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(54) Recessed stove top

(57) Recessed stove top (11), of the type intended to be recessed in an opening (22) prepared in the upper surface of a modular kitchen cabinet (10), comprising: a

main gas pipe (18); a plurality of valves (17) connected to said main gas pipe (18); characterized in that said main gas pipe (18) and said plurality of valves (17) are placed externally to said opening (22). (Fig. 1)

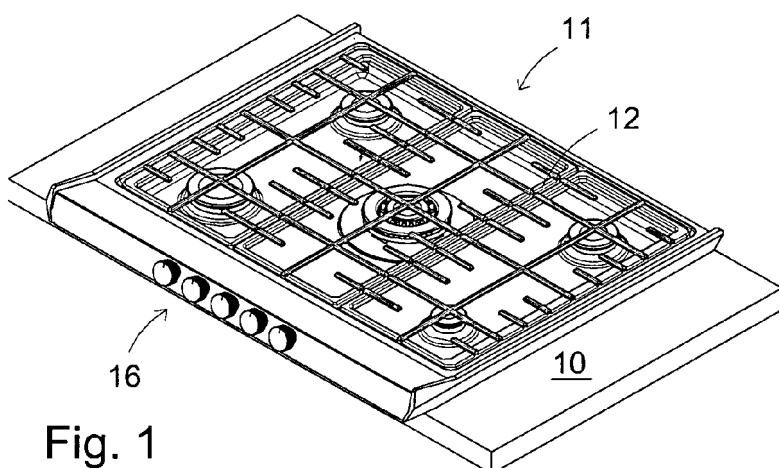


Fig. 1

Description**SPECIFICATION**

[0001] The present invention refers to a recessed stove top of the kind intended to be recessed in the opening prepared in the upper surface of a standard modular kitchen cabinet.

[0002] As is known, the household appliance industry and the kitchen furnishings industry have over the course of time adopted standard dimensions for the design of their products.

[0003] Typically, the individual cabinets intended to be placed in a row in the kitchen, and possibly contain so-called recessed household appliances, are now of standard dimensions.

[0004] The width of such cabinets, which on the other hand need not contain household appliances, is now homogeneous, in the sense of being 600 or 900 mm.

[0005] The depth of the cabinets, or the length from front to back, is standardized at 600 mm.

[0006] To insert the stove tops in such cabinets, openings are provided in the center of their upper surface, these also being of standardized dimensions.

[0007] Typically, the dimensions of the standardized openings for such a cabinet are around 560 x 480 mm.

[0008] Such dimensions have the effect of dictating a substantial rigidity in the application of the stove tops.

[0009] In any case, it would be extremely convenient both from the practical and the esthetic standpoint to have a stove top of broad surface, even in kitchens of small dimensions, one that is able to make use of the standard opening of a cabinet.

[0010] Moreover, a standard stove top has a depth of typically 510 mm, so as to leave exposed a front portion and a rear portion of around 50 mm of the upper part of a cabinet.

[0011] The applicant has realized that one could utilize these spaces, and especially the front one, to broaden the stove top.

[0012] The purpose of the present invention is to provide a stove top that can be of larger dimensions than the stove tops of the same type, while being designed for insertion in the standard opening of a single kitchen cabinet.

[0013] Another purpose is to make the installation easier.

[0014] In accordance with the present invention, said purposes and others are achieved by a recessed stove top (11), of the type intended to be recessed in an opening (22) prepared in the upper surface of a modular kitchen cabinet (10), comprising: a main gas pipe (18); a plurality of valves (17) connected to said main gas pipe; characterized in that said main gas pipe (18) and said plurality of valves (17) are placed externally to said opening (22).

[0015] Further characteristics of the invention are described in the dependent claims.

[0016] There are various advantages of this solution

over the known solutions.

[0017] With a standard kitchen opening it is possible to install a deeper than normal stove top. Parts of the functional elements of the stove top are moved to the outside of the opening, specifically to the front edge of the cabinet that normally remains free. The knobs are therefore placed in front and even project from the cabinet.

[0018] The interaxial distances of the burners present in the stove top are thus larger than the traditional ones, allowing the use of larger pots without interfering with each other.

[0019] The control knobs of the burners are further away from the burners themselves, and become less heated.

[0020] The characteristics and benefits of the present invention will become obvious from the following detailed description of one practical embodiment, illustrated as an example and not limited to this in the drawings, where:

Figure 1 shows schematically a stove top, seen in perspective view, placed on the upper part of a standard cabinet in accordance with the present invention; Figure 2 shows schematically a stove top, seen from above, placed on the upper part of a standard cabinet in accordance with the present invention; Figure 3 shows schematically a stove top, seen from the front, placed on the upper part of a standard cabinet in accordance with the present invention; Figure 4 shows schematically a stove top, seen in side view and cross section, placed on the upper part of a standard cabinet in accordance with the present invention; Figure 5 shows schematically a stove top, seen in perspective view from above and transparently, in accordance with the present invention.

[0021] Referring to the enclosed figures, there is shown only the upper part 10 of a standard cabinet for modular kitchens, and a stove top 11, recessed therein.

