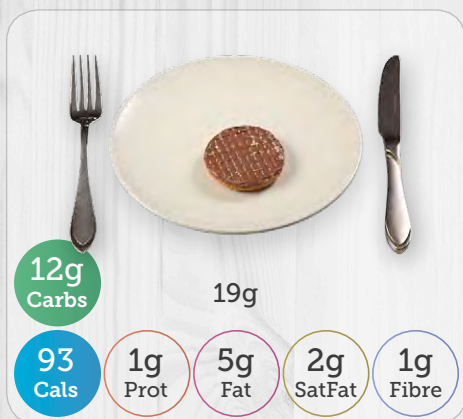
## Fig Roll



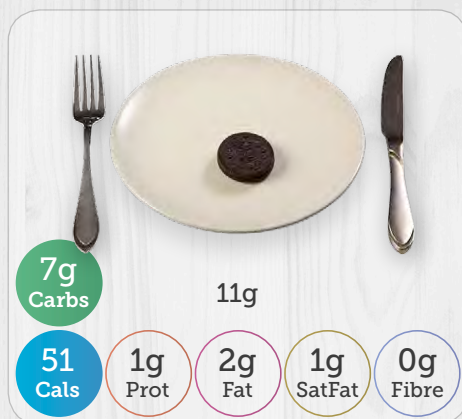
## Ginger Biscuit



## Chocolate Oat Biscuit



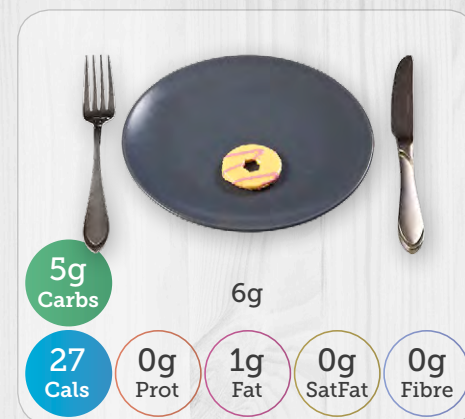
## Chocolate Sandwich Biscuit



## Gingerbread Man

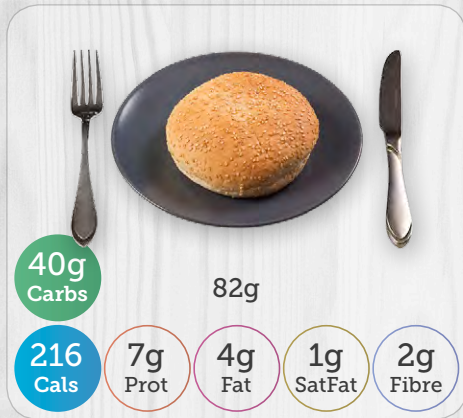


## Iced Ring





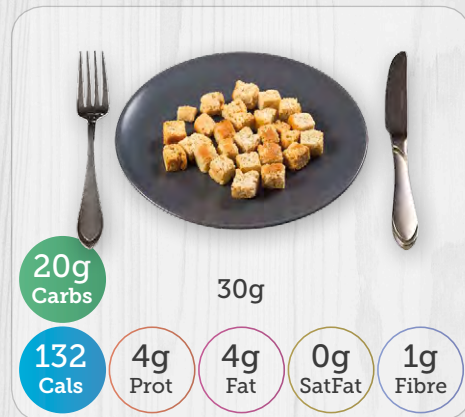
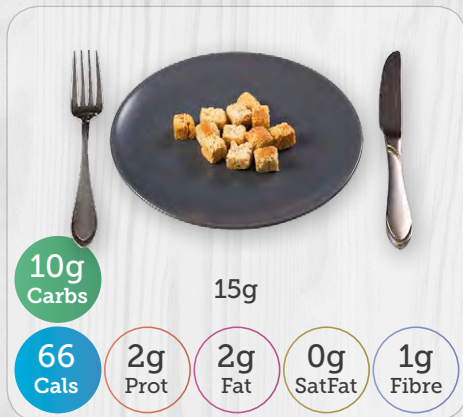
## Burger Bun



## Finger Roll



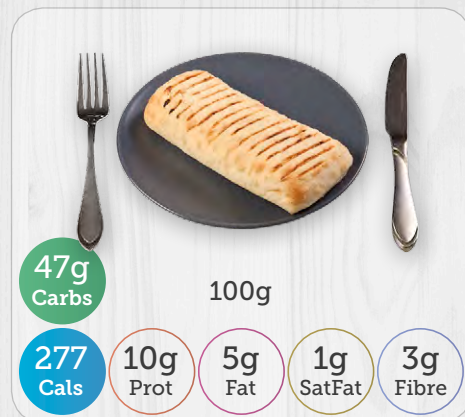
## Croutons



## Ciabatta



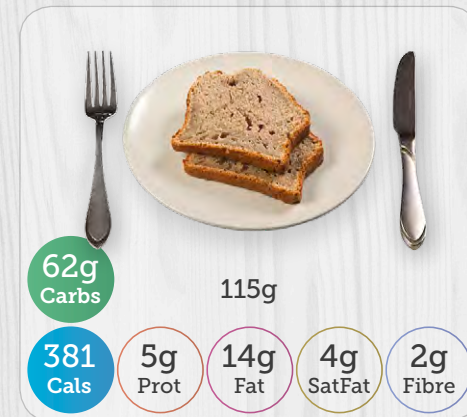
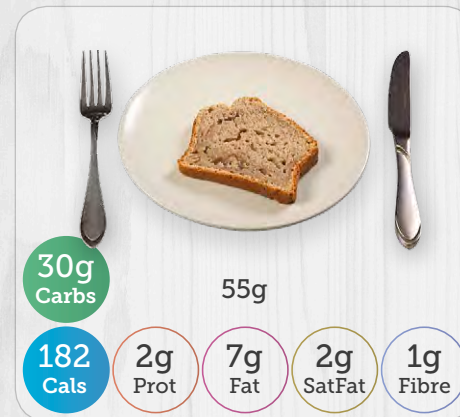
## Panini



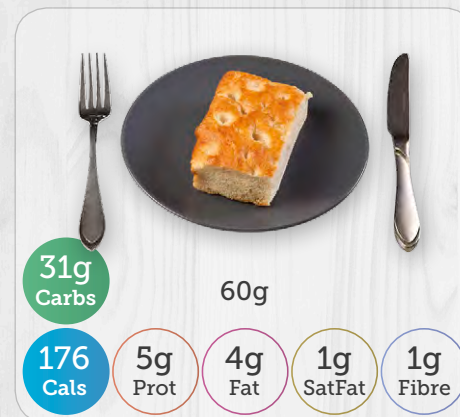
## Baguette



## Banana Bread



## Focaccia

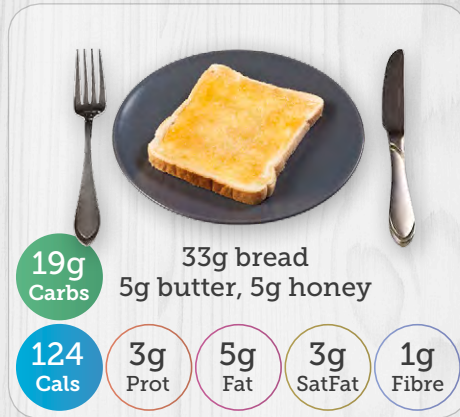




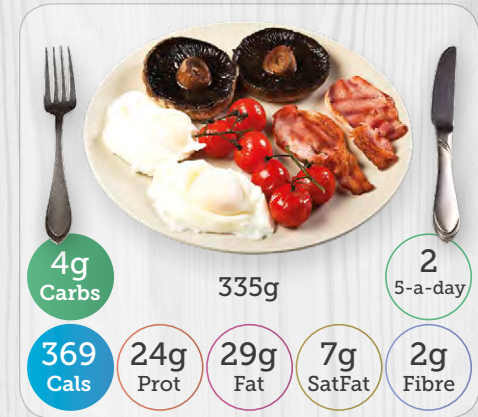
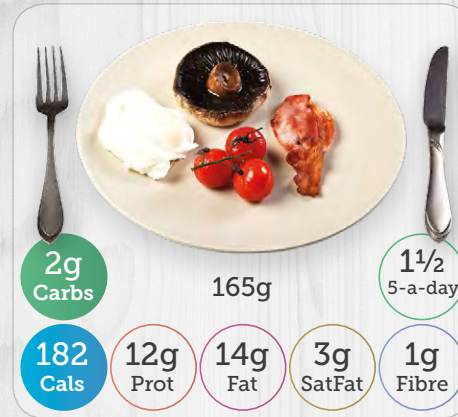
### Toast with Choc Spread & Butter



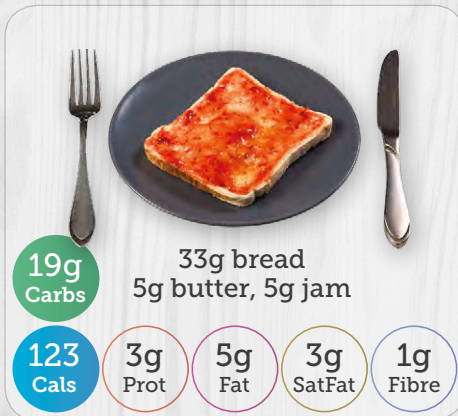
### Toast with Honey & Butter



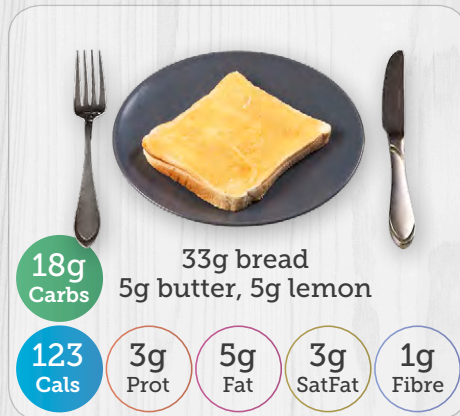
### Low-carb Cooked Breakfast



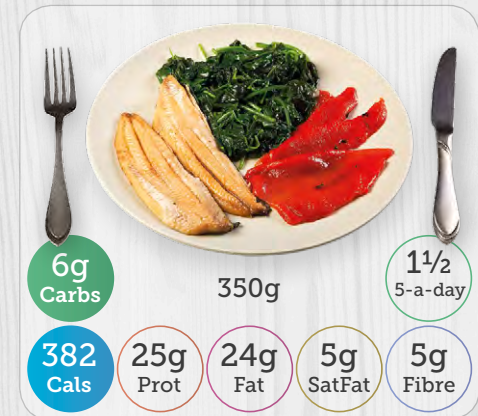
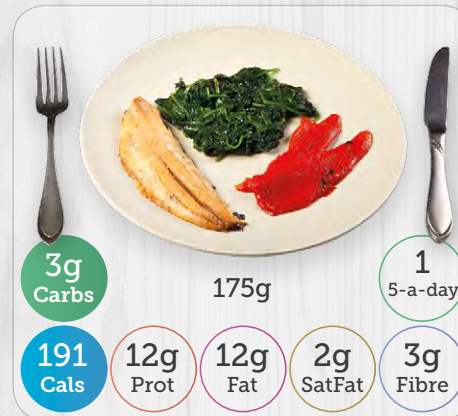
### Toast with Jam & Butter



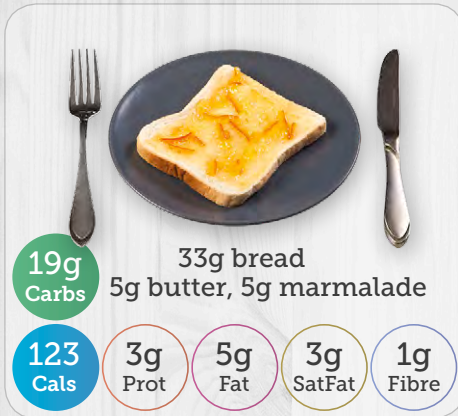
### Toast with Lemon Curd & Butter



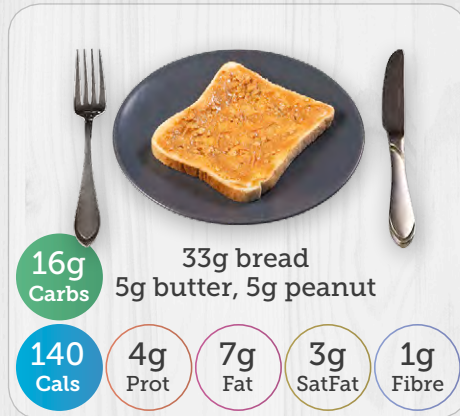
### Kippers, Spinach & Peppers



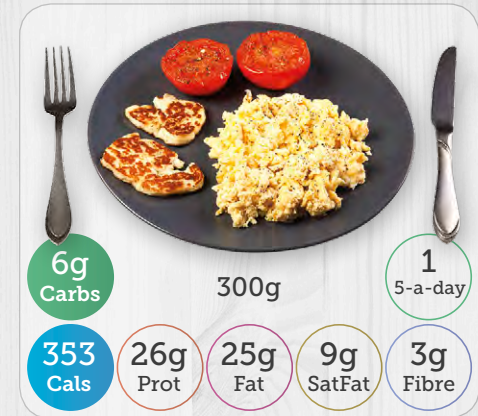
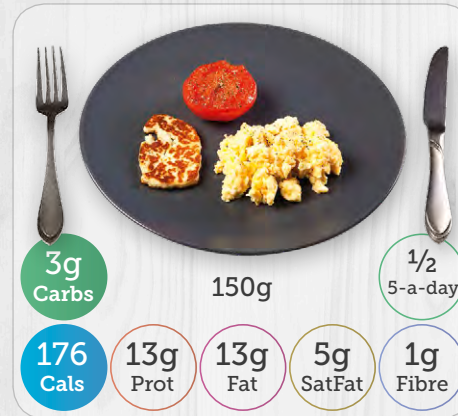
### Toast with Marmalade & Butter



