

Preparing the “Beans”

You will find complete directions for preparing the bean characters for each theme in the *Problem Solving with Story Boxes* books. It takes a strong commitment of time and patience but the spray painted beans last for years and are quite charming. If painting lima beans and drawing on them with pens is more than you can face, here are some suggestions for making these black line bean characters thicker than printing on paper or cardstock so that little hands can manipulate them more easily.

Spray Adhesive on Lightweight Poster or Railroad Board

Be sure to follow all of the directions on the can of adhesive spray and use this in a well-ventilated area. You can quickly spray a surface at a time and attach a paper copy of the bean characters. Again, some sharp scissors and plenty of patience would be required to cut around each bean. A paper cutter would be faster if you just cut them as rectangles.

Adhesive Foam Sheets

Craft stores such as Michael’s sell these sheets. Paper copies of the bean characters adhere easily to these sheets and it creates an ‘easy-to-hold’ thickness. You would need sharp scissors and plenty of patience to cut around each bean. If you have access to a *sharp* paper cutter, these could be cut as rectangles. That would be quicker than cutting around each bean shape.

Cardstock

These black lines could be run on the thickest available cardstock. They wouldn’t be as easy to manipulate but it would be a lot faster and definitely easier to cut.

NOTE: *Problem Solving with Story Boxes* is published by the Math Learning Center in Salem, Oregon. 800-575-8130 or <http://catalog.mathlearningcenter.org>



