

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
11 August 2011 (11.08.2011)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2011/096830 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
A47J 37/12 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/NZ2011/000016

(22) International Filing Date:
8 February 2011 (08.02.2011)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
583168 8 February 2010 (08.02.2010) NZ

(71) Applicant: YONG, Shu Ling [NZ/NZ]; 23 Santa Ana Drive, Dannemora, Manukau, Auckland, 2016 (NZ).

(72) Inventor; and

(71) Applicant : CHEN, Chiat, Gee [NZ/NZ]; 23 Santa Ana Drive, Dannemora, Manukau, Auckland, 2016 (NZ).

(74) Agents: GAMBITSIS, Michael Costa et al.; Level 1, 5A Pacific Rise, Mt Wellington, Auckland, 1060 (NZ).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP,

KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: DEEP FRYER

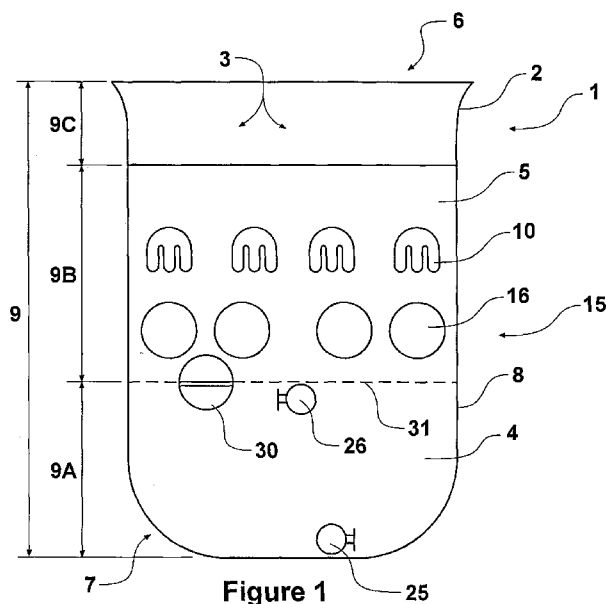


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A deep fryer comprising a fryer housing adapted to contain oil and water, heating means, cooling means, water draining means and oil draining means. A lower portion of the fryer is adapted to contain water and an upper portion is adapted to contain oil. The cooling means is located underneath or below the heating means and the cooling means includes at least one hollow cooling tunnel extending from one side of the fryer housing to the other side and a cooling apparatus. The cooling apparatus is operatively connected to the cooling tunnel such that in use, air is able to be pushed or pulled there through, to cool a lower part of the oil in the upper portion.

WO 2011/096830 A1

Deep Fryer

The invention relates to a deep fryer for frying food as used in commercial or domestic cooking and to a method of installation. The invention is directed particularly but not solely towards a deep fryer for cooking in oil.

5

Background of Invention

Typically deep fryers are used for frying takeaways or in many commercial cooking operations. Oil is preferred in this type of cooking because of the taste it adds to any cooked product. Some disadvantages with cooking with oil are, cost and health concerns. Oil is costly to purchase and difficult to dispose of after use. So the less oil you can use, the less you need to buy and dispose of. In terms of current public health and environmental concerns, there is also pressure to use less oil and to make sure it is the best oil.

10 Another difficulty with oil is that cooking with oil can be dangerous, as the oil used in a deep fryer can be extremely hot and difficult to control temperature wise.

In this specification unless the contrary is expressly stated, where a document, act or item of knowledge is referred to or discussed, this reference or discussion is not an admission that the document, act or item of knowledge or any combination thereof was at the priority date, publicly available, known to the public, part of common general knowledge; or known to be relevant to an attempt to solve any problem with which this specification is concerned.

Object of the Invention

20 It is an object of the invention to provide an improved deep fryer that ameliorates some of the disadvantages and limitations of the known art or at least provide the public with a useful choice.

Summary of Invention

30 In a first aspect the invention resides in a deep fryer comprising a fryer housing adapted to contain oil and water, heating means, cooling means, water draining means and oil draining means whereby the fryer is connectable to a suitable power source to cause the oil to be

heated accordingly, wherein the fryer housing has a body having a shape including an upper end and lower end with walls forming sides and a recess within to define a lower portion adapted for containing water and an upper portion adapted to contain oil, the lower portion including the water draining means and the upper portion including the oil draining means
5 wherein the cooling means is located underneath or below the heating means and the cooling means includes at least one hollow cooling tunnel extending from one side of the fryer housing to the other and a cooling apparatus, whereby the cooling apparatus is operatively connected to the cooling tunnel such that in use, air is able to be pushed or pulled there through, to cool a lower part of the oil in the upper portion.

