Italian Minestrone Soup

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Ingredients

1 cup minced onion 1 cup minced celery 1 cup minced carrot 1/4 cup butter OR margarine 48 oz. can tomato juice 6 cups water 1/2 cup garbanzo beans 1/2 cup kidney beans 1/2 cup dried split peas 1/2 cup dried lentils 3/4 cup sliced carrots 3/4 cup chopped onion 3/4 cup sliced celery 3/4 cup chopped bell pepper 1/2 cup rice OR barley 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley 1 tsp. dried oregano 1 tsp. dried basil 2 tsp. soy sauce black pepper — to taste 1 cup shell macaroni — un-cooked Parmesan cheese — to top

Directions

In a large pot, sauté onion, celery, and carrot in butter until browned. Add tomato juice, water, garbanzo beans, kidney beans, dried peas, and lentils; bring to a boil.

Simmer over low heat for 2-2 1/2 hours, until everything is tender. Add remaining ingredients, except cheese and pepper; simmer for 40 minutes. Season with pepper, add the macaroni, and simmer for 20 minutes. Ladle into bowls and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.