### Toast with Peanut Butter & Butter



### Scrambled Eggs, Tomatoes & Halloumi

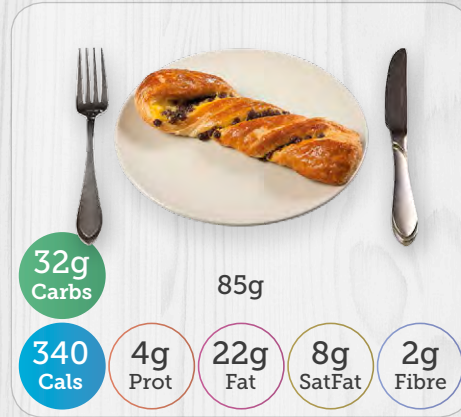




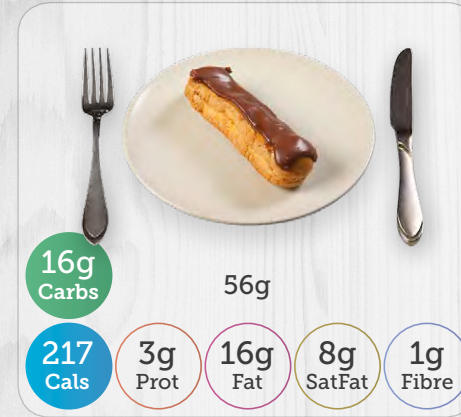
## Apple Danish



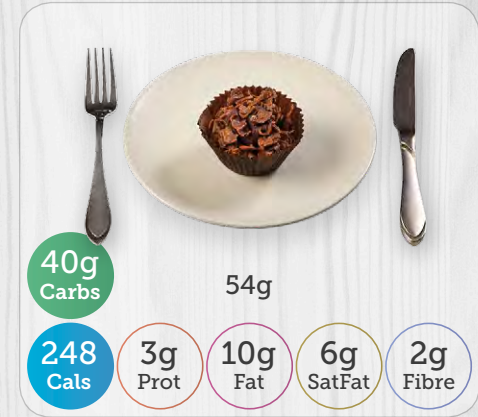
## Chocolate Chip Twist



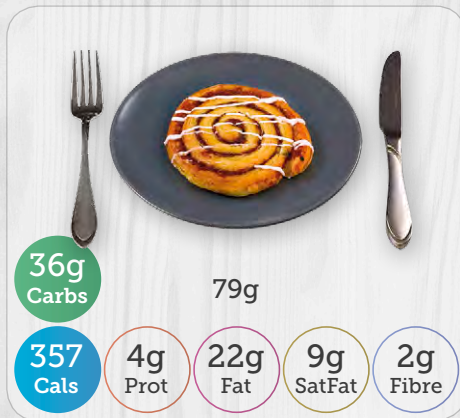
## Chocolate Éclair



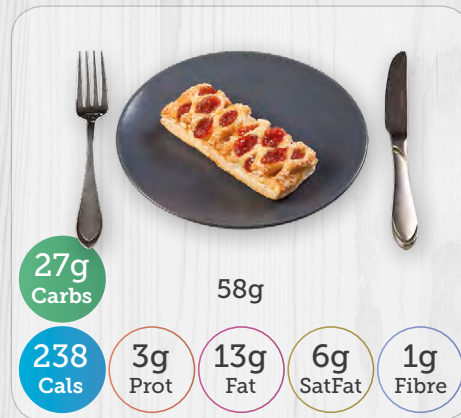
## Corn Flake Cake



## Cinnamon Swirl



## Fruit Trellis



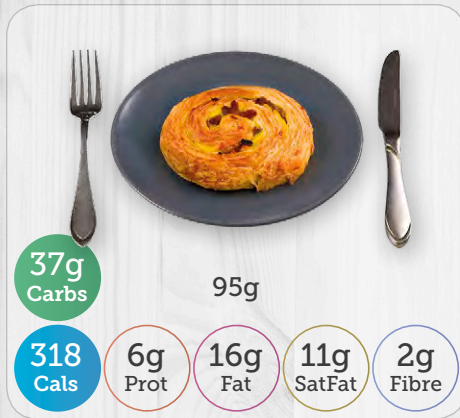
## Cup Cake



## Custard Slice



## Pain aux Raisins



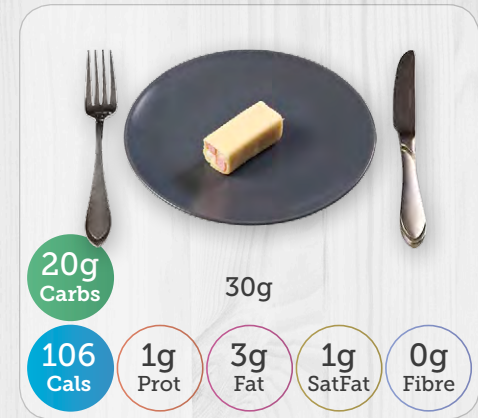
## Pecan Plait



## Custard Tart

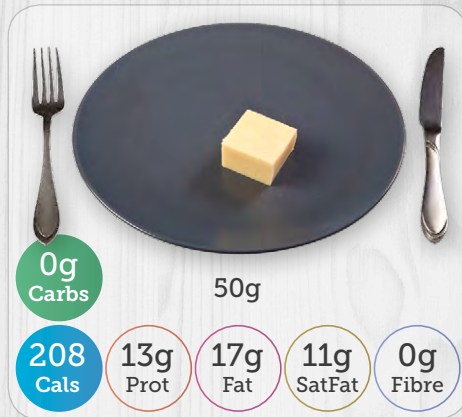
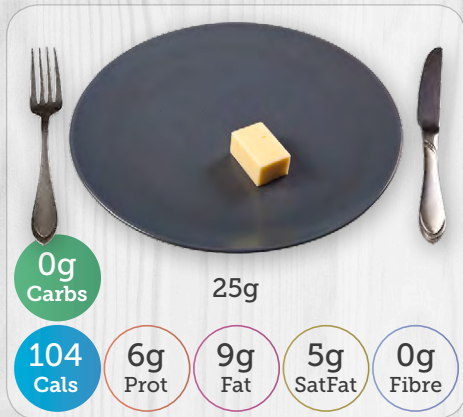


## Mini Battenburg

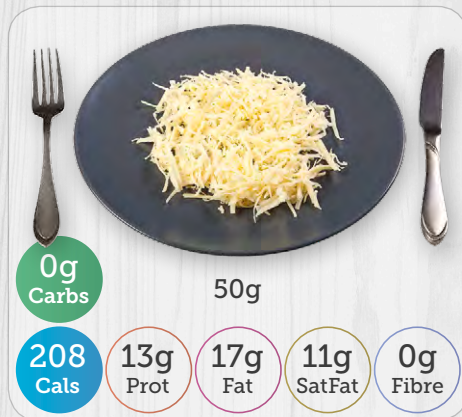
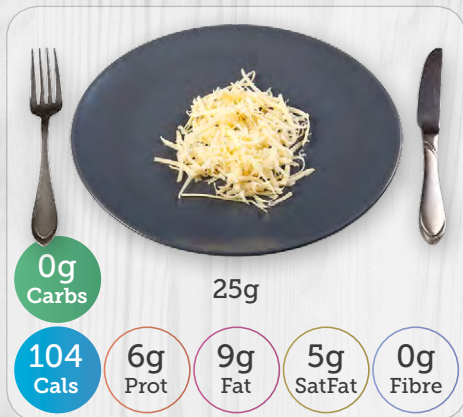




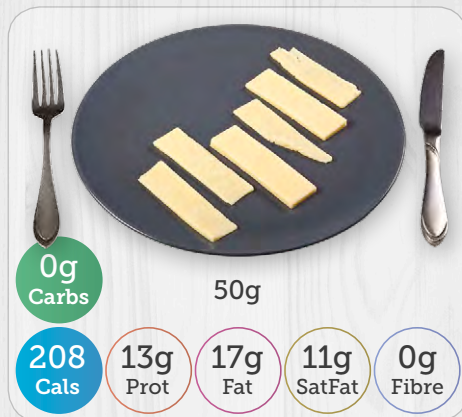
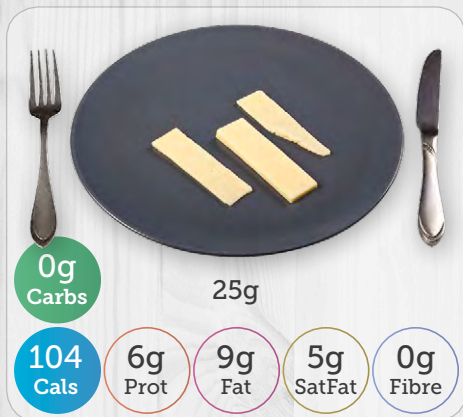
## Cheddar



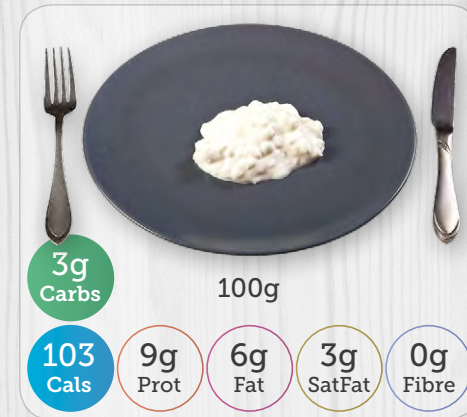
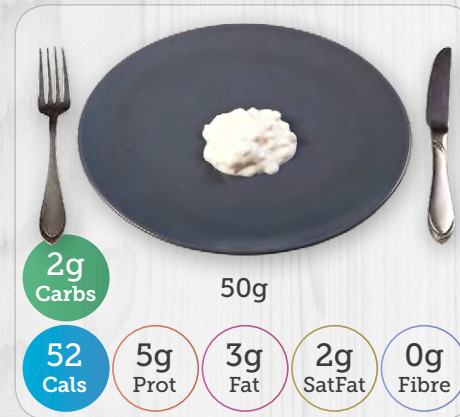
## Cheddar (grated)



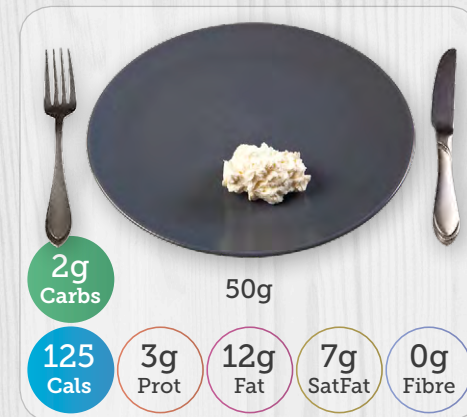
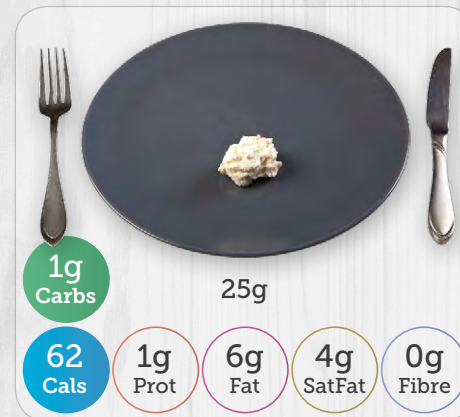
## Cheddar (sliced)



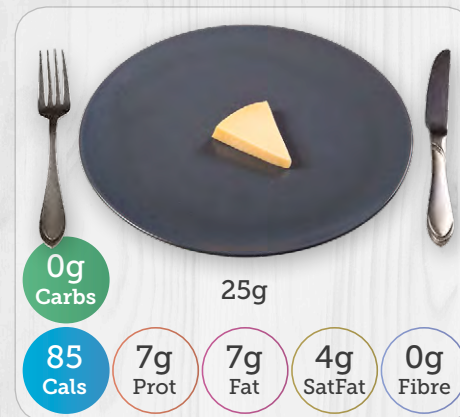
## Cottage Cheese



## Cream Cheese



## Edam





## Black Forest Gateau

22g  
Carbs

60g

177  
Cals2g  
Prot9g  
Fat6g  
SatFat1g  
Fibre45g  
Carbs

120g

354  
Cals4g  
Prot19g  
Fat12g  
SatFat2g  
Fibre89g  
Carbs

240g

708  
Cals8g  
Prot38g  
Fat25g  
SatFat5g  
Fibre

## Bread &amp; Butter Pudding

19g  
Carbs

81g

197  
Cals5g  
Prot11g  
Fat6g  
SatFat1g  
Fibre39g  
Carbs

164g

398  
Cals9g  
Prot21g  
Fat12g  
SatFat1g  
Fibre59g  
Carbs

246g

598  
Cals14g  
Prot32g  
Fat19g  
SatFat2g  
Fibre

## Brownie

24g  
Carbs

45g

228  
Cals3g  
Prot14g  
Fat7g  
SatFat1g  
Fibre69g  
Carbs

127g

643  
Cals8g  
Prot39g  
Fat21g  
SatFat3g  
Fibre113g  
Carbs

209g

1058  
Cals13g  
Prot64g  
Fat34g  
SatFat5g  
Fibre

## Cheesecake

35g  
Carbs

100g

294  
Cals4g  
Prot16g  
Fat9g  
SatFat1g  
Fibre53g  
Carbs

150g

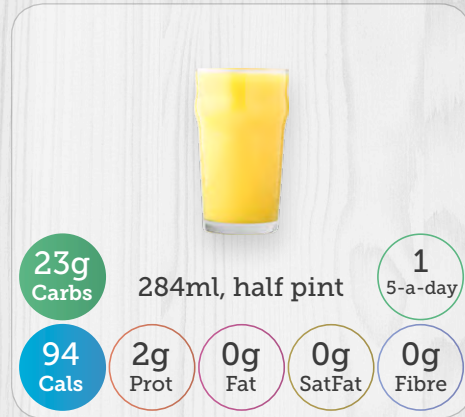
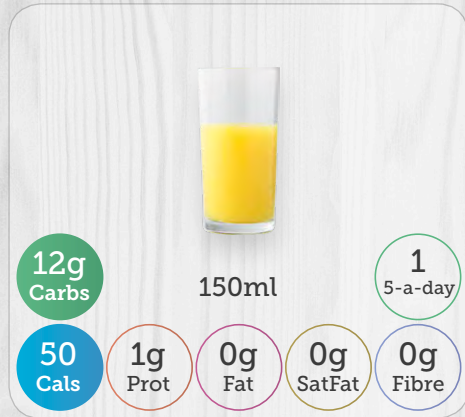
441  
Cals6g  
Prot24g  
Fat14g  
SatFat2g  
Fibre70g  
Carbs