10

Preferably when the cooling means is activated this causes the temperature in a lower portion of the oil to drop to be cooled somewhat which slows down any oil movement to allow the scraps or waste etc to fall down to the bottom end of the water to be eventually expelled or removed from the fryer .

15

Preferably, the cooling means includes a cooling housing fluidly at least connecting one end of the said at least one hollow tunnel, with the cooling apparatus connected to the cooling housing whereby the cooling apparatus operates to push or pull air there through the hollow tunnel.

20

Preferably, the cooling means includes a plurality of cooling tunnels comprising a series of tubular structures located at a certain height from the upper end or bottom end of the fryer housing.

25

Preferably, a viewing means is located below the at least one hollow tunnel, the oil draining means is located at a similar level to the viewing means and the water draining means is located at the bottom end of the fryer housing or the bottom of the lower portion or of the water.

30

Preferably, the fryer housing is supported by a supporting means which is in the form of a frame.

Preferably, the viewing means includes a level indicating means which is in the form of at least one window comprising a protruding tube having at least one viewing end able to allow the viewing of the level of water or oil within the tank recess.

- 5 Preferably the oil draining means can be combined with a viewing means whereby there is a horizontally extending protruding tubular member from the inside of the fryer housing such that the oil draining means is formed as a downwardly protruding outlet.

10 Preferably, the heating means includes at least one removable heating element able to be inserted and positioned into the oil and to be removed if required.

Alternatively the heating means includes at least one heating tunnel which is adapted to be heated or able to have heat applied to it.

15 Preferably, the cooling housing includes a partially enclosed space surrounding at least one end of the at least one cooling tunnel and the cooling housing having venting means and at least one fan operatively connected to push or pull air through the at least one cooling tunnel.

In a second aspect the invention resides in a method of preparing or commissioning a deep fryer as disclosed above for use wherein the method includes the steps of:

- 20 -close the oil and water draining means 25 and 26;
-locate and fill the tank recess 3 with water 4 until the water level firstly shows in the viewing means;
-locate suitable cooking oil and pour into the tank recess over the top of the water;
- rotate the heating means down into the oil;
- 25 -turn on the heating means to a certain temperature and
- turn on the cooling means to a certain temperature which then causes the temperature in a lower portion of the oil to drop to be cooled somewhat which slows down any oil movement to allow the scraps or waste etc to fall down to the bottom end of the water to be eventually expelled or removed from the fryer .

Preferably for an electrically operated fryer, after closing the draining means, rotate heating means out of way of the tank recess.

In a third aspect the invention resides in a method of draining or decommissioning the fryer apparatus, one can carry out the following steps:

- turn off the heating means and the cooling means;
- open an oil draining means to then drain off the oil;
- remove any unwanted food scraps or waste;
- close off oil draining means and refill or optionally after draining the oil and removing any scraps, the water draining means can be opened to drain off the water out,
- after this new water or cleaned water can be put in followed by new or cleaned oil.

Brief Description

The invention will now be described, by way of example only, by reference to the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a schematic cross section of the deep fryer in accordance with a first preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a schematic side cross sectional view of the gas deep fryer.

Figure 3 is a schematic top plan view of the gas deep fryer.

Figure 4 is a schematic rear cross sectional end view of the gas deep fryer.

Figure 5 is a schematic side cross sectional view of the electric deep fryer.

Figure 6 is a schematic top plan view of the electric deep fryer.

Figure 7 is a schematic side cross sectional view of the electric deep fryer – with the elements uplifted.

Figure 8 is a schematic rear cross sectional end view of the electric deep fryer.

Description of Drawings

The following description will describe the invention in relation to preferred embodiments of the invention, namely a deep fryer. The invention is in no way limited to these preferred embodiments as they are purely to exemplify the invention only and that possible variations

and modifications would be readily apparent without departing from the scope of the invention.

To those skilled in the art to which the invention relates, many changes in construction and widely differing embodiments and application of the invention will suggest themselves
5 without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims. The disclosures and the descriptions herein are purely illustrative and are not intended to be limiting.

