

Shiur of Matza at the Seder

1. There's a positive mitzvah Deoritta to eat matza on the night of the 15th.¹ To fulfill all of one's obligations, one should eat 2 kezaytim for Motzi-Matza, 1 kezayit for Korech, and 2 more kezaytim for Afikomen. All agree that having 2 kezaytim for Afikomen is merely preferable; one fulfills his obligation with 1 kezayit.²
2. Many authorities write that for Motzi-Matza if the matzot of the head of the house don't suffice for 2 kezaytim for each person, one fulfills his mitzvah by eating a bit from the whole matza and 1 other kezayit (and not 2).³
3. For several opinions of the practical amount of matza to eat, see the footnote.⁴ According to Sephardim there's an additional factor that perhaps the kezayit is measured in weight.⁵

1. Rambam (Sefer HaMitzot #158) writes that eating matzah nowadays is a Mitzvah Deoritta. See Chatom Sofer CM 196.

2. It is clear from the Gemara (Brachot 37b, Pesachim 108a and 119b) that one fulfills his obligation of eating matza with one kezayit. Rambam Chametz UMatzah 6:1 and Ritva Pesachim 35a write this explicitly. Nonetheless, the Rosh Pesachim 10:30 writes that one should eat a kezayit of the whole matza and a kezayit of the broken one. This Rosh is codified by the Tur and S"A 475:1.

Many achronim wonder where the Rosh found a source for requiring two kezaytim. Bach 475:3 suggests that the Rosh was strict for the opinion that one needs to eat a kezayit each time one makes HaMotzi (a minority opinion rejected in S"A 210:1). The Prisha 475:1 explains that the Rosh meant since there is a dispute in the Rishonim whether the Al Achilat Matza should be made on the broken one (Rashi Pesachim 116a) or the whole matza (Hahagot Maimon (Seder #7)), one should have a kezayit from both. This sentiment is echoed by the Taz 475:2 and Mishna Brurah 475:9.

Despite the questions of the achronim, the Rosh's view is accepted by most achronim, including Magen Avraham 475:4, S"A HaRav (Piskei HaSeder), Kitzur S"A 199:5, Aruch HaShulchan 475:5, and Chazon Ovadyah (p. 65). See, however, Orchot Rabbenu (vol 2, p. 70) who writes that Chazon Ish personally ate only one kezayit because he held the halacha doesn't follow the Rosh.

For Korech, Mishna Brurah 475:16 writes that a kezayit of matza is needed. Kitzur S"A 199:7, Nitai Gavriel 59:1, and Chazon Ovadyah (p. 100) agree.

Regarding Afikomen, S"A 477:1 rules that one should eat one kezayit of matza. Darkei Moshe 477:2 quotes the Maharil that it is preferable to have 2 kezaytim. Magen Avraham 477:1 explains that one is in commemoration of the Korban Pesach and one for the matza eaten with it. Many achronim quote the Maharil including the Taz 477:1, Kitzur S"A 119:8, Mishna Brurah 477:1, Kaf HaChaim 477:1, and Chazon Ovadyah (p. 106).

3. Rav Shlomo Zalman in Halichot Shlomo 9:40 rules that if the head of the house's three matzot do not suffice for the kezayit for each person, each person should just have a piece from the whole matza and eat a single kezayit of matza from other shemura matza. He explains that according to the Prisha, if one isn't eating from the head of house's matzot, there's no safek upon which matza one makes Al Achilat Matza, so there is no need to eat an extra kezayit. Chazon Ovadyah (p. 65), Haggadah Moadim UZmanim (p. 97), and Seder HaAruch (p 455) quoting Rav Elyashiv agree.

4. Mishna Brurah 486:1 writes that the Tosfot holds a kezayit is half of a KeBeitzah with the shell and the Rambam holds it is a third of a

KeBeitzah (see Tosfot (Yoma 80b D"H Agav), Rambam (Eiruvim 1:9)). Rav Avraham Chaim Noeh (Shiurei Torah 3:12) argues that Tosfot holds half a KeBeitzah without the shell. Mishna Brurah 486:1 rules that for Deoritta Mitzvot and Bracha Achrona, one should eat the size of half a KeBeitzah, but for Derabbanan Mitzvot, one third suffices. He adds that since one has to make a Bracha on maror, one should eat half a KeBeitzah.

The Tzlach (Pesachim 116) holds that the modern day eggs are half the size of those in the days of Chazal. However, Rav Noeh (Shiurei Torah Shaar 3) argues that the modern day eggs have not changed from the days of Chazal. Mishna Brurah 486:1 writes that for the mitzvah deoritta of matza, one should follow the stringent view of the Tzlach. Halichot Shlomo 9:13 agrees.

Practically, how much matza is that? The following measurements are in regards to a piece of the average machine matza. (1) **Halachos of Pesach** (p. 242) quotes Haggadat Kol Dodi (Rav Dovid Feinstein) that for Motzi-Matza, one should eat 6.25"x7" (about one matzah), for Korech 4"x7" (about 2/3 of a matza) and for Afikomen 6.25"x7" (about one matza). (2) Rabbi Bodner in **Halachos of K'zayis** (p. 93) quotes Rav Moshe Feinstein saying that 43.5cc (about 2/3 of a matza) is sufficient for both kezaytim of Motzi-Matza. (3) **Rav Mordechai Willig** (Pesach To-Go, Nisan 5771, p. 60) rules that a kezayit is 22.5cc (less than 2/5 of a Matza). See also Am Mordechai Moadim (p. 152). (4) **Rav Chaim Kanievsky** in Shiurin Shel Torah (p. 66, 5750) writes that for the first kezayit one should have 2/3 of a matza. (This is a retraction from what he wrote in Shiurin Shel Torah (p. 87, 5716) that a half of a matza is a kezayit).

5. Kaf HaChaim 168:46 quotes a number of Sephardi Achronim, including the Chida, who say that the minhag of Sephardim is to measure the kezayit by weight. He writes that this is the common minhag even for measuring a kezayit of matza. Rav Ovadyah in Yechaveh Daat 1:16, Rav Mordechai Eliyahu (Maamar Mordechai 11:96), and Rav Chaim Dovid HaLevi (Aseh Lecha Rav 6:45) agree. Yalkut Yosef 475:4, therefore, rules that a kezayit of matza is 27 grams. [In general, one machine matza is between 30 and 32 grams and so a kezayit is .85-.9 of a matza.]

However, Rav Ben Tzion Abba Shaul (Or Letzion vol 3, p 30) argues that the minhag only developed when matza had a similar density to water, but because our matza is thin and dry, there is no need to be stringent to calculate based on weight. Accordingly, he calculated a kezayit to be 29cc, which he says is less than 20 grams in weight. I've heard that Rav Ben Chaim, in general, agrees.