

The Story of the Pie Bird

A pie bird is a small hollow figurine which when inserted into the upper crust of a two-crust pie, acts as a steam vent during the baking and as an ornament during the serving.



The use of these devices eliminates the need of cutting steam vents in the top crust, giving a more pleasing appearance to the finished pie. They are of course not required in the case of criss-crossed or perforated pie.

The figurines are commonly made of ceramic material and are painted in keeping with their design, with a paint that is baked into the ceramic. They can be made into any number of shapes and designs, but are most common in the form of the open-mouthed birds because of the nursery rhyme concerning the "four and twenty blackbird pie."