For purposes of the description hereinafter, the terms "upper", "lower", "right", "left",
10 "vertical", "horizontal", "top", "bottom", "lateral", "longitudinal" and derivatives thereof shall relate to the invention as it is oriented in the drawing figures. However it is to be understood that the invention may assume various alternative variations, except where expressly specified to the contrary. It is also to be understood that the specific devices illustrated in the attached drawings, and described in the following specification are simply
15 exemplary embodiments of the invention. Hence specific dimensions and other physical characteristics related to the embodiments disclosed herein are not to be considered as limiting.

Figures 2-4 show various cross sectional view of a gas operated deep fryer and figures 5-8
show cross sectional views of an electrically operated gas fryer. Essentially the electrically
20 operated gas fryer operates with a removable heating means and with a cooling means located higher in the fryer housing than the cooling means for the gas operated fryer. The heating means in a gas operated fryer does not use a removable heating element but relies on heating tube(s).

Figures 1-8 show a deep fryer 1 of the present invention which comprises body in the form
25 of a fryer housing 2 with a recess 3 therein adapted to contain and water 4 and oil 5. In use the fryer housing 2 comprises a fryer tank having an upper end 6, lower end or base 7, with side walls 8, a front F and back B. The deep fryer also has power means (not shown), whereby the body is adapted to allow it to be heated or cooled to certain temperatures whereby the water 5 is located at the lower end of the recess and the oil 5 is at the upper end.

The water is said to be located at a lower portion 9 of a total depth 9; depth 9A of the recess 3 and the oil is located in an upper portion 9B above the water. Also there will be a space or depth 9C having no oil or water. This empty space 9C is located at the top of the recess 3.

5 The fryer 1 includes a heating means 10 is located at an upper end within the oil 5 which allows the oil 5 to be heated accordingly.

The heating means for the electrically operated fryer (figures 5-8) comprise movable heating coil element or elements 10 which are operatively connected to the housing to allow the heating means to be rotatably or hingedly supported by hinging means 11 and rotated into and out of the oil 5 to allow heating and to allow cleaning or access when required. In this
10 example the hinging means includes biasing means which can be for example two springs extending from top to bottom on each side of housing 2, to allow the heating means to be rotated up and out of the fryer or oil as shown in figure 7 in the electric deep fryer version.

As shown in figures 2-4 instead of a rotating heating means 10 as for the electrically operated fryer, the gas operated fryer includes at least one heating tube 12.

15 Also the fryer 1 includes a heat exchanging or cooling means 15 which is located within the recess 3 below the heating means 10 and surrounded by the oil 5 but in a lower position as shown in figure 1. The cooling means includes hollow tubular cooling tunnel(s) 16 extending from front to back of the housing with there being ends 17. Also the cooling means includes cooling apparatus 18 and cooling housing 19. In use the cooling tunnels and
20 heating means are directly surrounded or immersed by the oil and or water.

Cooling housing 19 is located on the front/back or sides 8, to be fluidly joined to the ends 17 of the cooling tunnels whereby the cooling apparatus 18 is located within the cooling housing 19. The cooling apparatus 18 can be at least one fan (for example a AC fan crossflow), which can suck or blow air through the cooling tunnels 16. As shown in the
25 figures the cooling means is shown as extending from front to back of the fryer but equally other positions and combinations in the fryer housing 2 are also possible. Housing 19 is located at, at least one end of the tunnels 16 consisting of a verandah roof portion and base portion whereby venting means 20 (see figure 4 and 8) has also been provided. The venting means 20 can be for example as shown in figure 4 and 8, be a single centrally located
30 aperture of any shape or a plurality of apertures of any shape and spacing.

As shown in the schematic figure 1, fryer housing 2 has draining means which is in the form of a first draining means or water draining means 25 for the water which is located at the lowest portion 9 of the housing. There is also a second draining means or oil draining means 26 for draining the oil 5 from within the recess or housing. The oil draining means 26 is located just below the cooling tunnels 16 at the lowest point in the oil 5 which still allows all of the oil 5 to be drained out. The water draining means 25 is located at the base 7 or lowest point within the water 4. Each draining means 25 and 26 can consist of at least one tubular protruding portion with any suitable opening and closing means like for example a manual moveable lever gate valve.

