

January 1303. My
Canon 7D died a week
earlier on Phu Quoc,
leaving me with only a
point-and-shoot to
capture the rice noodle
factory near Can Tho
on the Mekong Delta





The 'batter' is a slurry of pounded rice and water ...



A person wearing a traditional conical hat and a patterned long-sleeved shirt is pouring a white liquid from a blue bowl onto a flat, rimless pan. The pan is positioned over a large, rectangular stone stove. The stove has a fire burning in a central opening, and a layer of yellowish powder is spread on its surface. To the left of the stove is a large, round, brown earthenware pot with a lid. In the foreground on the right, the back of a person wearing a bright red t-shirt is visible. The background shows a rustic outdoor setting with wooden structures and a brick wall.

*It's poured wafer thin
onto a flat, rimless pan.*



Rice husks are swept down from the trough to feed the furnace below. The conical lid steams the mix to give a milky translucence





The wafers are lifted from the pan – now we see why it's rimless – by twirling on a spiked wooden pin, b4 untwirling onto stacked trays.







... all the little
children jump
for joy ...





... and men carry
the trays, stacked
and steaming, out
to the great drying
place in the sun.





After three hours
the wafers are
ready for the
noodling shed,
where it's only
good manners to
blow smoke all
over them.



the end