200g

588  
Cals8g  
Prot32g  
Fat19g  
SatFat2g  
Fibre



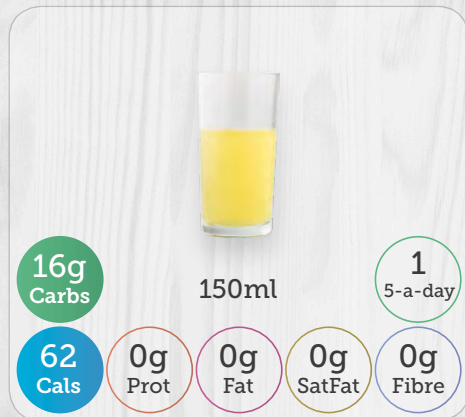
## Orange Juice



## Smoothie (strawberry &amp; banana)



## Pineapple Juice



## Squash



## Tomato Juice

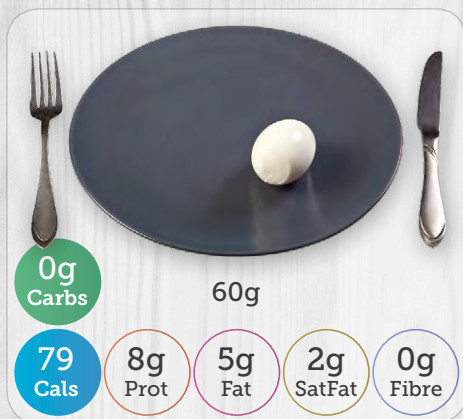


## Squash (no added sugar)

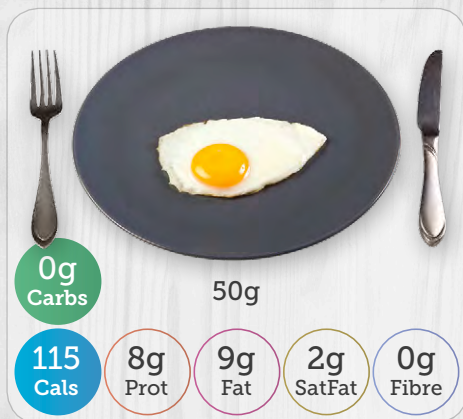




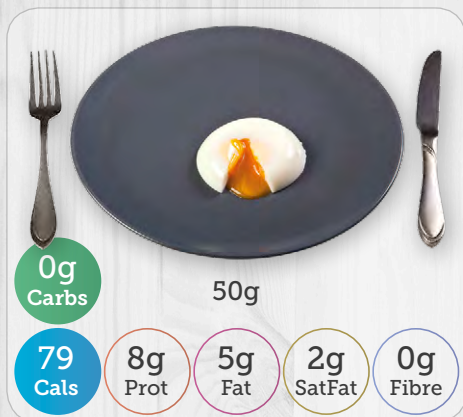
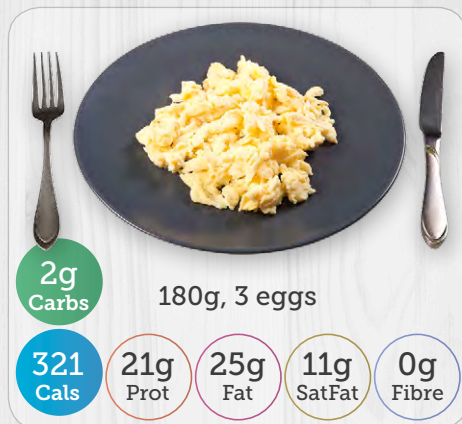
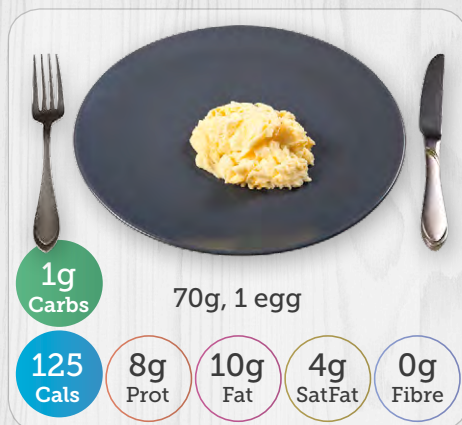
## Boiled Egg



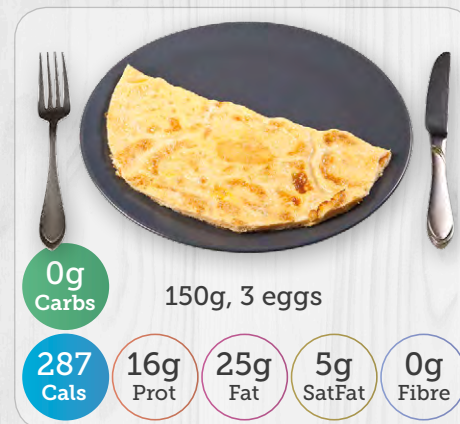
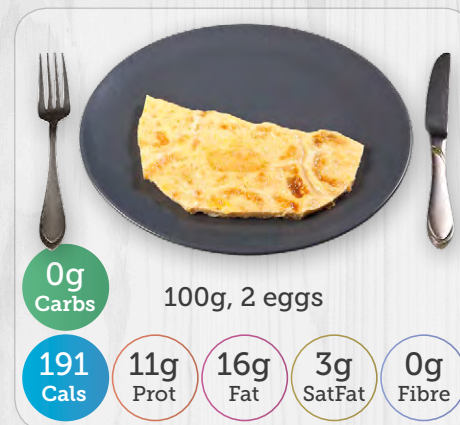
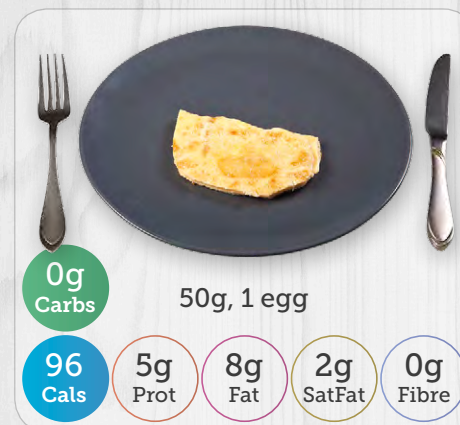
## Fried Egg



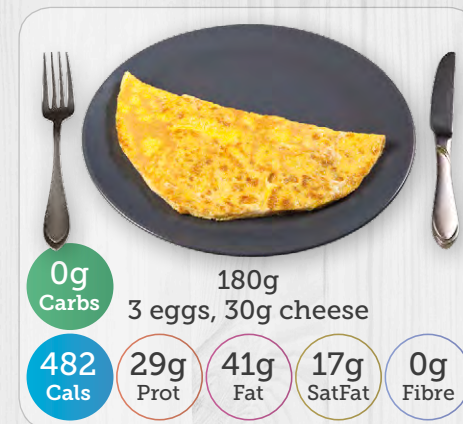
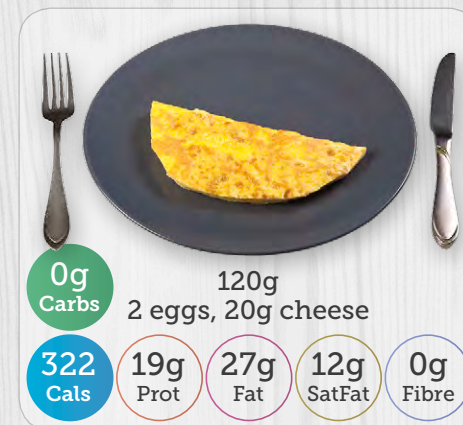
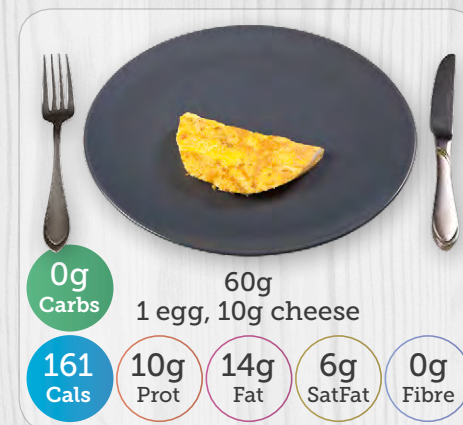
## Poached Egg

Scrambled Egg  
(with milk)

## Omelette (plain)

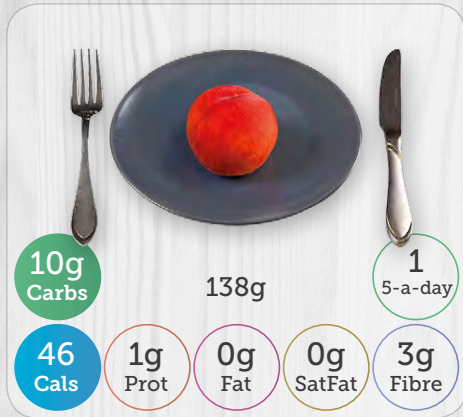


## Omelette (cheese)

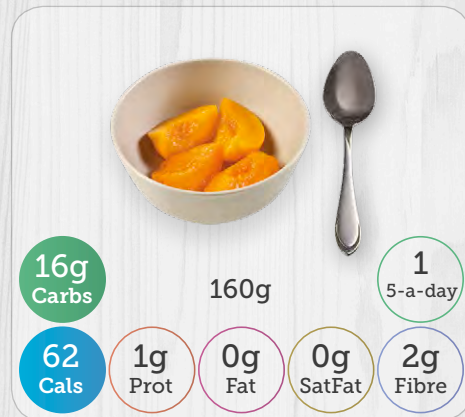




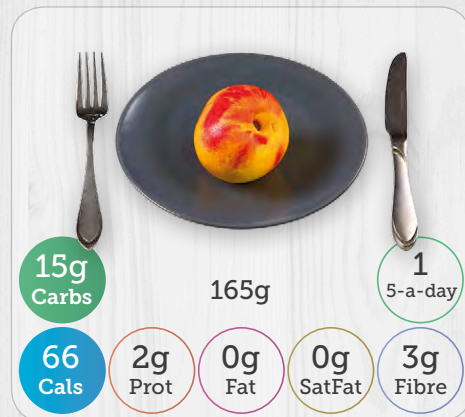
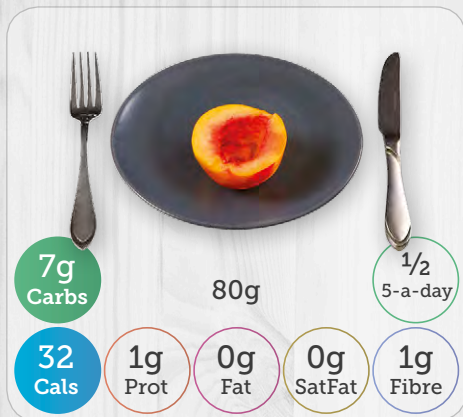
## Peach



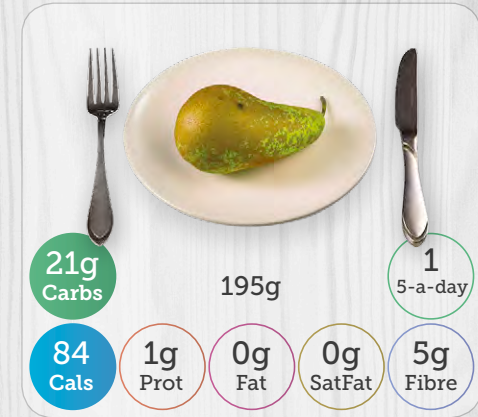
## Peaches (tinned in juice)