A viewing means 30 can be formed as part of the fryer 1 as shown in figure 1 which is located at a border or level 31 between the oil and water 4. The viewing means 30 comprises a viewing end fluidly sealed and see through to providing level indicating means eg of glass which extends within and beyond if required, of the oil and/or water. The viewing means 30 is located almost on the same level as the oil draining means 26 so that the viewing means 30 is used to allow one to follow the filling of the water to a correct upper level within the tank.

The viewing means 30 can comprise any material, like glass or plastic for example that at least allows the levels of oil and/or water to be seen. The fryer 1 can also have overflow means 35 and moving means (not shown) which can be in the form of any means such as wheels or rollers, that can allow at least one fryer to be moved or be portable or transportable.

During the operation of the fryer 1, ie during the heating by the heating means 10 and 12, the oil is heated to a certain temperature which causes the oil to bubble and move or agitate all of the contained oil, to cause a sort of circulation of oil in the recess. The agitating oil can be useful in causing any food or scraps/waste/sediment within the oil to be continually moving as well. However when the cooling means is activated this causes the temperature in a lower portion 9B of the oil to drop to be cooled somewhat which slows down any oil movement to allow the scraps or waste etc to fall down to the bottom end of the water to be eventually expelled or removed from the fryer 1.

To fill or commission or prepare the fryer for use one can carry out the following steps of:

- close oil and water draining means 25 and 26;
- rotate heating means out of way of the recess 3;
- locate and fill the tank recess 3 with water 4 until the water level or border 31 shows in the viewing means 30;
- 5 -locate suitable cooking oil 5 and pour into the recess 3 over the top of the water 4;
- for the electric fryer, rotate the heating means 10 down into the oil 5;
- turn on heating means 10 or 12 to a certain temperature and
- turn on cooling means to a certain temperature
- 10 To drain or decommission the fryer apparatus one can carry out the following steps:
 - turn off heating means 10 or 12 and cooling means;
 - open oil draining means 26 to then drain off the oil 5;
 - remove any unwanted food scraps or waste;
 - close off oil draining means 26 and refill or optionally after draining the oil and removing
 - 15 any scraps,
 - the water draining means 25 can then be opened to drain off the water, after this new water or cleaned water can be put in followed by new or cleaned oil.

These steps can be varied eg there may be no heating means 10 to rotate or the switching on
 20 or off of the heating and cooling can be done at different times.

Advantages

- a) Uses less oil
- b) Oil lasts longer- less oil changes required
- 25 c) Oil is boiled at a lower temperature
- d) Safer to use
- e) Easier to change oil
- f) Easier to install
- g) Reduced running costs
- 30 h) Existing fryers can also be converted
- i) Position of heat exchanger can be varied
- j) Oil does not get so dry during its use

Variations

Throughout the description of this specification, the word “comprise” and variations of that word such as “comprising” and “comprises”, are not intended to exclude other additives,
5 components, integers or steps. It will also be understood that where a product, method or process as herein described or claimed and that is sold incomplete, as individual components, or as a “kit of Parts”, that such exploitation will fall within the ambit of the invention.

For the oil, this can be any type of oil 5 that is able to be used in frying or able to be used as a cooking oil. Though water 4 is used with the oil 5, to enable less oil 5 to be used and to
10 cause any scraps or sediment or waste to pass or fall through all the water 4 or its equivalent has to be, the water 4 is heavier than the oil 5 to allow it to be able to sit below the oil 5. Alternatively the oil 5 must be lighter than the non oil or water 4 as it is the relative weight differences between, that are more important. The depth of water 9A or 9B can be varied to suit use and cost.

15

The fryer 1 can be manufactured to any size or dimensions and of any material that enables the fryer to cook selected products according to both cooking standards and health regulations. For example the housing can be shaped with a curved base or a flat base.

20 The hollow tunnels or spaces 16 for the cooling means 15 can include at least one hollow space 16 though there can be several such tubular spaces in different directions. This fryer can be used both as a gas or electric operated fryer or even a combination of both. Any number or combination of fryers can be used in parallel or series. The hollow tubular space(s) 16 of the cooling means can be any number, spacing and cross sectional shape or
25 dimension such as circular, square or oval and can be straight or bent in shape from one side to the other. The material for the housing used can be stainless steel or any other material combination able to withstand the heat and meet any health regulations.

