Slow Cooker Mac and Cheese

From the Kitchen of Deep South Dish

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound elbow macaroni
- 1 teaspoon salt, for the boiling water
- 1/2 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 2 cups freshly shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 cups freshly shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 (12-ounce) can evaporated milk
- 2 cups half-and-half or whole milk
- 1/2-pound processed American cheese (original Velveeta brand suggested), cut into cubes
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon Creole or Cajun seasoning, optional

INSTRUCTIONS

- Butter a 4 to 6-quart slow cooker. Boil macaroni stovetop with 1 teaspoon of salt and cook to all dente (the lower of the recommended time) according to package directions; drain.
- 2. While the pasta is cooking, shred and mix the cheeses together and set aside 1 cup.
- 3. Combine the evaporated milk and half and half or milk and warm on the stovetop or microwave.
- 4. Transfer cooked macaroni to slow cooker and turn cooker to high. Stir in melted butter until pasta is coated.
- 5. Add the remaining shredded cheese to the warm milk and pour over macaroni.
- 6. Stir in the Velveeta, salt, pepper and Creole or Cajun seasoning, if using; taste and adjust.
- 7. Cover, switch cooker to low and cook on low for 2 to 2-1/2 hours, stirring a few times.
- 8. During the last 15 minutes of cooking, top with reserved cup of shredded cheddar cheese.
- 9. Turn slow cooker to warm and hold until ready to serve.

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