## Nectarine



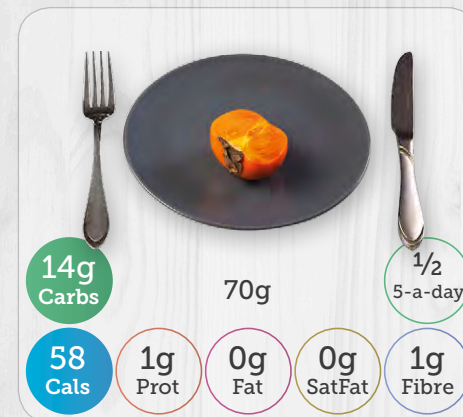
## Pear



## Pears (tinned in juice)

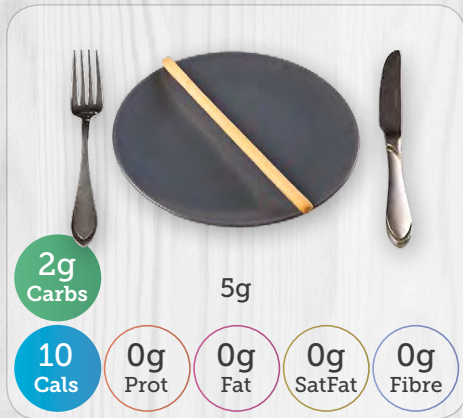


## Persimmon

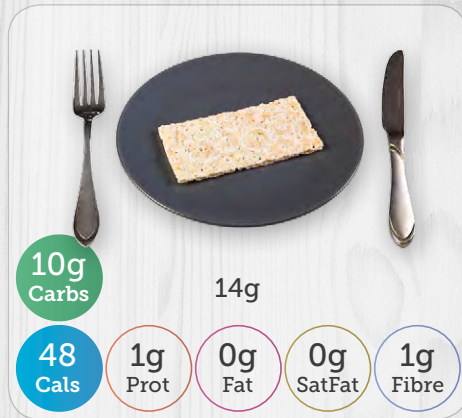




## Breadstick GF



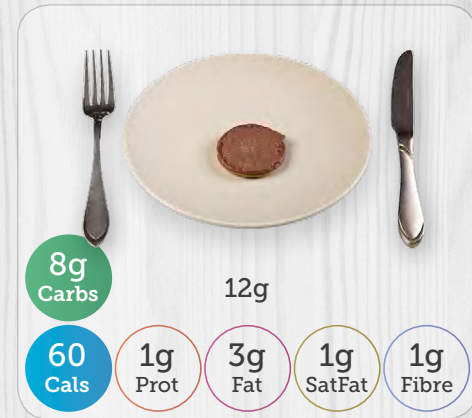
## Crispbread GF



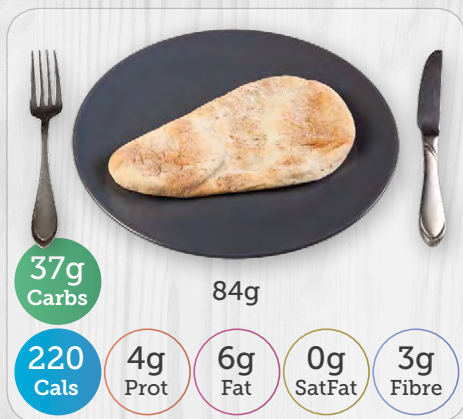
## Chocolate Chip Cookie GF



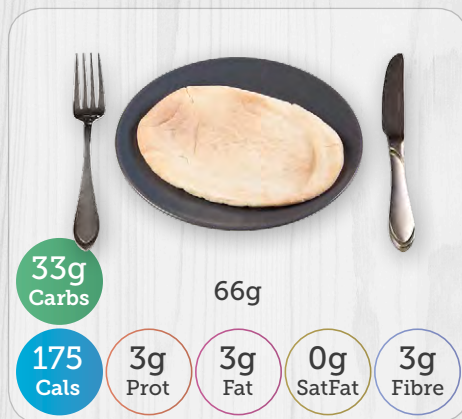
## Chocolate Digestive GF



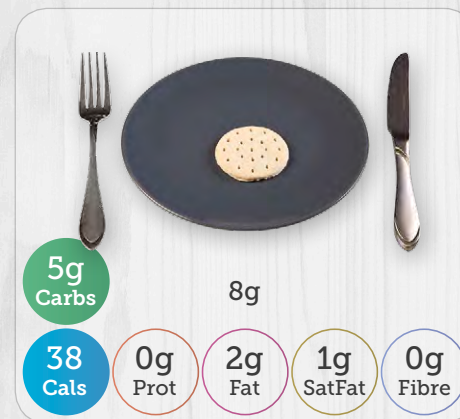
## Naan Bread GF



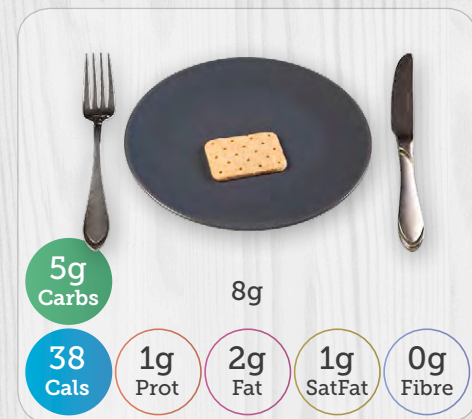
## Pitta Bread GF



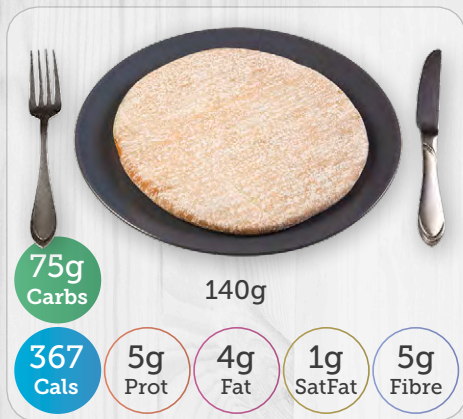
## Digestive GF



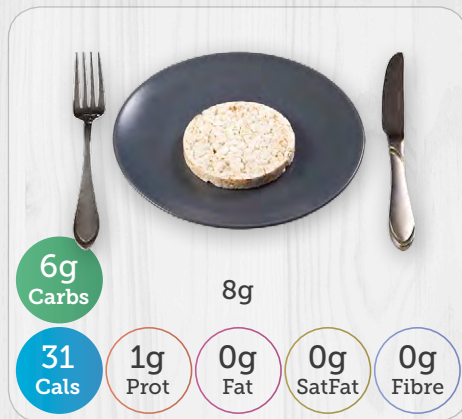
## Savoury Biscuit GF



## Pizza Base GF



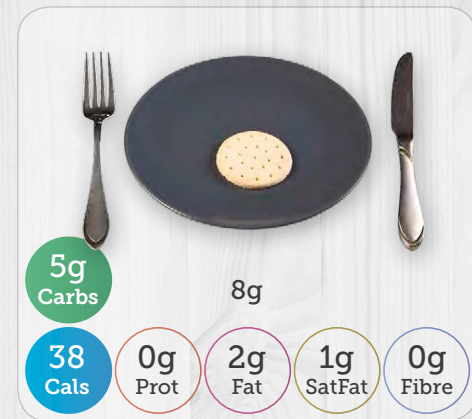
## Rice Cake GF



## Sweet Biscuit GF

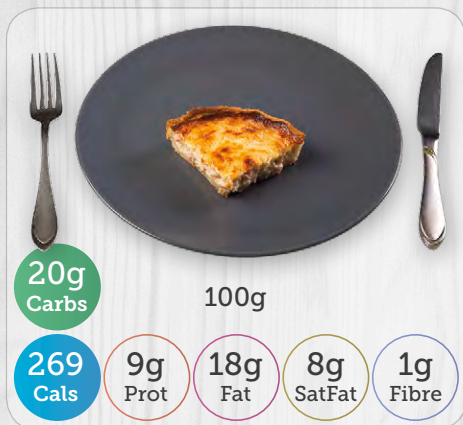


## Tea Biscuit GF

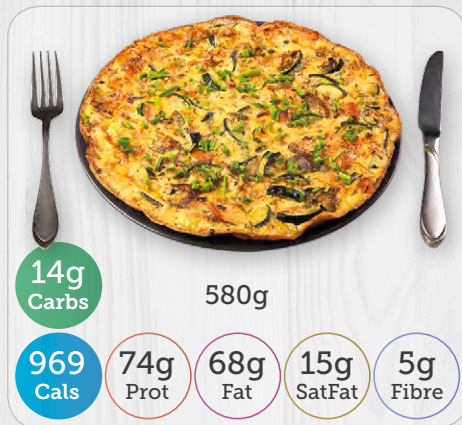
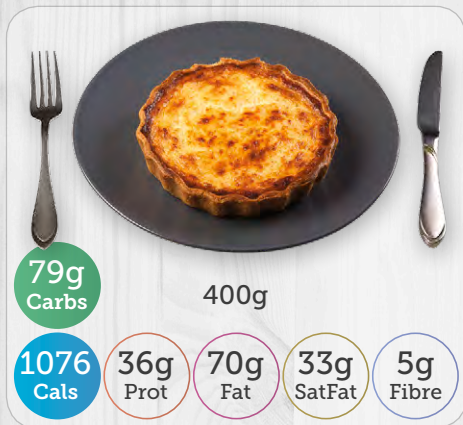
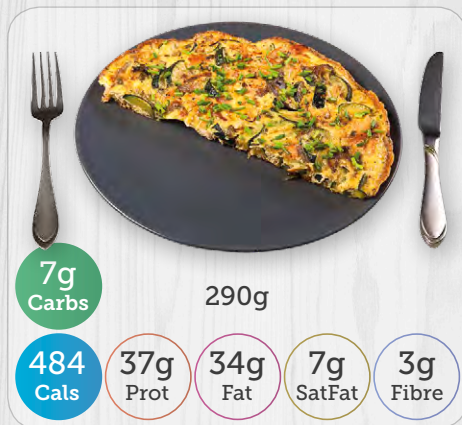
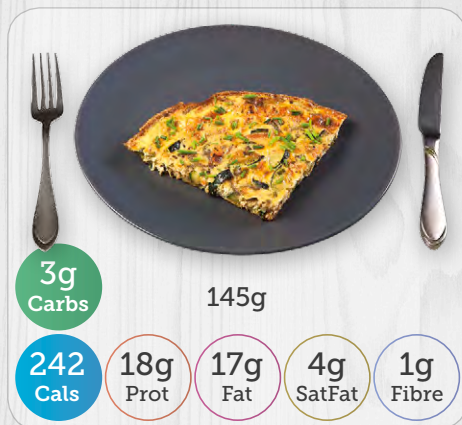




## Quiche Lorraine



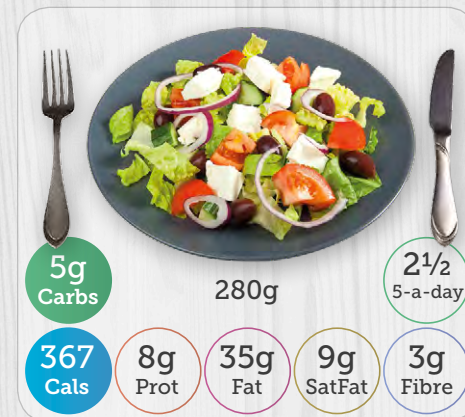
## Salmon Frittata



## Chicken Caesar Salad



## Greek Salad

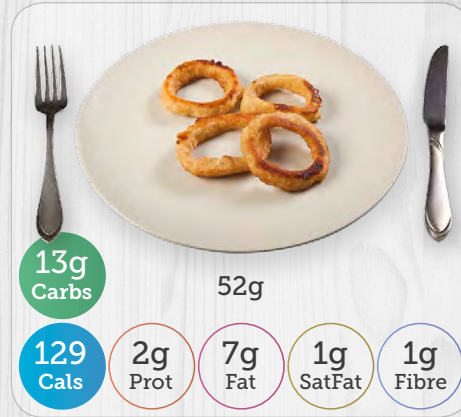
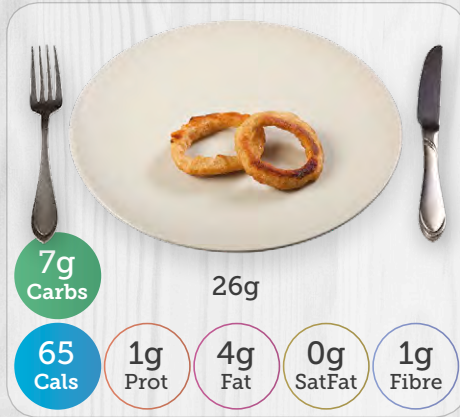


## Tuna Niçoise Salad

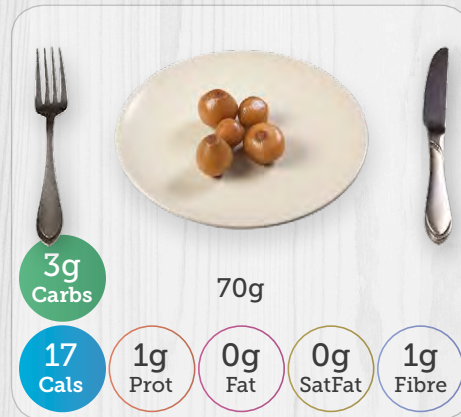
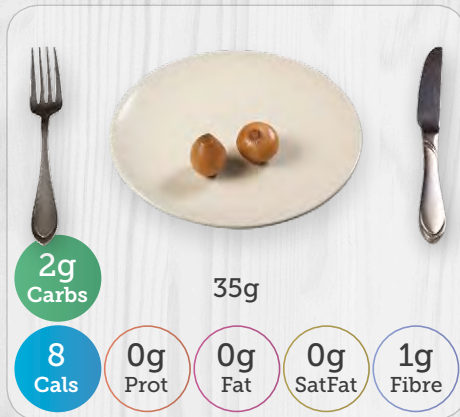




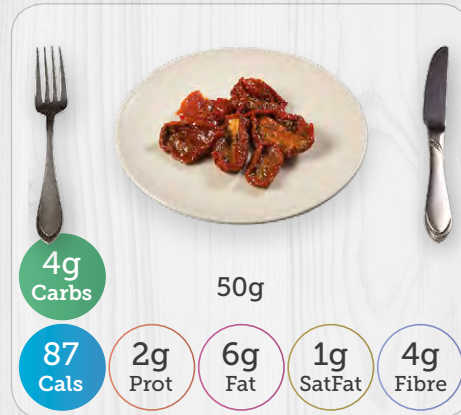
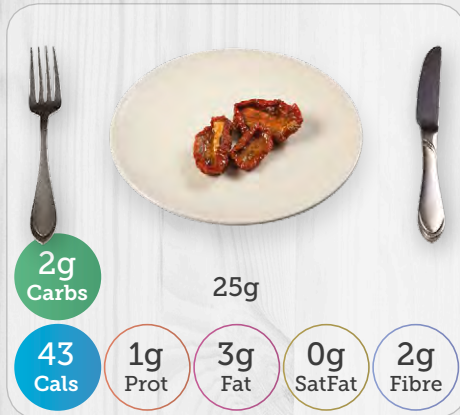
## Onion Rings (battered)



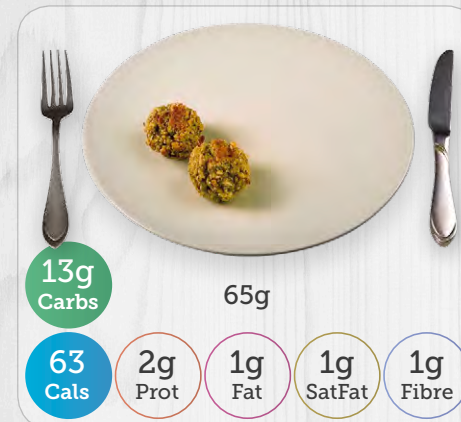
## Pickled Onions



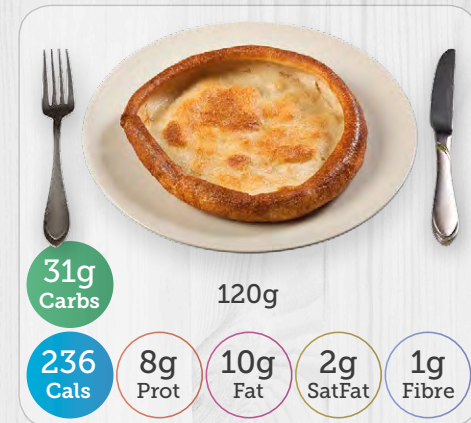
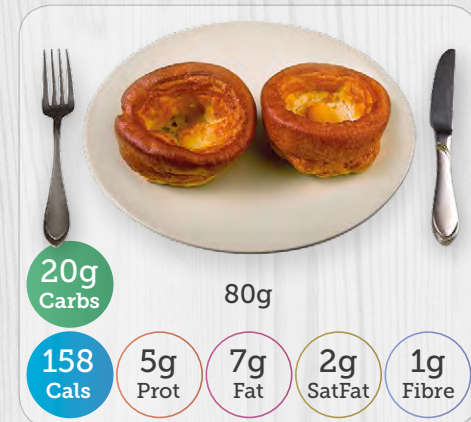
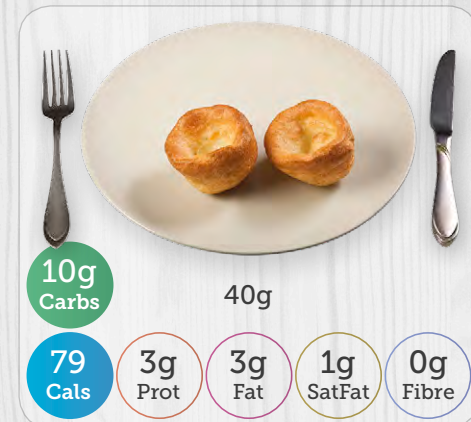
## Sun-dried Tomatoes (in oil, drained)



## Stuffing (packet mix)

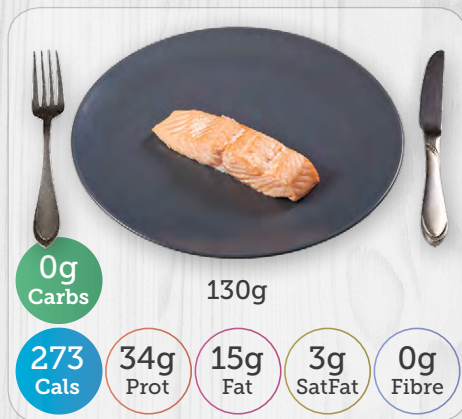
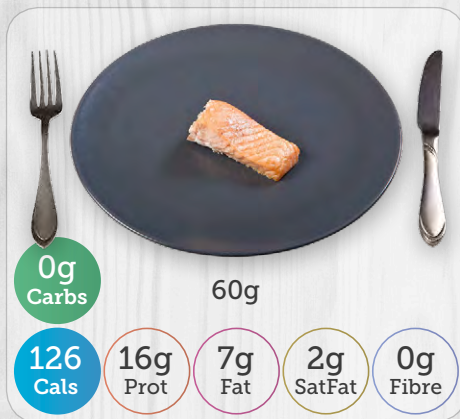


## Yorkshire Pudding

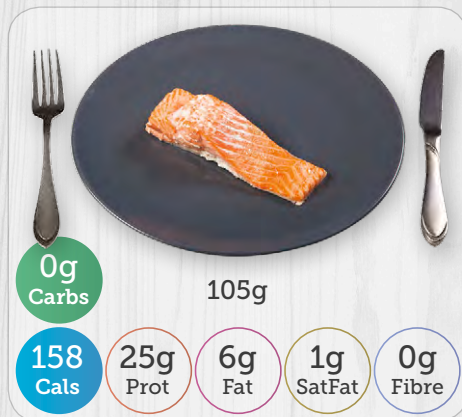
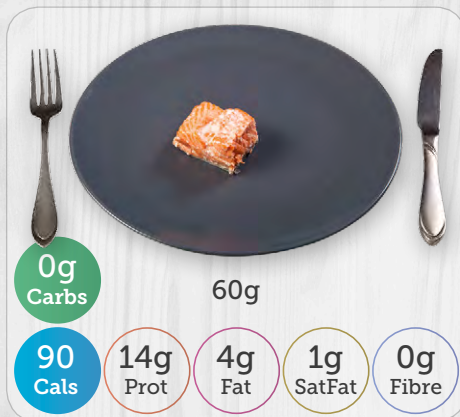