30 There can be fans on either ends of the tunnels and there can be individual fans for each tunnel 16 if necessary. The draining means can include at least one such means or several which can be placed or located anywhere within the recess 3 as required or desired. There can any number of viewing means and draining means 25 and 26. Also the viewing means

30 can be combined with anyone of the draining means 25 or 26 such as the oil draining means 26. This combination could be formed as protruding horizontal tube having viewing through a window with level indicating means, and with a downwardly facing tubular branch to allow drainage therefrom and viewing at the location. There can also be included the
5 overflow means 35 which can also be formed as an in use horizontal outlet at the top of the housing which can be fluidly connected to another container or drain.

It will also be understood that where a product, method or process as herein described or claimed and that is sold incomplete, as individual components, or as a "kit of Parts", that
10 such exploitation will fall within the ambit of the invention.

It will of course be realised that while the foregoing has been given by way of illustrative example of this invention, all such and other modifications and variations thereto as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit
15 of this invention as is hereinbefore described.

These and other features and characteristics of the present invention, as well as the method of operation and functions of the related elements of structures and the combination of parts and economics of manufacture, will become more apparent upon consideration of the following
20 description with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form part of this specification, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts in the various figures.

25

30

What we claim is:

Claim 1: A deep fryer comprising a fryer housing adapted to contain oil and water, heating means, cooling means, water draining means and oil draining means whereby the fryer is connectable to a suitable power source to cause the oil to be heated accordingly, wherein the fryer housing has a body having a shape including an upper end and lower end with walls forming sides and a recess within to define a lower portion adapted for containing water and an upper portion adapted to contain oil, the lower portion including the water draining means and the upper portion including the oil draining means wherein the cooling means is located underneath or below the heating means and the cooling means includes at least one hollow cooling tunnel extending from one side of the fryer housing to the other and a cooling apparatus, whereby the cooling apparatus is operatively connected to the cooling tunnel such that in use, air is able to be pushed or pulled there through, to cool a lower part of the oil in the upper portion.

Claim 2: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 1 wherein, the cooling means includes a cooling housing fluidly at least connecting one end of the said at least one hollow tunnel, with the cooling apparatus connected to the cooling housing whereby the cooling apparatus operates to push or pull air there through the hollow tunnel.

Claim 3: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 2 wherein, the cooling means includes a plurality of cooling tunnels comprise a series of tubular structures located at a certain height from the upper end or bottom end of the fryer housing.

Claim 4: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 3 wherein, a viewing means is located below the at least one hollow tunnel, the oil draining means is located at a similar level to the viewing means and the water draining means is located at the bottom end of the fryer housing or the bottom of the lower portion or of the water.

Claim 5: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 4 wherein, the fryer housing is supported by a supporting means which is in the form of a frame.

Claim 6: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 5 wherein, the viewing means includes a level indicating means which is in the form of at least one window comprising a protruding tube having at least one viewing end able to allow the viewing of the level of water or oil within the tank recess.

5

Claim 7: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 6 wherein, the heating means includes at least one removable heating element able to be inserted and positioned into the oil and to be removed if required.

10 Claim 8: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 6 wherein, the heating means includes at least one heating tunnel which is adapted to be heated or able to have heat applied to it.

Claim 9: The deep fryer as claimed in claim 8 wherein, the cooling housing includes a partially enclosed space surrounding at least one end of at least one cooling tunnel and the cooling housing having venting means and at least one fan operatively connected to push or pull air through at least one cooling tunnel.

15

Claim 10: A method of preparing or commissioning a deep fryer as claimed in claim 1, for use wherein the method includes the steps of:

20

-close the oil and water draining means;

-locate and fill the tank recess 3 with water 4 until the water level firstly shows in the viewing means;

-locate suitable cooking oil and pour into the tank recess over the top of the water;

- rotate the heating means down into the oil;

25

-turn on the heating means to a certain temperature and

- turn on the cooling means to a certain temperature which causes the temperature in a lower portion of the oil to drop to be cooled somewhat which slows down any oil movement to allow the scraps or waste etc to fall down to the bottom end of the water to be eventually expelled or removed from the fryer .

30

Claim 11: The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein, for an electrically operated fryer, after closing the draining means, rotate the heating means out of way of the tank recess.