[0022] The upper part 10 of a standard cabinet is normally made of wood laminate, marble, granite, or resins adapted for this purpose.

[0023] A standard cabinet for modular kitchens has a depth P_m of 600 mm. While its width varies like the standard dimensions of the cabinets, which are equal to 450, 600, 900 mm.

[0024] The opening 22 for inserting a stove top 11 in a cabinet has a depth P_s generally of 480 mm, and a width of 560 mm.

[0025] The stove top 11 according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention has a depth P_p equal to 700 mm, thus being greater than the depth P_m (600 mm) of the cabinet.

[0026] The stove top 11 has five burners 15 and five corresponding gas valves 17 controlled by five respective knobs 16.

[0027] The stove top 11 has an external container,

from whose upper surface emerge the burners 15, and a front surface 21 from which emerge the knobs 16. On top of this is placed the grill 12.

[0028] All the valves 17 have at the inlet the connection to a main gas supply pipe 18 and each valve 17 has at the outlet a conduit 19 for connection to the corresponding burner 15.

[0029] The main gas supply pipe 18 arrives from below the stove top 11, is taken to the front part of the stove top 11, emerges from the opening 22 and, being supported on the front edge 20 of the cabinet 10, runs along it for nearly its entire width, supplying the valves 17.

[0030] The terminal part of the pipe 18 and the valves 17 with the respective connections to the conduits 19 are placed in a zone of the stove top 11 in front of the opening 22 and on top of the front edge 20 of the cabinet 10. The valves 17 and the respective knobs 16 are also slightly projecting from the cabinet 10.

[0031] For ergonomic reasons, the portion of the stove top 11 where the valves 17 are situated is slightly raised, by an angle greater than 5° and preferably equal to around 10°, so that the knobs 16 are easier to operate.

[0032] For a traditional stove top, the interaxial distances between a front burner and a rear burner are typically equal to 200-210 mm. In accordance with the present invention, and with a stove top 11 having a depth P_p equal to 700 mm, this spacing is 300 mm.

[0033] The system of fixation of the stove top 11 in the opening 22 of the cabinet 10 is of known type and is not modified according to the present invention, so that it will not be described in detail.

[0034] The width of the stove top 11 can be any size, depending on need. In one embodiment of the stove top 11 this width is 750 mm.

[0035] In the upper surface of a standard cabinet there is made an opening 22, which as noted has a depth P_s of 480 mm. The cabinet has a depth P_m equal to 600 mm, thus creating a front edge 20 and a rear edge 21 each being 60 mm in length. These edges 20 and 21 are normally at least partly visible, i.e., a standard stove top extends partly above these edges, or by the minimum necessary (around 15 mm) to support the stove top on the cabinet.

[0036] According to the present invention, these edges 20 and 21 are also utilized and the stove top is broader, being supported on these and also extending beyond them (in front). The controls of the burners are placed at the front edge, and the grill 12 is extended at the rear edge.

[0037] The front extension is preferably raised with respect to the stove top so that the knobs situated in front are in a more convenient position.

[0038] In an alternative embodiment, the front extension could be slightly raised and continue horizontally so as to follow the front edge 20 of the upper surface of the cabinet, and the knobs could be placed toward the top.

[0039] With a deeper stove top such as the present one, one has greater room between the burners, limiting

the interference between cooking pots, especially when using large pots, and one therefore has greater range of movement and a distribution of heat over a larger area, limiting hot spots.

5 [0040] In the example described, the stove top comprises 5 burners, but it could also have a different number of burners. For example, it is possible to make it with 6 burners, which thanks to the present invention, by installing it in a standard recess, remains totally safe in operation, due to the fact that the knobs are positioned away from the flames, and the interaxial distances enable an easy use of the increased number of burners.

15 Claims

- 1.** Recessed stove top (11), of the type intended to be recessed in an opening (22) prepared in the upper surface of a modular kitchen cabinet (10), comprising: a main gas pipe (18); a plurality of valves (17) connected to said main gas pipe (18); **characterized in that** said main gas pipe (18) and said plurality of valves (17) are placed externally to said opening (22).
- 2.** Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with claim 1, **characterized in that** said main gas pipe (18) and said plurality of valves (17) are placed on top of said cabinet at the front side of said opening (22).
- 3.** Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the connections between said main gas pipe (18) and said plurality of valves (17) and the connections between said plurality of valves (17) and a plurality of supply conduits for a plurality of burners (15) are placed on top of said cabinet at the front side of said opening (22).
- 4.** Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said stove top (11) has a front portion, comprising said main gas pipe (18) and said plurality of valves (17), inclined upward by an angle greater than 5°.
- 5.** Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with claim 4, **characterized in that** said upward inclination is equal to around 10°.
- 6.** Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said plurality of valves (17) has a corresponding plurality of knobs (16) that are placed on a front ledge (21) of said stove top (11).
- 7.** Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said stove top (11) has an interaxial distance between a

front burner (15) and a rear burner (15) greater than 250 mm.

8. Recessed stove top (11), in accordance with one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said upper surface of a cabinet (10) depending on the form of the opening (22) has a front edge (20) and a rear edge (21); said stove top (11) extends above said front edge (20) and said rear edge (21) for a dimension greater than 15 mm. 5 10

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