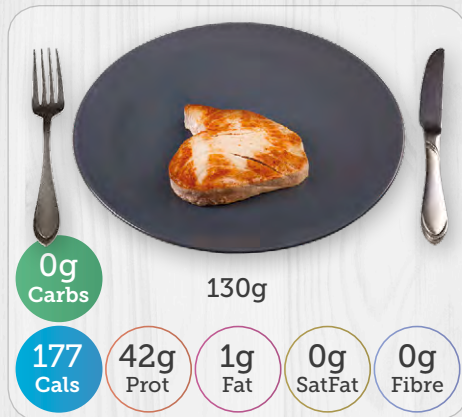
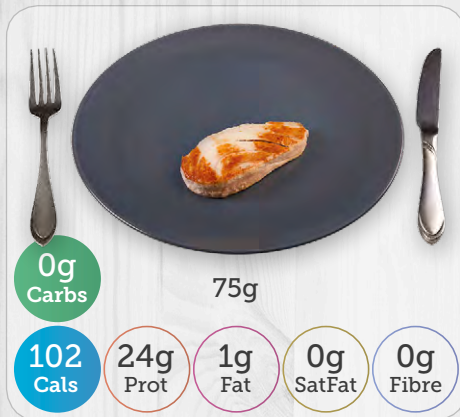
## Salmon Steak (grilled)



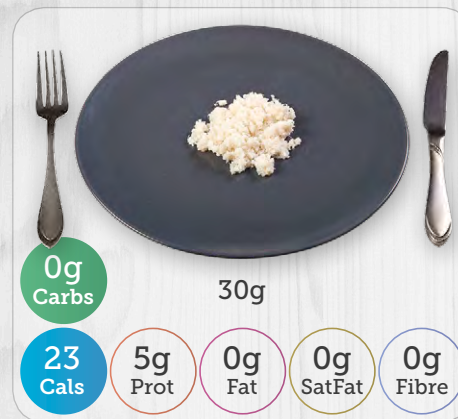
## Trout Fillet (baked)



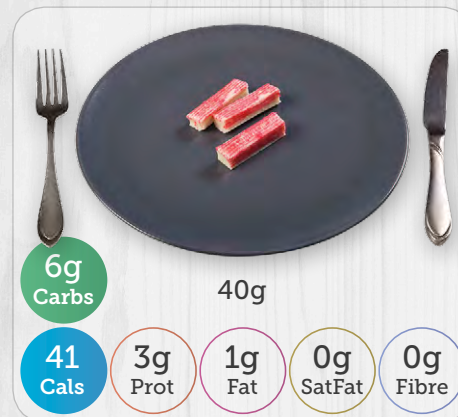
## Tuna Steak (grilled)



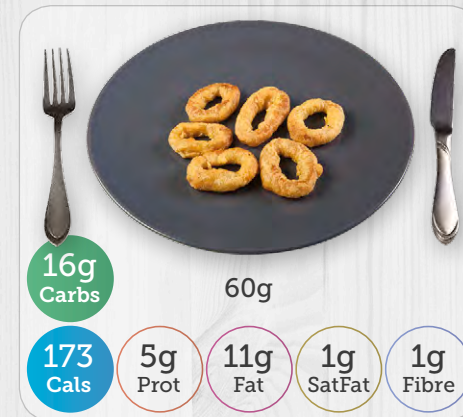
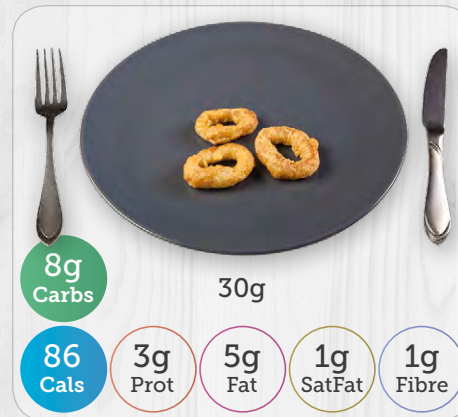
## Crab Meat (tinned)



## Seafood Sticks



## Calamari (fried)





## Milk (whole)



## Milk (semi-skimmed)



## Milk (1%)

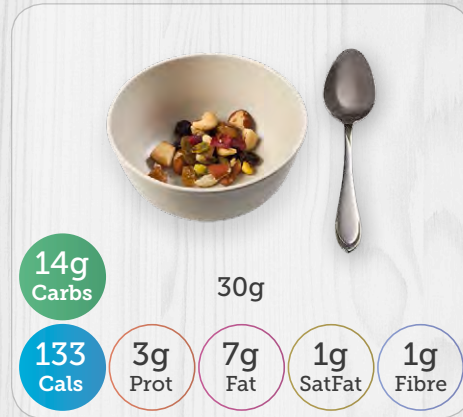
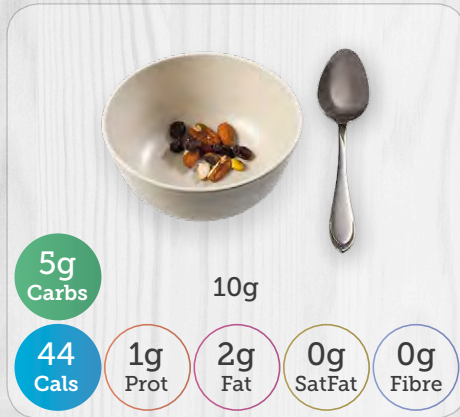


## Milk (skimmed)

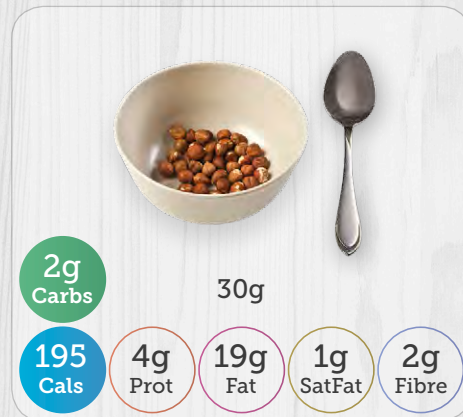
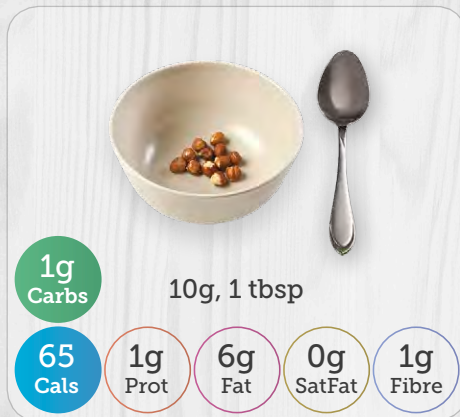




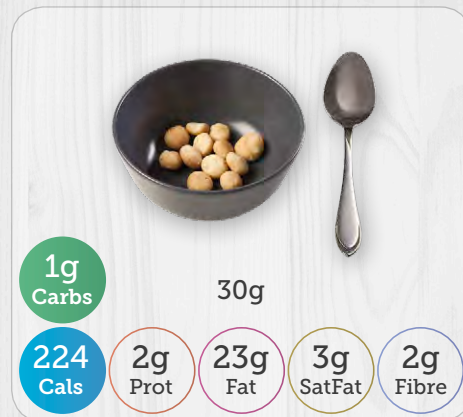
## Dried Fruit &amp; Nuts



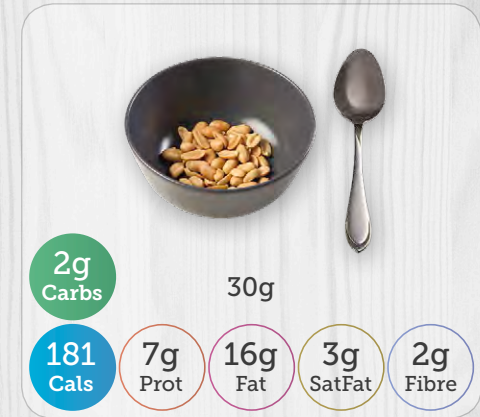
## Hazelnuts



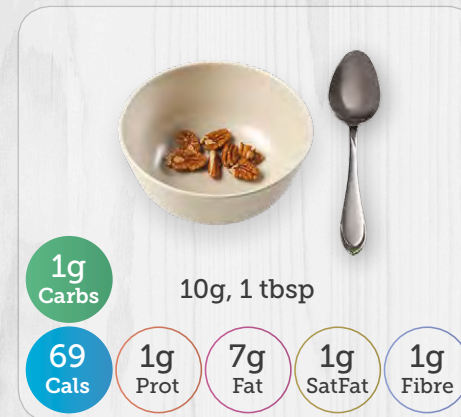
## Macadamia Nuts



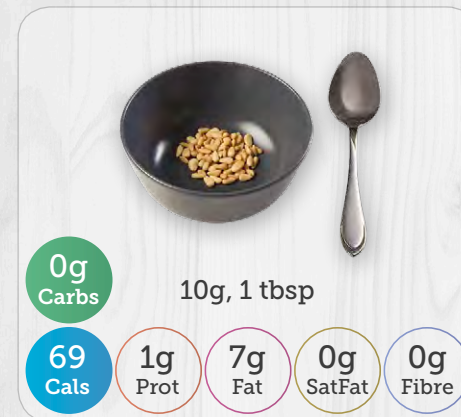
## Peanuts (roasted)



## Pecans

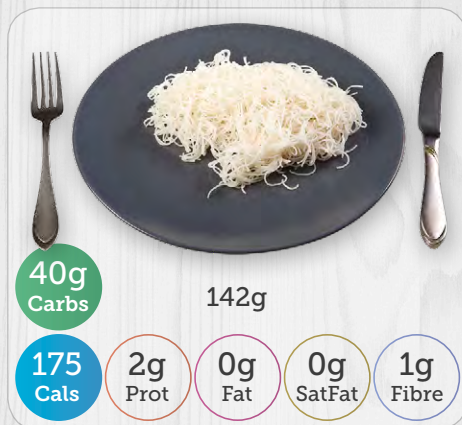


## Pine Nuts

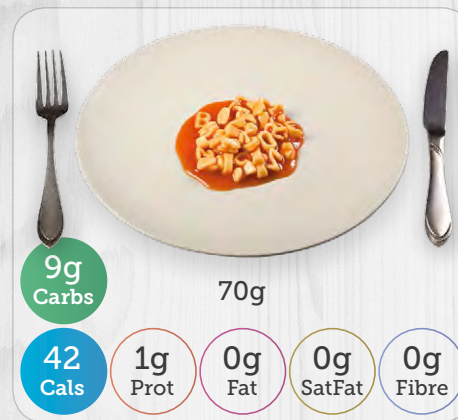




## Noodles (rice)



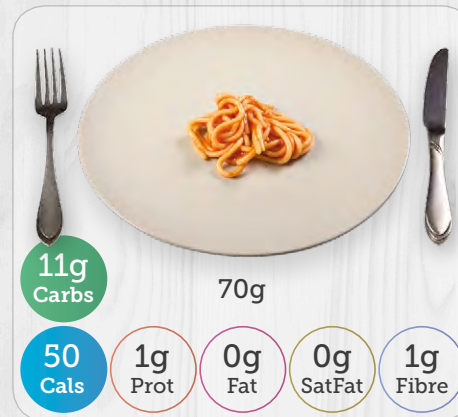
## Pasta Shapes (tinned)



## Ravioli (tinned)

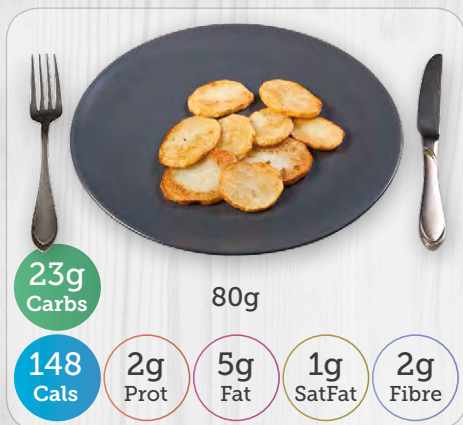
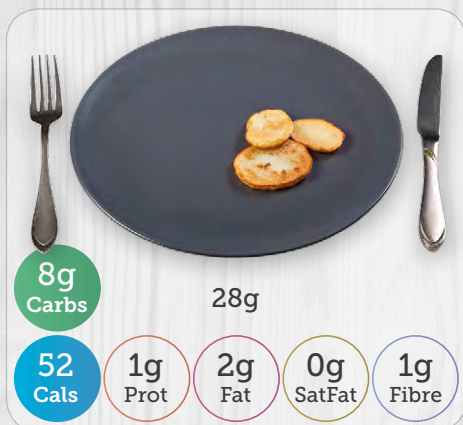


## Spaghetti (tinned)

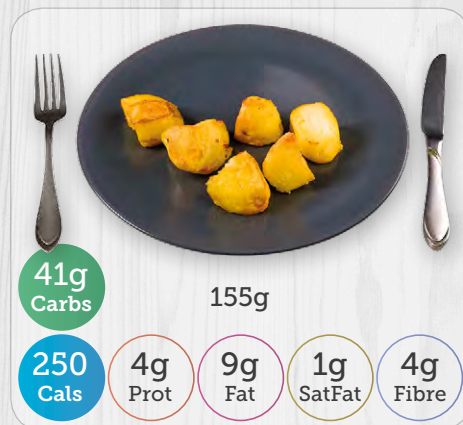
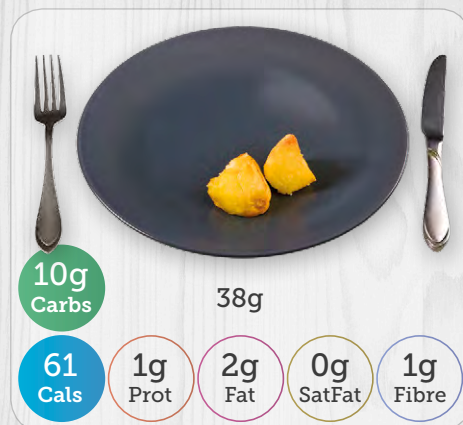