Claim 12: A method of draining or decommissioning the fryer apparatus as claimed in

5 claim 1, one can carry out the following steps:

-turn off the heating means and the cooling means;

-open an oil draining means to then drain off the oil;

-remove any unwanted food scraps or waste;

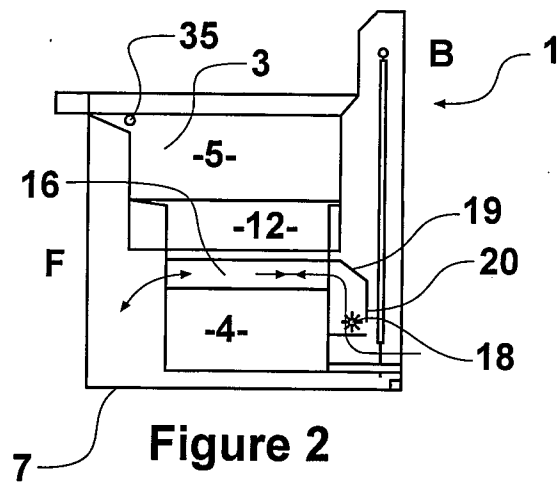
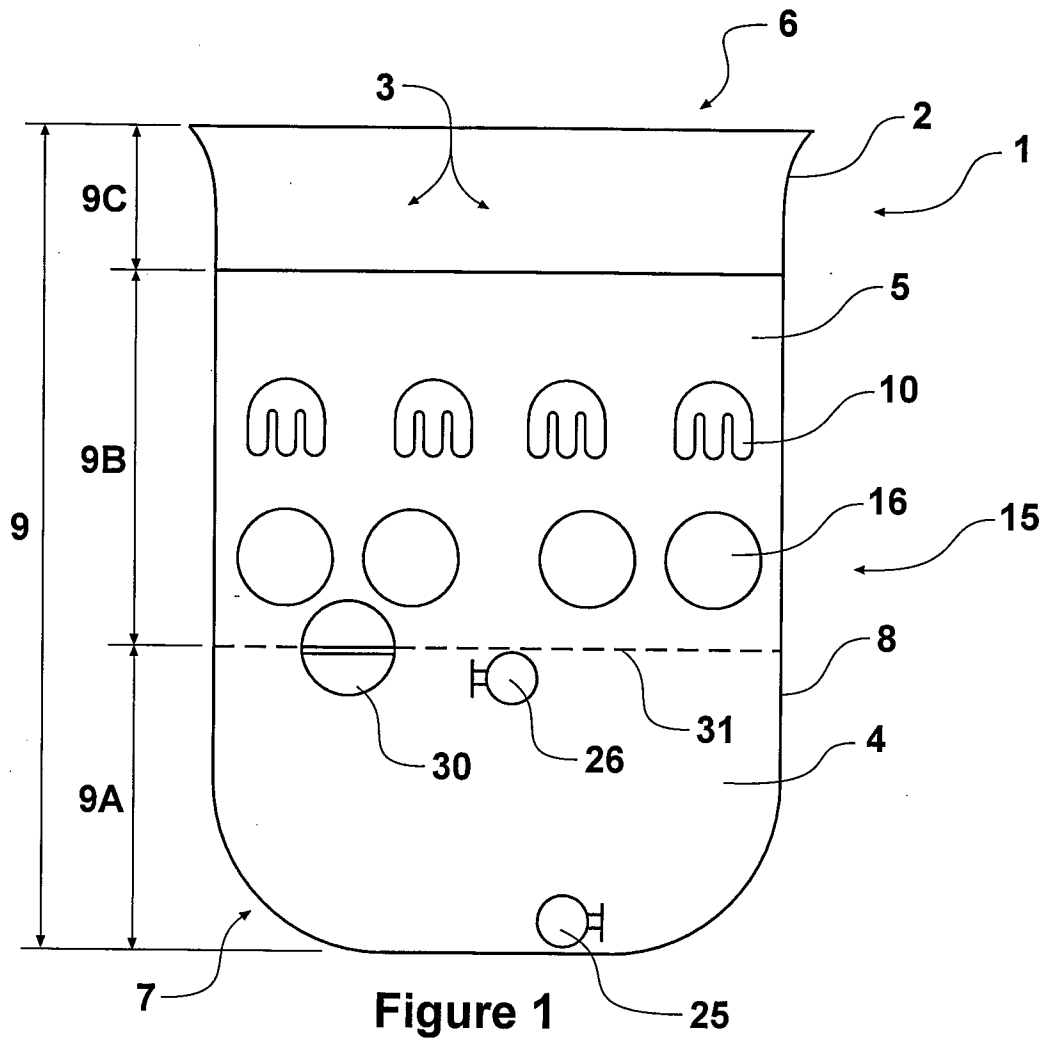
10 -close off oil draining means and refill or optionally after draining the oil and removing any scraps, the water draining means can be opened to drain off the water out,

- after this new water or cleaned water can be put in followed by new or cleaned oil.