BEARS



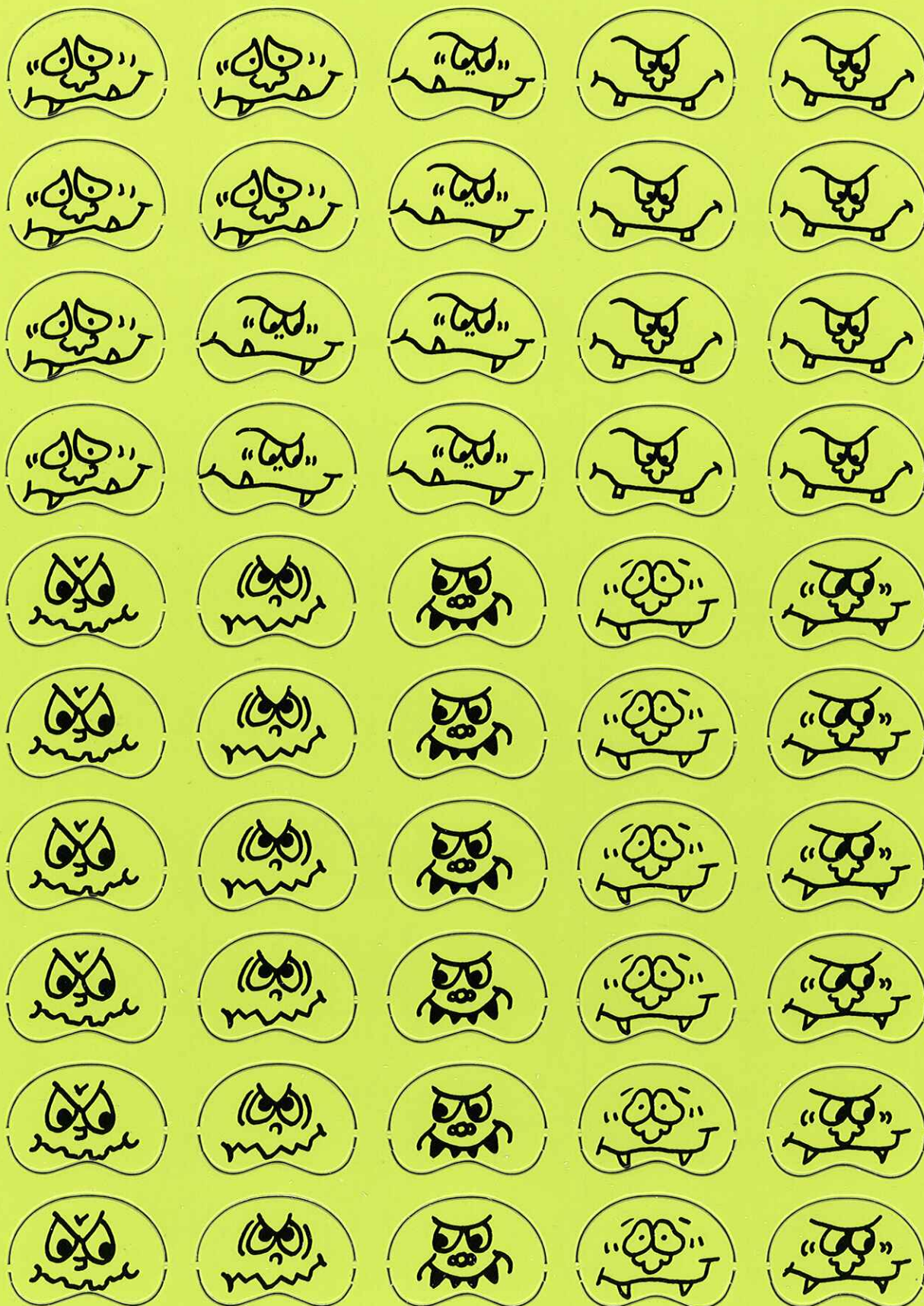
BEARS



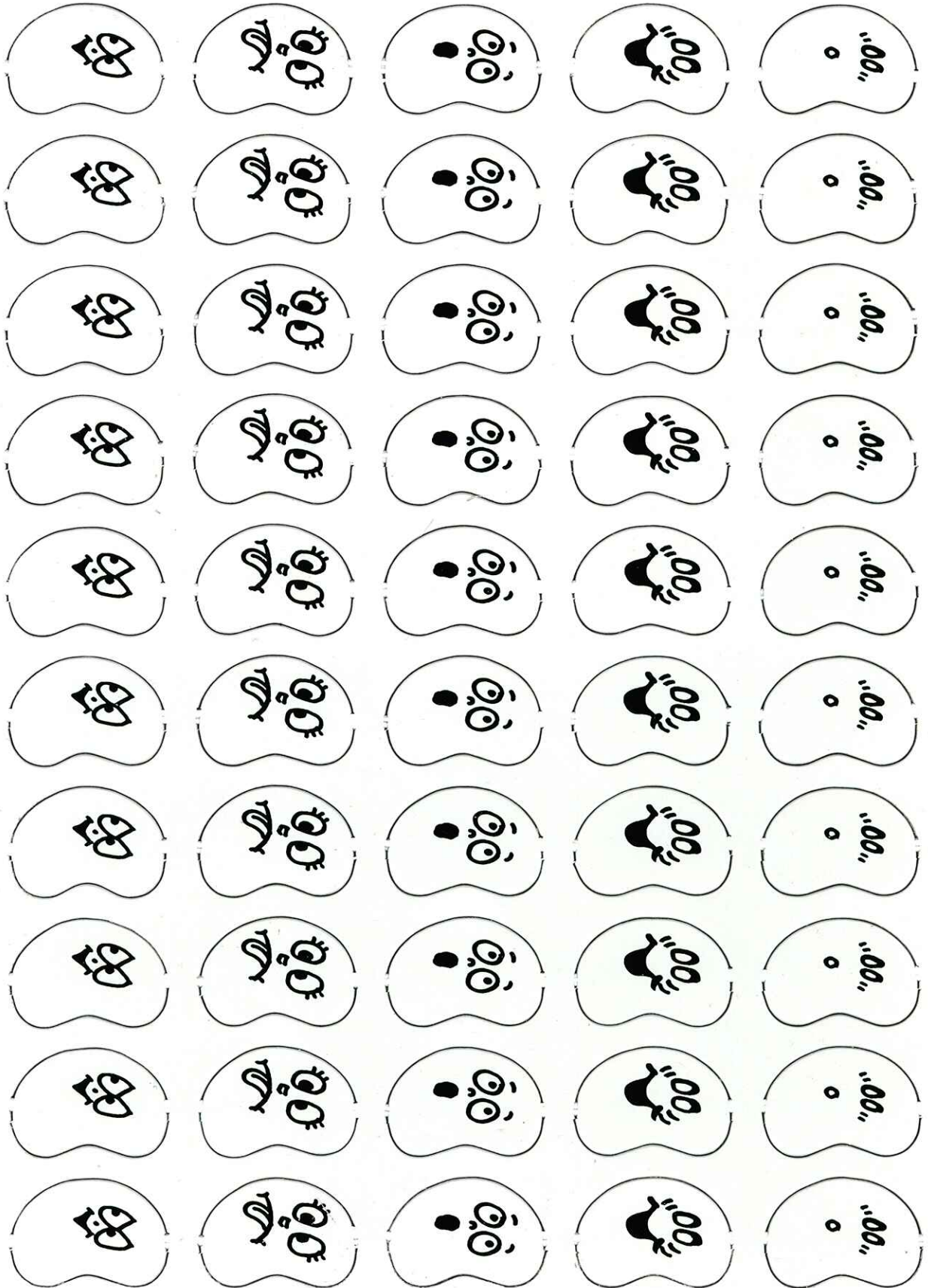




PUMPKINS