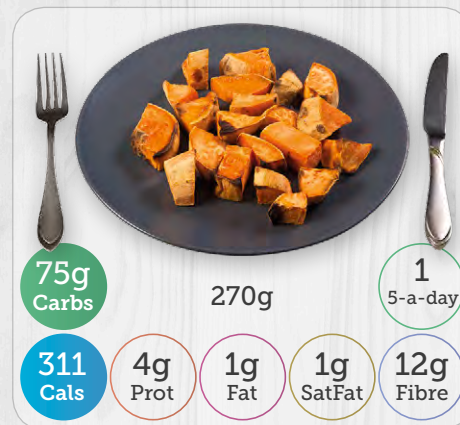
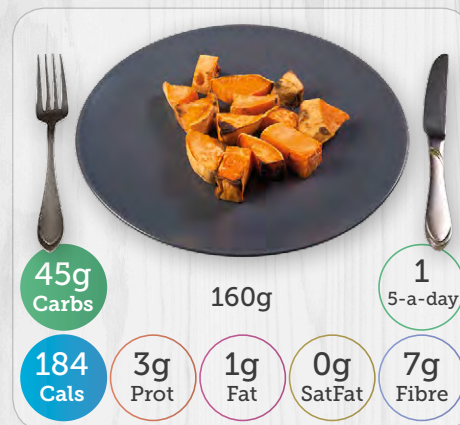
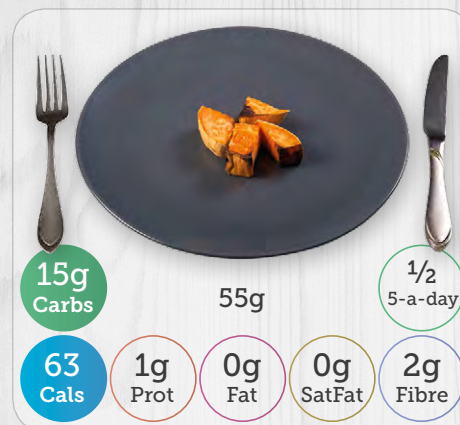
## Potato Slices (baked)



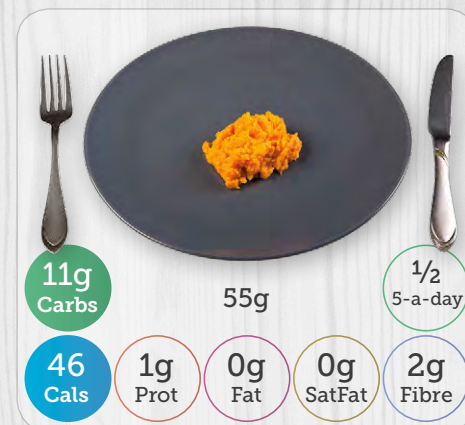
## Roast Potatoes (in oil)



## Sweet Potatoes (baked)



## Mashed Sweet Potato

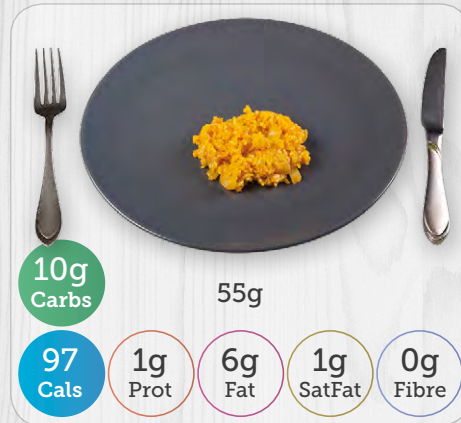




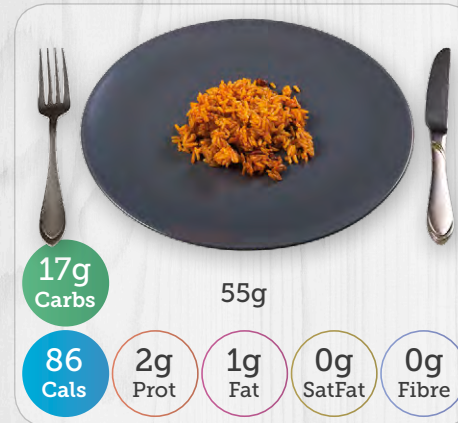
## Egg Fried Rice



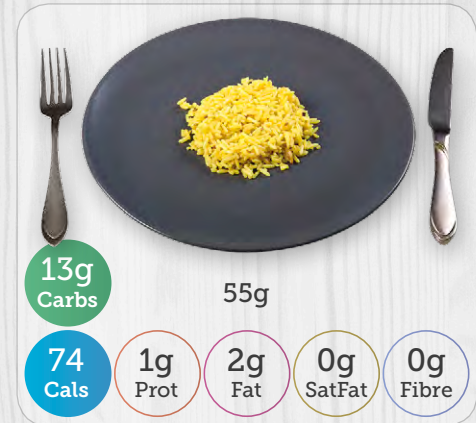
## Jollof Rice



## Mexican Rice

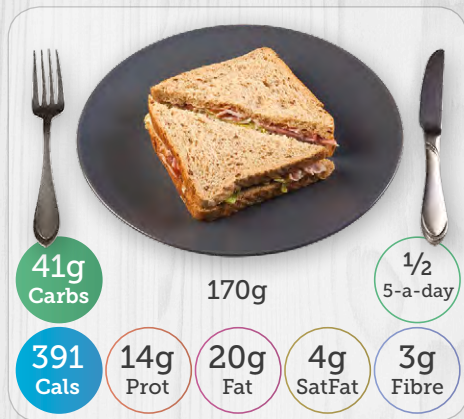
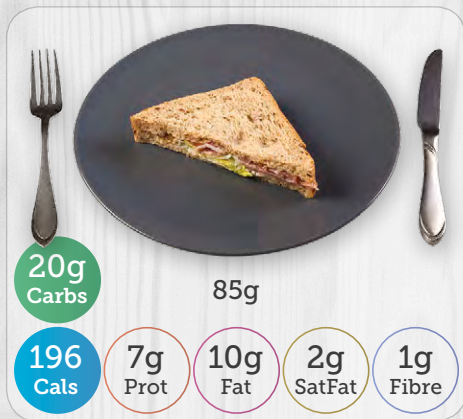


## Pilau Rice

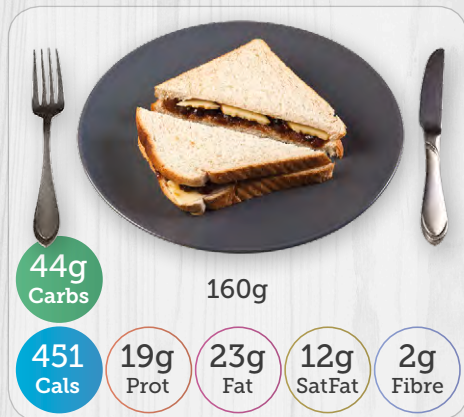
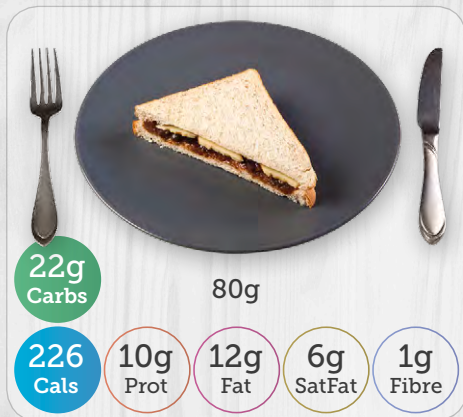




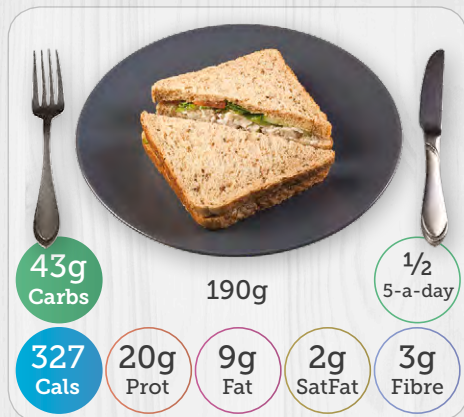
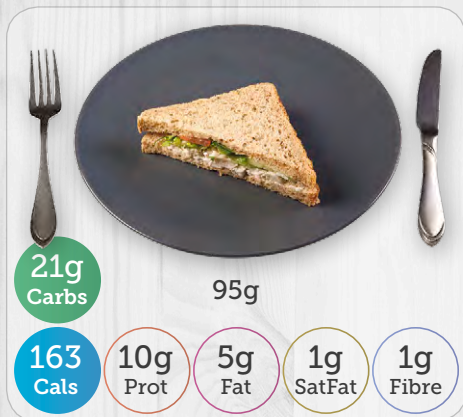
## BLT



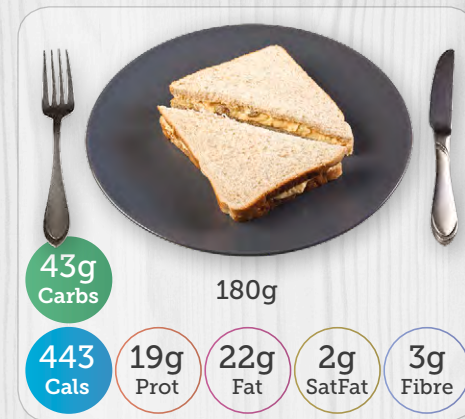
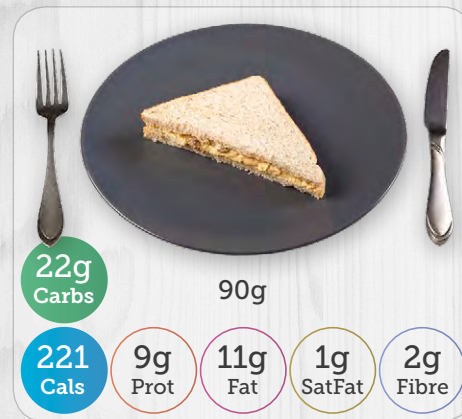
## Cheese &amp; Pickle



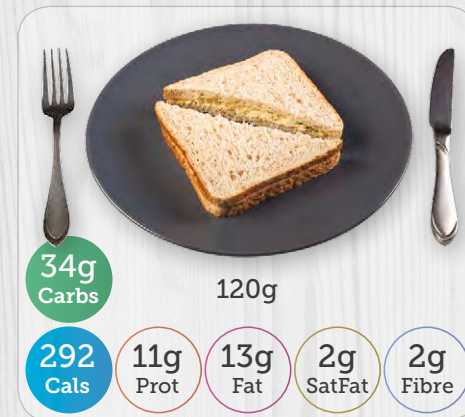
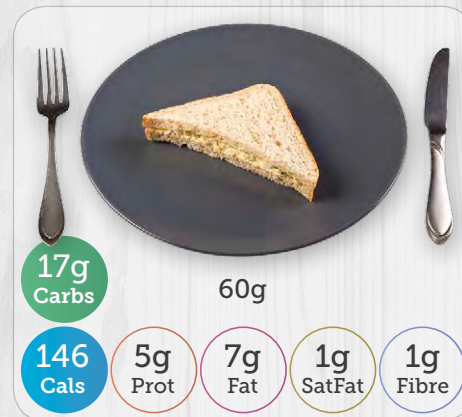
## Chicken Salad



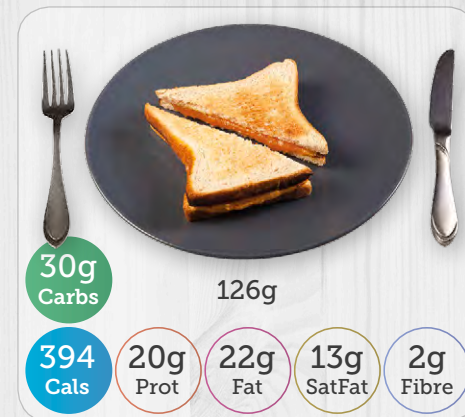
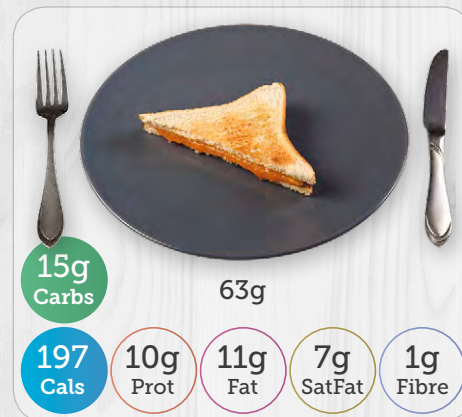
## Coronation Chicken



## Egg Mayo

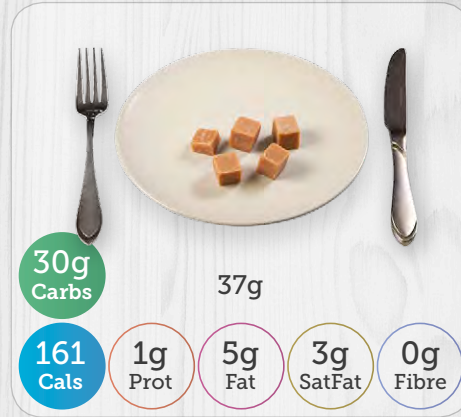
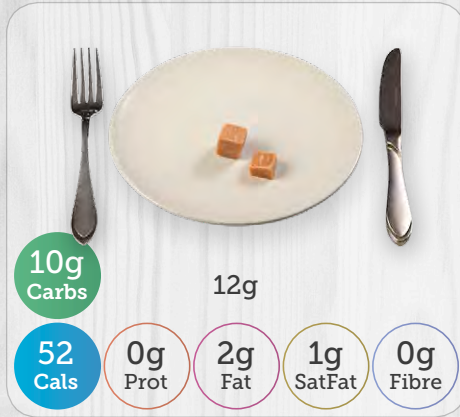


## Grilled Cheese





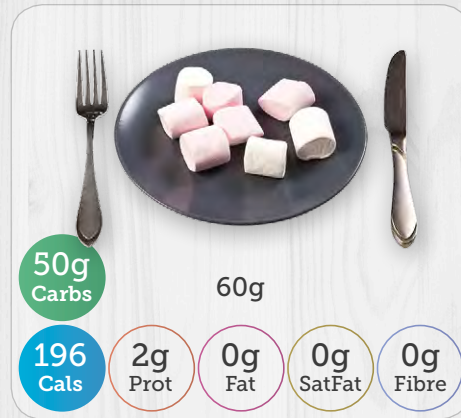
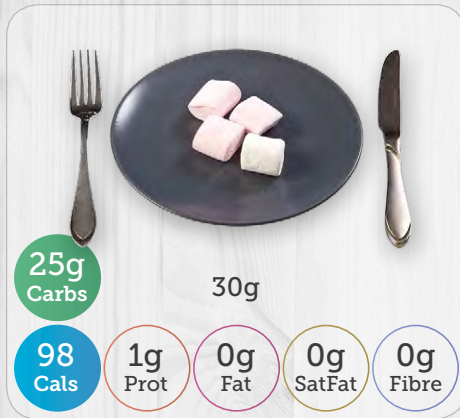
## Fudge