Claim 13: A deep fryer substantially as herein described with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawings.

15 Claim 14: A method of preparing a deep fryer for use substantially as herein described with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawings.

Claim 15: A method of decommissioning a deep fryer substantially as herein described with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawings.



3/3

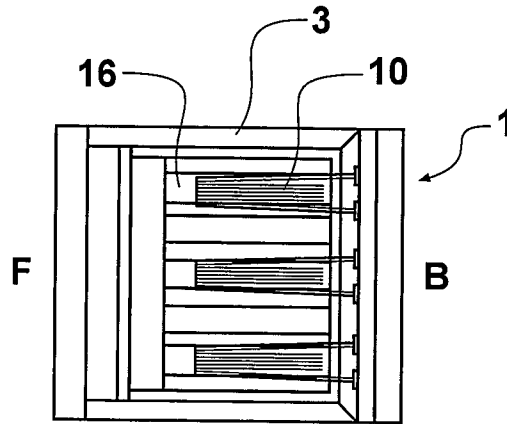


Figure 6

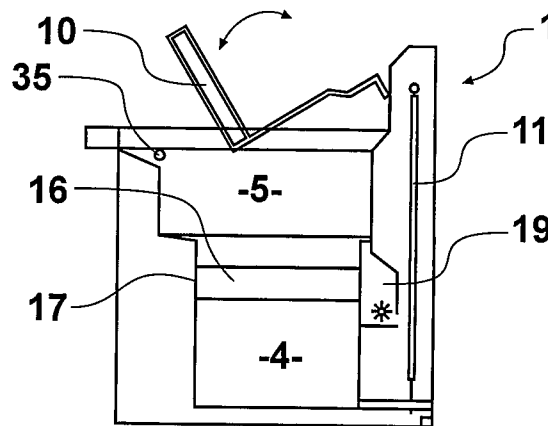


Figure 7

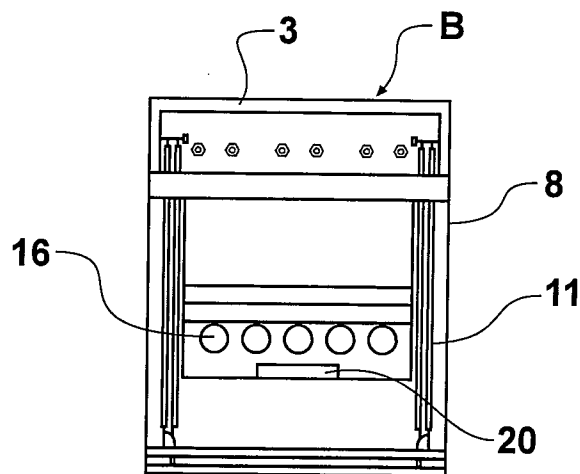


Figure 8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ2011/000016

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl.

A47J 37/12 (2006.01)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPODOC, WPI/IC/EC A47J 37/12 & Keywords(water, H2O, oil, cool+, heat+, tunnel, pip+, conduit, tub+,air, fan+) & Esp@cenet, Google advanced Patents & Keywords (fryer containing oil and water, deepfryer)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5632266 A (SATO) 27 May 1997 Claim 1, column 2, lines 48-67, column 3, lines 36-67, column 4, lines 1-5, figures 1, 6,8	1-12
X	US 4580549 A (SATO) 8 April 1986 Claim 1, column 1, lines 64-68, lines 7-68, column 3, figures 1 & 2, 4 & 5	1-12
A	US 2009/0205511 A1 (TIENOR) 20 August 2009	1-12

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C
 See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
02 June 2011Date of mailing of the international search report
6 JUN 2011Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au
Facsimile No. +61 2 6283 7999Authorized officer
ASOKA DIAS-ABEYGUNAWARDENA
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
(ISO 9001 Quality Certified Service)
Telephone No : (02) 6283 2141

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: **13-15**
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
Claims do not comply with Rule 6.2(a) because they rely on references to the description and/or drawings.

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ2011/000016

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Patent Family Member
US 5632266	CN 1119063 JP 7308260
US 4580549	JP 60139222
US 2009205511	NONE

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX