KAFTA – A Lebanese Sausage

Kafta is generally formed around a skewer and grilled; however this version, using sheep casings, is much easier to handle without sacrificing taste.

U.S.	Ingredient	Metric	Percen
3 lb.	Lamb, shoulder*	1375.0 g	89.90
1 cup	Onions, raw	116.0 g	7.60
3 tsp.	Salt	22.0 g	1.45
1/3 cup	Parsley leaves, fresh	11.5 g	0.76
1 tsp.	Allspice, ground**	2.0 g	0.15
1 tsp.	Pepper, black, ground	2.0 g	0.15
½ tsp.	Cinnamon (optional)	1.0 g	0.06
	Large sheep casings		

 $3\frac{1}{4}$ lb. \leftarrow Totals \rightarrow 1.5 Kg 100%

Note: I use metric weight & volume measurement for better control of ingredients. The U.S. measurements are an approximation of the metric measurements.



Method:

- 1. Cube and partially freeze the meat and then grind it through a ¼" (6.5mm) disk twice.
- 2. Combine the meat with the salt and mix until the meat becomes very sticky.
- 3. Grate the onions or place them in a food processor and process until fine.
- 4. Finely chop the parsley (use flat leaf parsley for a better taste)
- 5. Mix the meat with all the remaining ingredients with the meat.
- 6. Stuff into sheep casings and allow to air dry at room temperature for several hours.
- 7. Refrigerate or vacuum pack until needed.
- 8. Kafta are best slow grilled to a golden brown color.

Recipe by: Georges Maalouf, May 2005 Khenchara, Beirut, Lebanon Copyright © (All rights reserved)

^{*} Use all lamb, beef or a mixture of lamb and beef with a ratio of 75% lean meat/25% fat.

^{**} Or substitute Arabic 7-spices mixture.