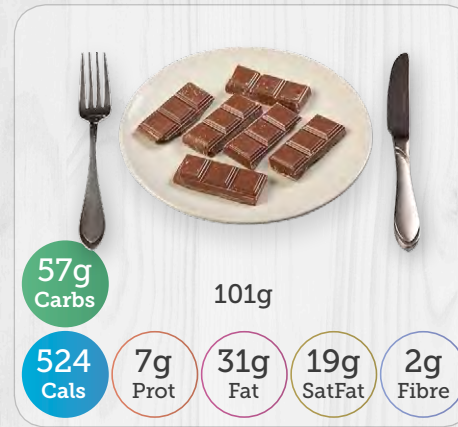
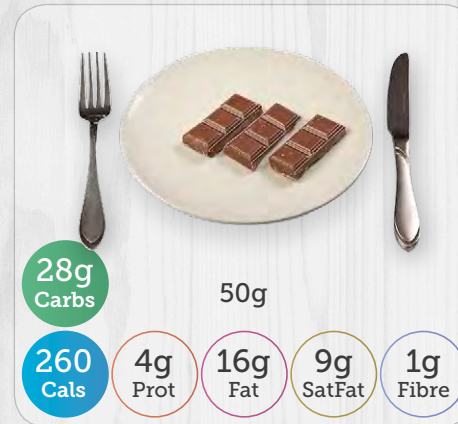
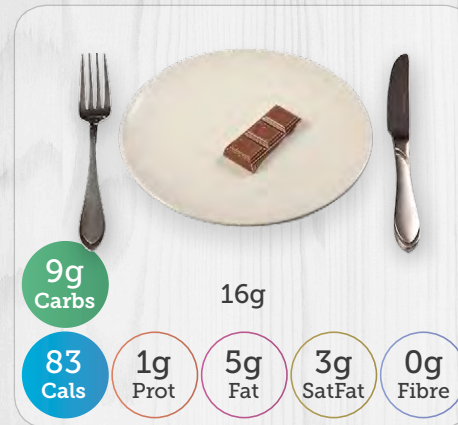
## Marshmallows (small)



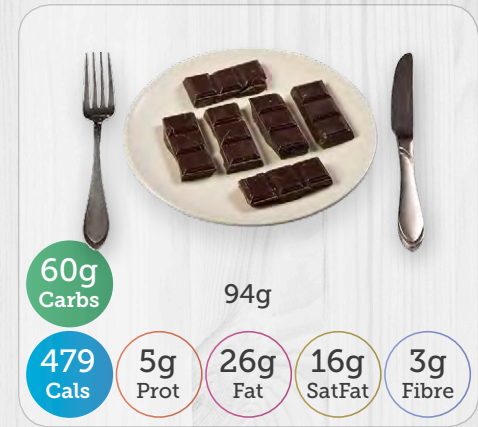
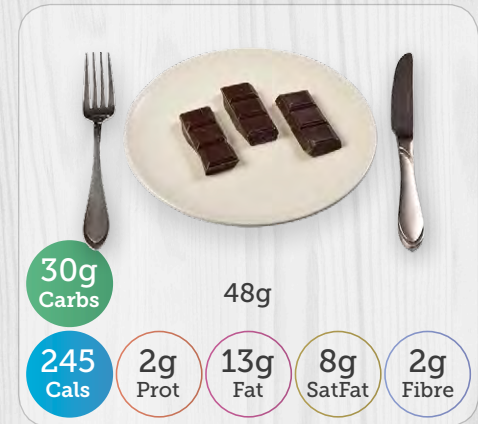
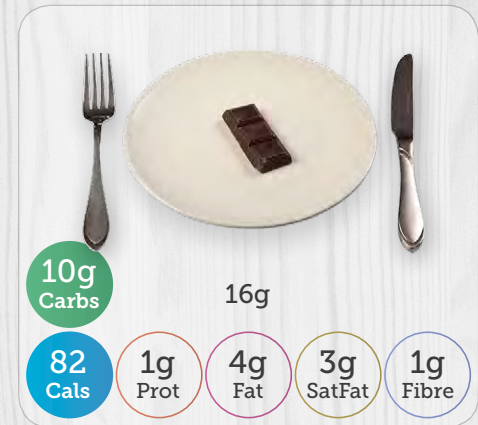
## Marshmallows (large)



## Chocolate (milk)

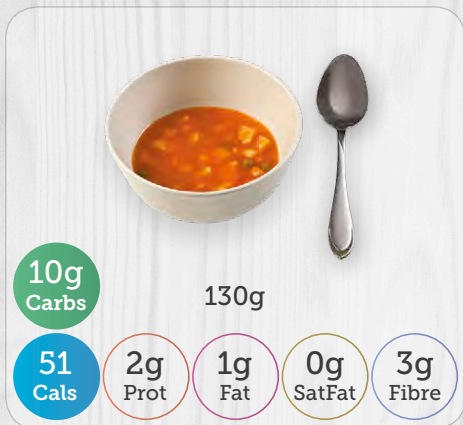


## Chocolate (dark)

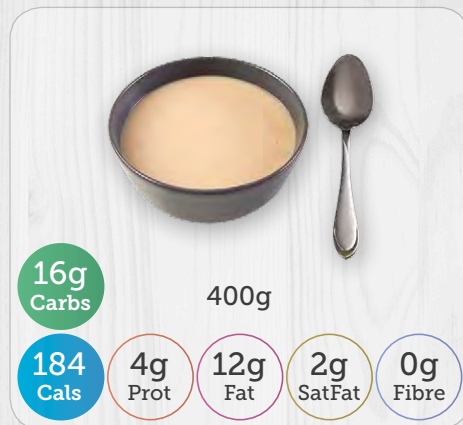
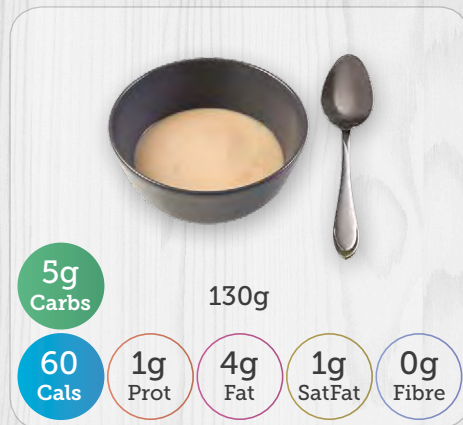




## Chunky Veg Soup



## Mushroom Soup



## Onion Soup

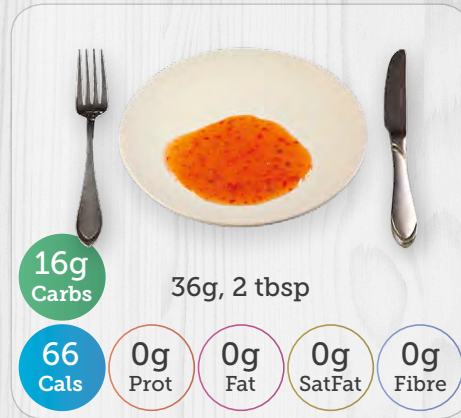


## Tomato Soup (cream of)

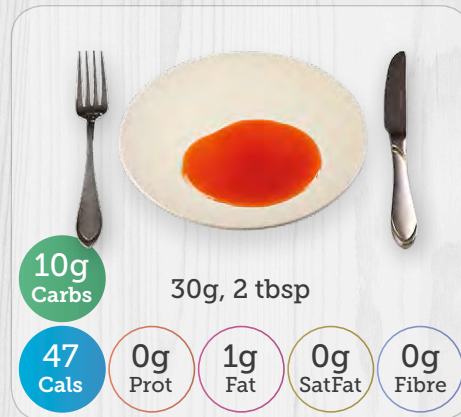
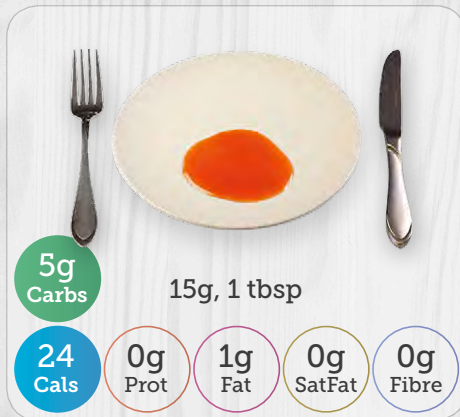




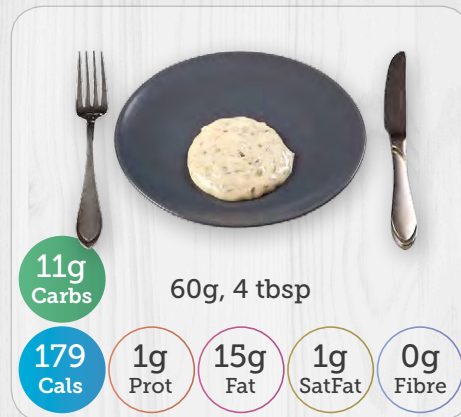
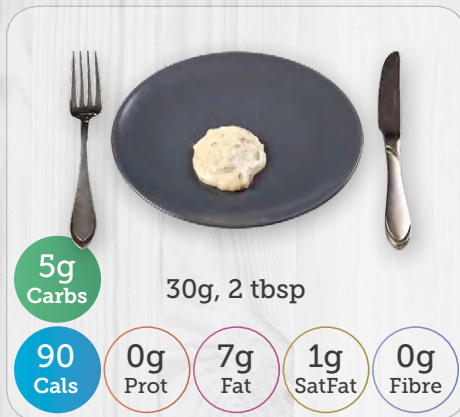
## Sweet Chilli Sauce



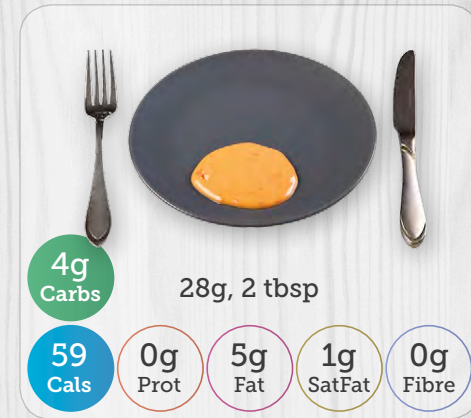
## Sweet &amp; Sour Sauce (takeaway)



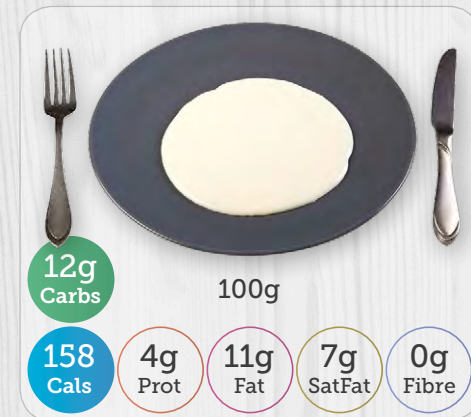
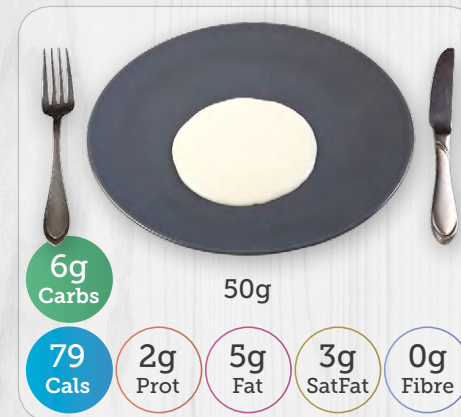
## Tartare Sauce



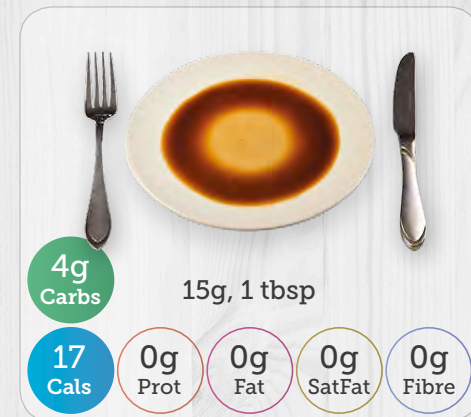
## Thousand Island Dressing



## White Sauce (made with whole milk)

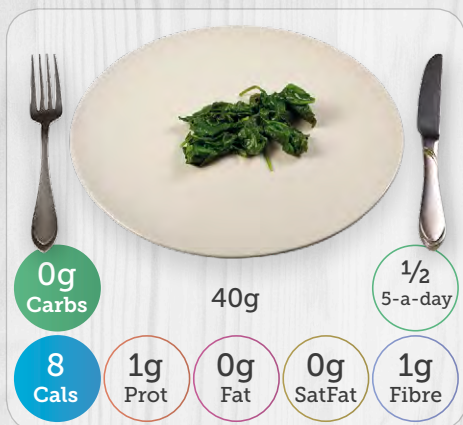


## Worcestershire Sauce

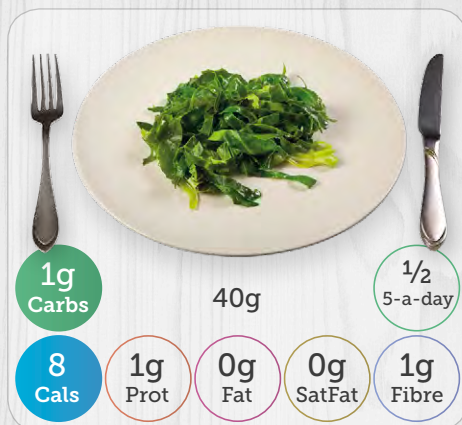




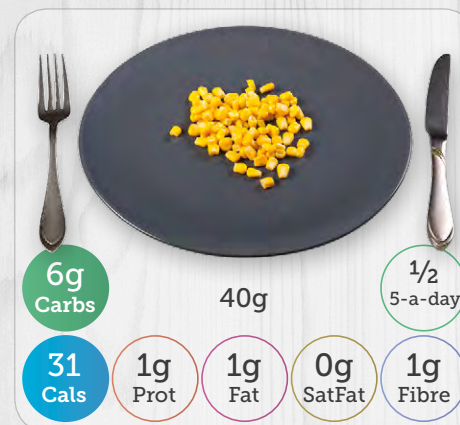
## Spinach (boiled)



