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United States Patent	12383100
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 12, 2025
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Systems and methods for bowl support on a stand mixer

Abstract

A stand mixer includes a base with a column mounted to the base, and a head fixed atop the column. The stand mixer also includes a bowl and a bowl carrier mounted on the column. The bowl carrier includes two arms extending forward from the back portion of the bowl carrier. The bowl carrier defines a pocket at the back portion of the bowl carrier. The pocket is configured for receiving a bowl retention protuberance of the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms. Each of the two arms defines a respective orifice on a top portion of the two arms. Each of the two arms includes a respective plunger. The orifice of each of the two arms configured for receiving a respective locking tab of the bowl. The plunger of each of the two arms has an end portion that extends into the orifice to engage the respective locking tab on the bowl, when the bowl is mounted on the two arms.

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Appl. No.: 17/839560

Filed: June 14, 2022

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20230397767 A1	Dec. 14, 2023

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: A47J43/044 (20060101); A47J43/07 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC A47J43/044 (20130101); A47J43/0705 (20130101); A47J2043/04454 (20130101)

Field of Classification Search

CPC: A47J (43/044); A47J (43/0705); A47J (2043/04454); B01F (35/40); B01F (35/42); B01F (35/43)

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) The present disclosure relates generally to bowl carriers for stand mixers, more particularly for securely mounting of a bowl on a stand mixer.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) Stand mixers are generally used for performing automated mixing, churning, or kneading involved in food preparation. Typically, stand mixers include a motor configured to provide torque to one or more driveshafts. Users may connect various utensils to the one or more driveshafts, including whisks, spatulas, or the like. Stand mixers generally include support for mounting a bowl on the stand mixer during operation. The various utensils may extend down into the bowl to

perform the mixing of the ingredients in the bowl. However, the bowl is frequently loosely mounted on the stand mixer, which can cause shifting or movement of the bowl during mixing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- (3) Aspects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the following description, or may be apparent from the description, or may be learned through practice of the invention.
- (4) The present subject matter provides stand mixer with a bowl, a post, and a bowl carrier. Advantageously, the stand mixer allows for the secure mounting of the bowl on the bowl carrier easily and efficiently. A method for retaining a bowl on a stand mixer is also provided. Aspects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the following description, may be apparent from the description, or may be learned through practice of the invention.
- (5) In one example embodiment, a stand mixer includes a base with a column mounted to the base, and a head fixed atop the column. The stand mixer also includes a bowl and a bowl carrier mounted on the column. A back portion of the bowl carrier is positioned adjacent the column. The bowl carrier includes two arms extending forward from the back portion of the bowl carrier. The bowl is selectively mountable on the two arms of the bowl carrier. The bowl carrier defines a pocket at the back portion of the bowl carrier. The pocket faces forward such that the pocket is configured for receiving a bowl retention protuberance of the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms. Each of the two arms defines a respective orifice on a top portion of the two arms. Each of the two arms includes a respective plunger. The orifice of each of the two arms configured for receiving a respective locking tab of the bowl, when the bowl is mounted on the two arms. The plunger of each of the two arms has an end portion that extends into the orifice to engage the respective locking tab on the bowl, when the bowl is mounted on the two arms.
- (6) In another example embodiment, a method of for retaining a bowl on a stand mixer is provided. A bowl carrier of the stand mixer is mounted on a column of the stand mixer, a back portion of the bowl carrier is positioned adjacent the column, and two arms of the bowl carrier extend forward from the back portion of the bowl carrier. The bowl carrier defines a pocket at the back portion of the bowl carrier, the pocket faces forward such that the pocket is configured for receiving a bowl retention protuberance on the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms. Each of the two arms defines a respective orifice on a top portion of the two arms, each of the two arms includes a respective plunger, the orifice on each of the two arms is configured for receiving a respective locking tab of the bowl. The plunger of each of the two arms has an end extending into the orifice to engage the respective locking tab of the bowl. The method includes securing the bowl on the bowl carrier by inserting the bowl retention protuberance into the pocket and inserting each locking tab of the bowl into a respective orifice on the two arms.
- (7) These and other features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following description and appended claims. The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) A full and enabling disclosure of the present invention, including the best mode thereof, directed to one of ordinary skill in the art, is set forth in the specification, which makes reference to the appended figures.
- (2) FIG. 1 illustrates an isometric perspective view of an example embodiment of a stand mixer of the present disclosure.
- (3) FIG. 2 illustrates a front, elevation view of the example stand mixer of FIG. 1.