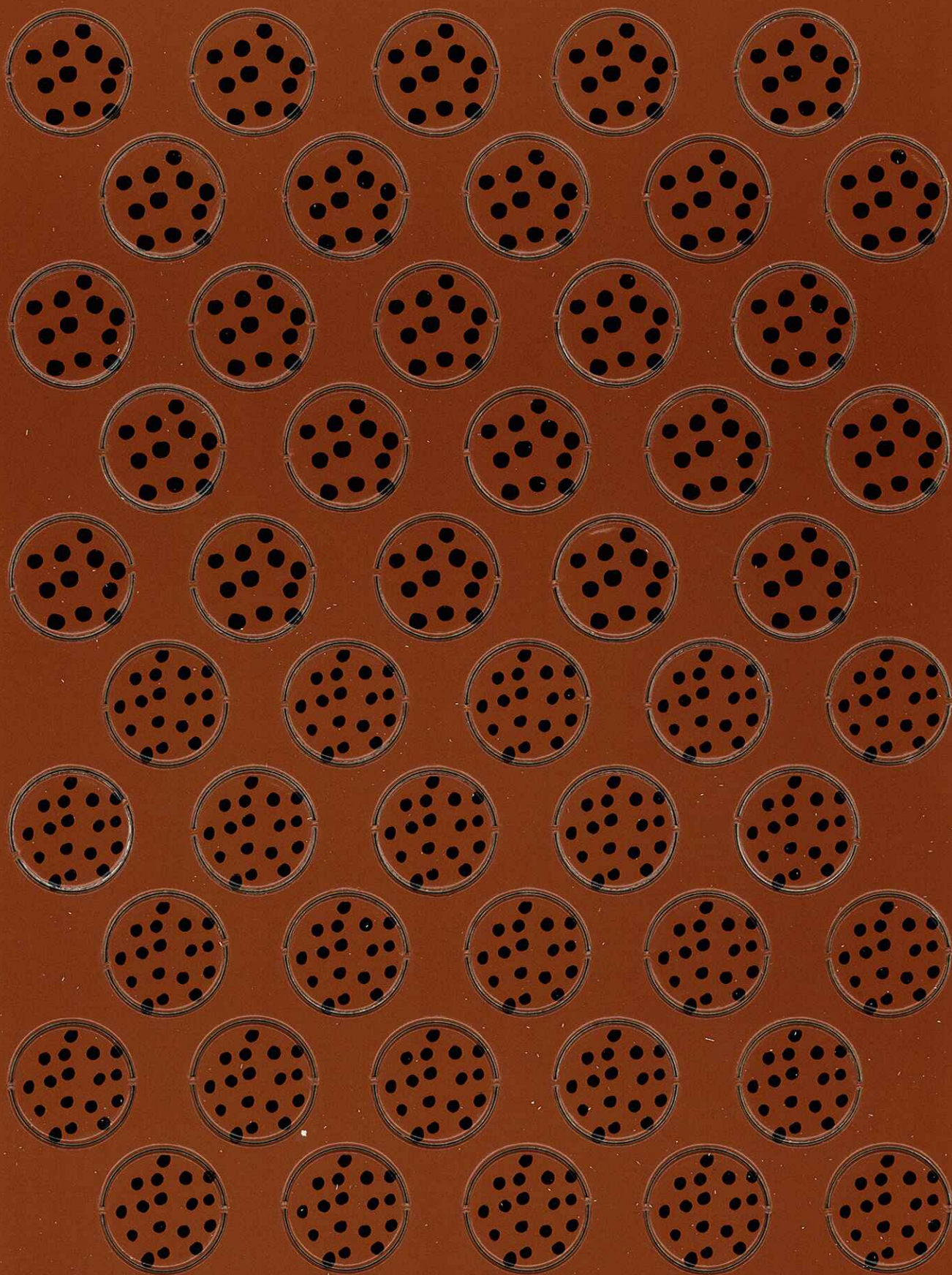
GOBLINS



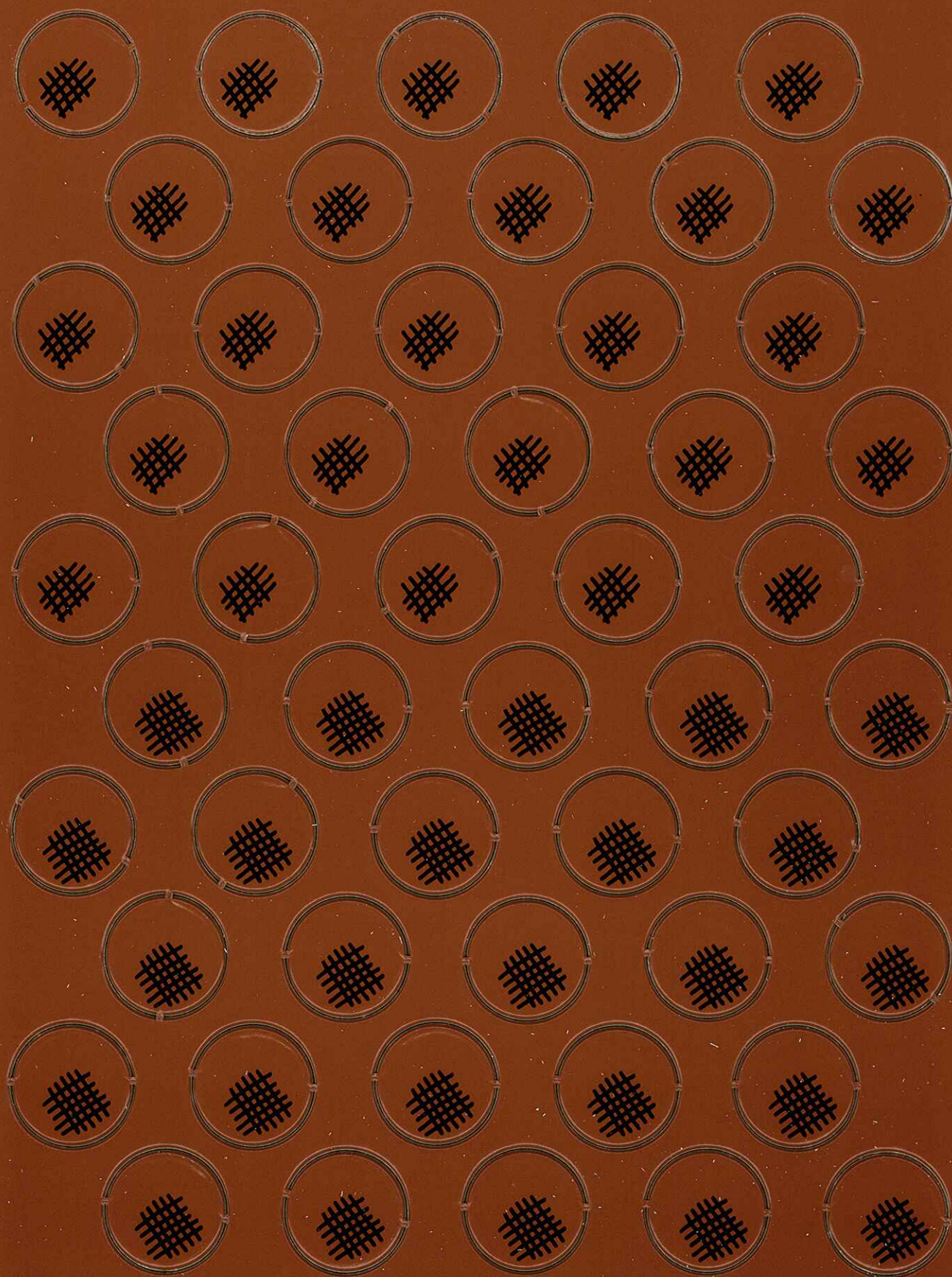








CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES



PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