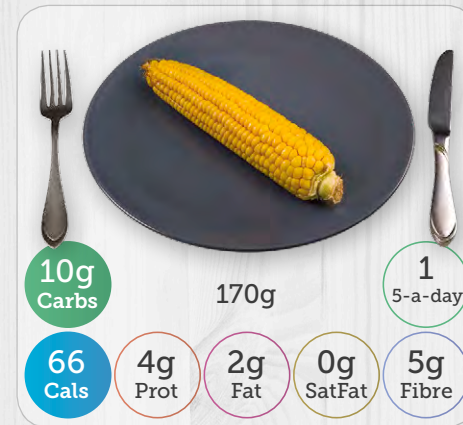
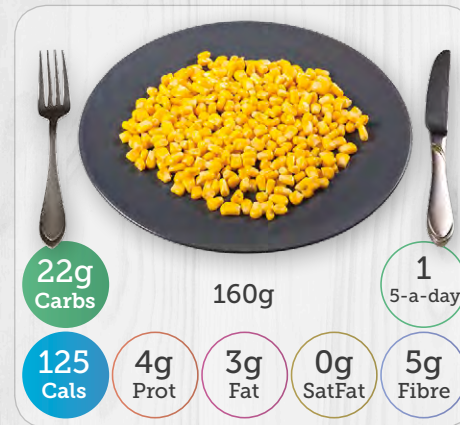
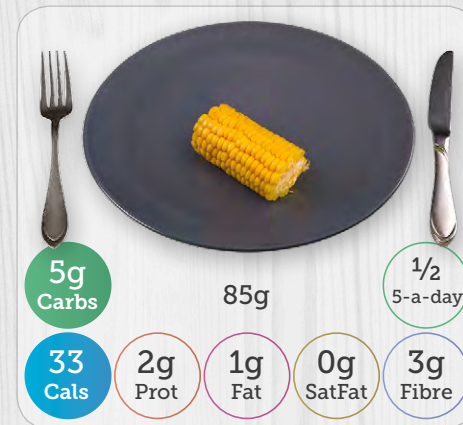
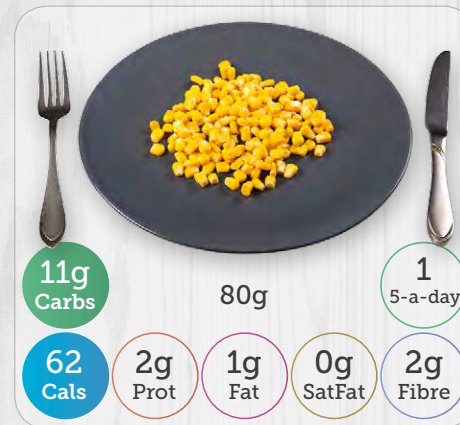
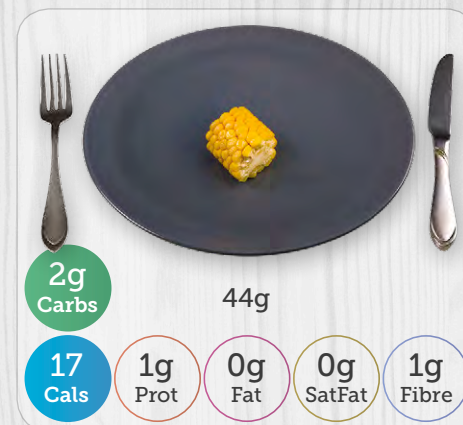
## Spring Greens (boiled)



## Sweetcorn

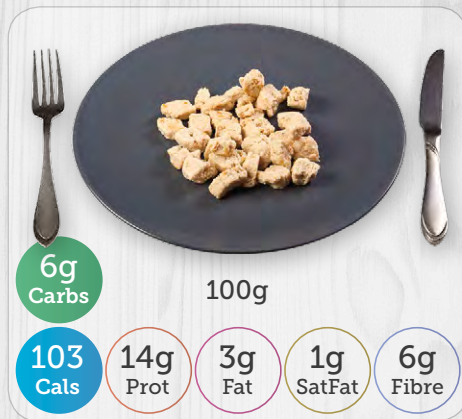
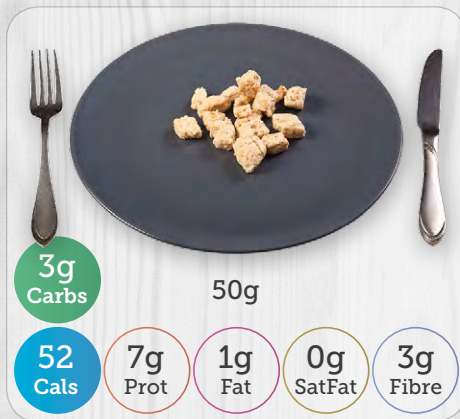


## Corn on the Cob (boiled)

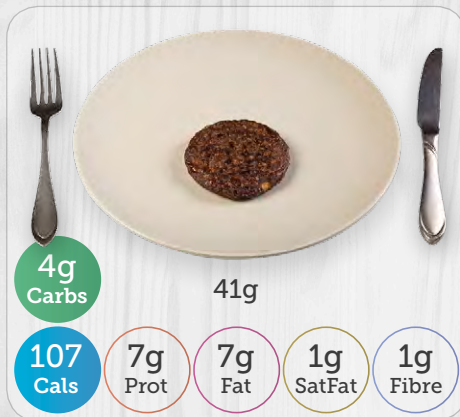




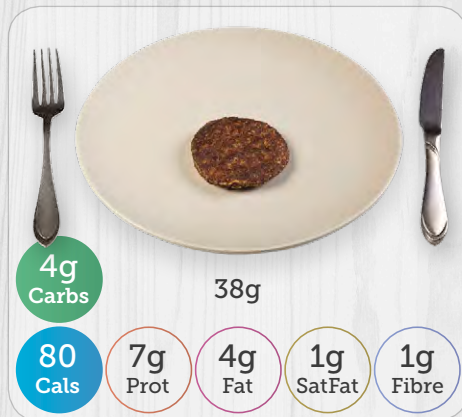
## Quorn Chicken Pieces



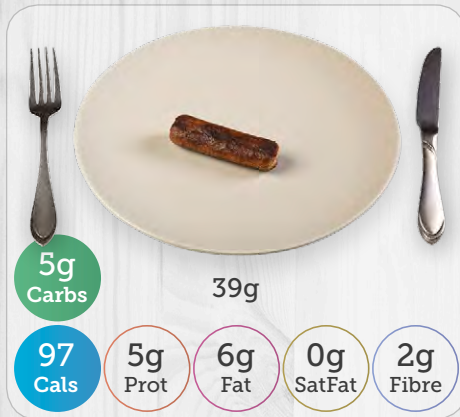
## Quorn Burger (fried)



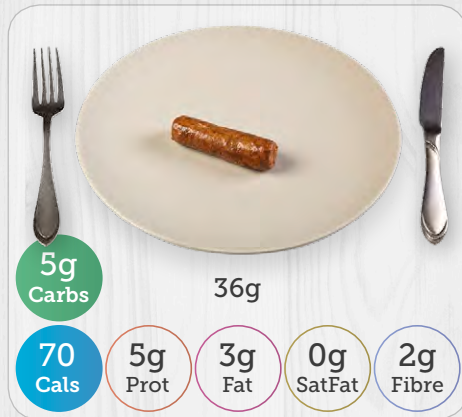
## Quorn Burger (grilled)



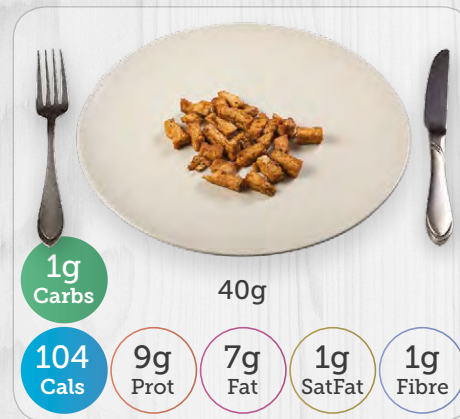
## Quorn Sausage (fried)



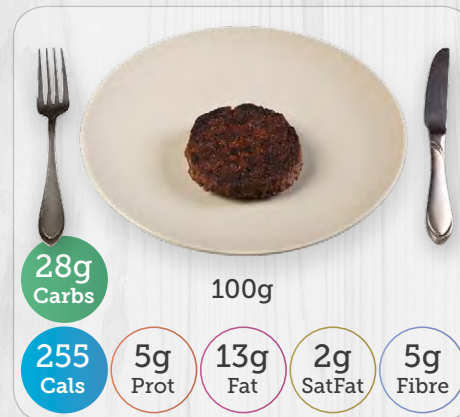
## Quorn Sausage (grilled)



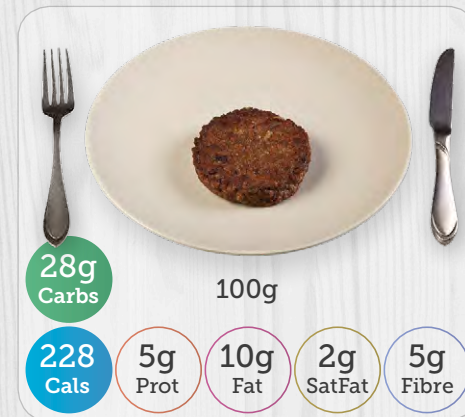
## Tofu (fried)



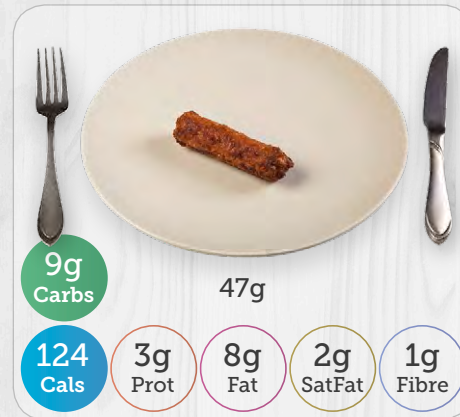
## Veggie Burger (fried)



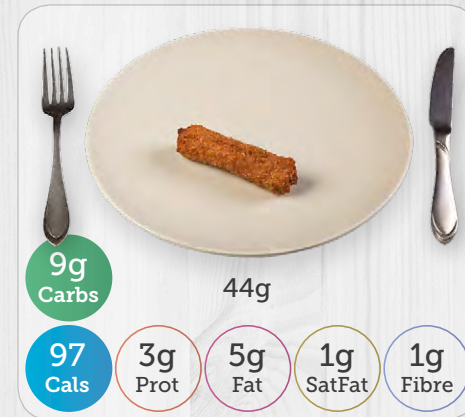
## Veggie Burger (grilled)



## Veggie Sausage (fried)



## Veggie Sausage (grilled)





## Fruit Yogurt



125g

17g Carbs

131 Cals

5g Prot

4g Fat

3g SatFat

0g Fibre



250g

35g Carbs

262 Cals

11g Prot

9g Fat

5g SatFat

1g Fibre

## Fruit Yogurt (fat free)



125g

11g Carbs


72 Cals

6g Prot

0g Fat

0g SatFat

0g Fibre



250g

23g Carbs

144 Cals

12g Prot

0g Fat

0g SatFat

1g Fibre

## Fruit Yogurt Pot



125g

17g Carbs

124 Cals


5g Prot

4g Fat

2g SatFat

1g Fibre

## Fruit Yogurt Pot (fat free)



125g

11g Carbs

72 Cals

6g Prot

0g Fat

0g SatFat

0g Fibre

## Greek Yogurt



125g

6g Carbs

166 Cals

7g Prot

13g Fat

9g SatFat

0g Fibre



250g

12g Carbs

333 Cals

14g Prot

26g Fat

17g SatFat

0g Fibre

## Greek Yogurt (low fat)



125g

8g Carbs

96 Cals

9g Prot

3g Fat

2g SatFat

0g Fibre



250g

16g Carbs

192 Cals

18g Prot

6g Fat

4g SatFat

1g Fibre

## Soya Yogurt



125g

16g Carbs

91 Cals

3g Prot

2g Fat

0g SatFat

1g Fibre



250g

32g Carbs

183 Cals

5g Prot

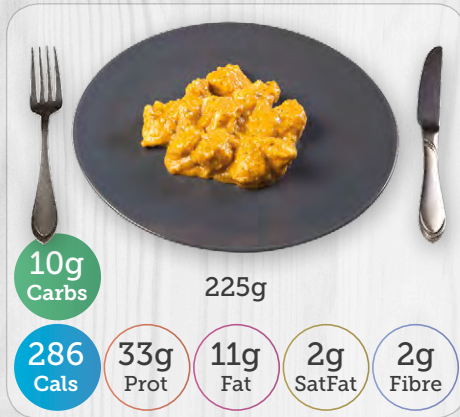
5g Fat

1g SatFat

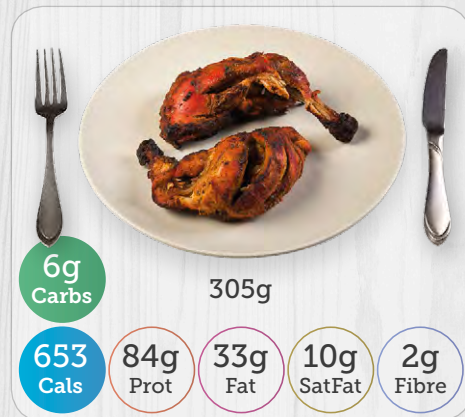
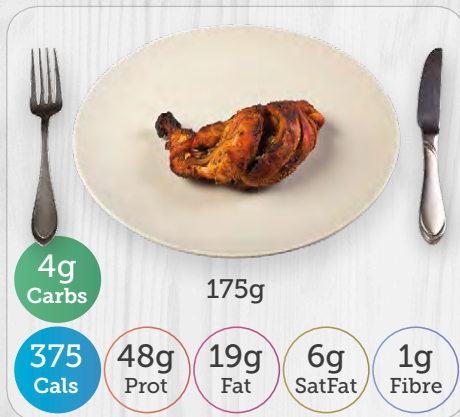
2g Fibre



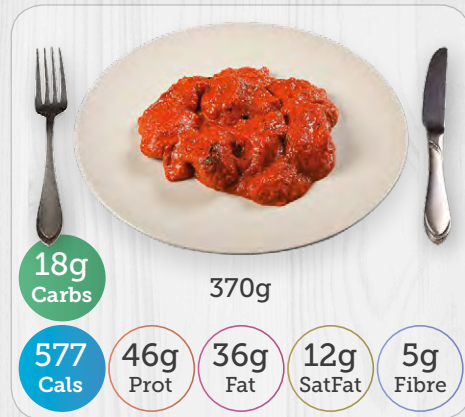
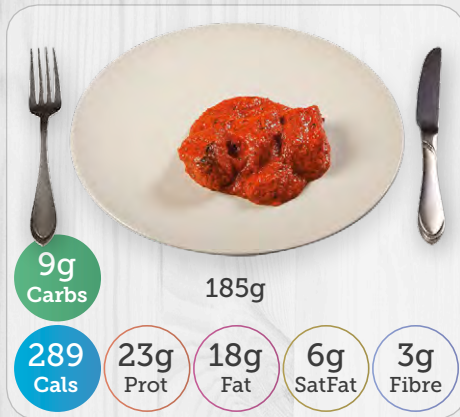
## Chicken Korma



## Chicken Tandoori



## Chicken Tikka Masala



## King Prawn Bhuna



## Lamb Biryani



## Lamb Rogan Josh





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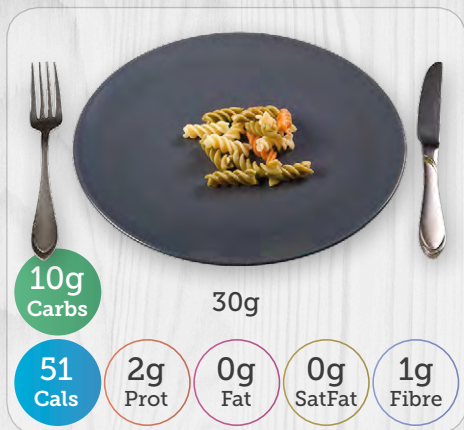
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