- (4) FIG. 3 illustrates a top, section view of the example stand mixer of FIG. 1.
- (5) FIGS. 4 through 6 provide detailed views of the bowl of the example stand mixer of FIG. 1.
- (6) FIGS. 7 through 10 provide detailed views of the bowl carrier of the example stand mixer of FIG. 1.
- (7) Repeat use of reference characters in the present specification and drawings is intended to represent the same or analogous features or elements of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- (8) Reference now will be made in detail to embodiments of the invention, one or more examples of which are illustrated in the drawings. Each example is provided by way of explanation of the invention, not limitation of the invention. In fact, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. For instance, features illustrated or described as part of one embodiment can be used with another embodiment to yield a still further embodiment. Thus, it is intended that the present invention covers such modifications and variations as come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.
- (9) As used herein, the terms “includes” and “including” are intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprising.” Similarly, the term “or” is generally intended to be inclusive (i.e., “A or B” is intended to mean “A or B or both”). Approximating language, as used herein throughout the specification and claims, is applied to modify any quantitative representation that could permissibly vary without resulting in a change in the basic function to which it is related. Accordingly, a value modified by a term or terms, such as “about,” “approximately,” and “substantially,” are not to be limited to the precise value specified. In at least some instances, the approximating language may correspond to the precision of an instrument for measuring the value. For example, the approximating language may refer to being within a ten percent (10%) margin.
- (10) FIG. 1 provides an isometric view of a stand mixer **100** according to an example embodiment of the present subject matter. It will be understood that stand mixer **100** is provided by way of example only and that the present subject matter may be used in or with any suitable stand mixer in alternative example embodiments. Moreover, with reference to each of FIGS. 1 through 3, stand mixer **100** defines a vertical direction V, a lateral direction L, and a transverse direction T, which are mutually perpendicular and form an orthogonal direction system. It should be understood that these directions are presented for example purposes only, and that relative positions and locations of certain aspects of stand mixer **100** may vary according to specific embodiments, spatial placement, or the like.
- (11) Stand mixer **100** may include a base **102** and a support column **104**. The support column **104** may support a mixer head **106**, which is positioned atop column **104**. The mixing head **106** may house a motor, a gearbox, and/or a drivetrain apparatus (not shown) of stand mixer **100**. As shown in FIG. 1, head **106** may be mounted to column **104**, which is mounted to base **102**. Thus, column **104** may extend between and connect base **102** and head **106**, e.g., along the vertical direction V. Head **106** may extend outwardly above the base **102** in the transverse direction T.
- (12) Column **104** may also include a bowl lift framework **108**. Bowl lift framework **108** may slidably mount to a column rail **110**, which is mounted to column **104**. Additionally, components of bowl lift framework **108** may extend outwardly above the base **102**, e.g., in the transverse direction T, and may hold bowl **112** above, vertically, base **102**. Bowl **112** may be removably mounted on bowl lift framework **108** via flanges **114**. Flanges **114** may be on opposite sides of the bowl **112** with respect to the circumference of the bowl. Bowl lift framework **108** and flanges **114** will be described in further detail herein.
- (13) Operation of stand mixer **100** is described below. In the operation of stand mixer **100**, a user may load food items into bowl **112**. The food items may be ingredients, such as flour, water, milk, etc. These items are provided for example purposes only and one skilled in the art would appreciate that there are many more types of food items that may be placed in bowl **112** of stand mixer **100**.

After loading the food items into bowl **112**, a user turns on a motor to begin the process of mixing, kneading, beating, etc. The motor rotates an attachment attached to stand mixer **100** to complete each of these processes. The processes may be conducted with a respective attachment, such as a mixer blade for mixing, a dough hook for kneading, and a balloon whisk for beating.

(14) With reference to FIGS. **2** and **3**, bowl lift framework **108** may include a bowl carrier **202**. A back portion **206** of bowl carrier **202** may be positioned adjacent column **104**. Bowl carrier **202** may include two arms **208** extending forward from back portion **206** of bowl carrier **202**. Bowl **112** may be selectively mountable on the two arms **208** of bowl carrier **202**. Arms **208** may include a mounting tab **204** at the ends of arms **208** of bowl carrier **202**. Bowl carrier **202** may hold bowl **112** via mounting tab **204**. Mounting tab **204** will be described in further detail herein. FIG. **3** shows a top, section view of stand mixer **100**. Flanges **114** may be positioned on opposing sides of bowl **112**. For example, flanges **114** may be positioned to engage with bowl carrier **202** at each end of the arms of bowl carrier **202**.

(15) FIGS. **4** through **6** demonstrate bowl **112** and components thereon. Seen in FIG. **4** is a bowl retention protuberance **402**. In certain example embodiments, bowl retention protuberance **402** may be one of a pin, a fin, and a post. FIGS. **5** and **6** illustrate a locking tab **502** extending from flange **114**. Locking tab **502** defines a plunger receiver **504** as described further herein.

(16) FIGS. **7** through **10** illustrate bowl carrier **202** and components thereon. Orifices **702** may be located on a top portion **214** at each end of arms **208**, and orifices **702** may be configured for receiving locking tab **502** of flange **114**. A pocket **706** may be positioned on back portion **206** of bowl carrier **202**. Pocket **706** may define an opening **704** for receiving bowl retention protuberance **402**. The arms **208** include a respective plunger **210** (FIG. **2**) in mounting tab **204**. Plunger **210** may be a spring plunger or a ball plunger. In the present example embodiment, plunger **210** includes spring **212** as shown in FIG. **10**. End portion **216** of plunger **210** engages with plunger receiver **504** to secure locking tab **502** to bowl carrier **202**.

(17) Pocket **706** may support bowl retention protuberance **402**, and, as shown in FIG. **8**, pocket **706** may include a cuff **802** at a back **804** of pocket **706**. The cuff **802** may be configured to receive bowl retention protuberance **402** on bowl **112** when bowl **112** is mounted on the two arms **208**. Cuff **802** may be configured to selectively fix bowl retention protuberance **402** in pocket **706**. Cuff **802** may include a friction member (not shown), such as a rib or ridge to securely fix bowl retention protuberance **402** on bowl **112** to the back portion **206** of bowl carrier **202**.

(18) A method for retaining bowl **112** on a stand mixer **100** includes securing bowl **112** on bowl carrier **202** by inserting bowl retention protuberance **402** into pocket **706** and inserting each locking tab **502** of bowl **112** into a respective orifice **702** on the two arms **208**. The method may also include angling bowl **112** upward while inserting bowl retention protuberance **402** into pocket **706**. Then, angling the bowl **112** downward in order to insert each locking tab **502** of bowl **112** into the respective orifice **702** on the two arms **208**. Further, in alternative example embodiments, the method may include placing bowl retention protuberance **402** in pocket **706** and sliding bowl retention protuberance **402** into cuff **802**.

(19) The method may further include inserting each locking tab **502** of bowl **112** into a respective orifice **702** on the two arms **208** which includes first depressing the end of each plunger **210** with the respective locking tab **502** and then receiving the end of plunger **210** within the respective plunger receiver **504** as each locking tab **502** is received by the respective orifice **702**.

(20) As may be seen from the above, stand mixer **100** may rigidly hold bowl **112** on bowl carrier **202**. Bowl retention protuberance **402** may be inserted into pocket **706** through opening **704**. Locking tabs **502** may be inserted into orifices **702** where plunger **210** of mounting tab **204** may engage with plunger receiver **504**, holding bowl **112** in place. Thus, bowl **112** may be rigidly mounted on stand mixer **100**, which may prevent shifting or movement of bowl **112** during mixing.

(21) This written description uses examples to disclose the invention, including the best mode, and also to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the invention, including making and using

any devices or systems and performing any incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the invention is defined by the claims, and may include other examples that occur to those skilled in the art. Such other examples are intended to be within the scope of the claims if they include structural elements that do not differ from the literal language of the claims, or if they include equivalent structural elements with insubstantial differences from the literal language of the claims.

Claims

1. A stand mixer, comprising: a base; a column mounted to the base; a head positioned atop the column; a bowl; and a bowl carrier mounted on the column, a back portion of the bowl carrier positioned adjacent the column, the bowl carrier comprising two arms extending forward from the back portion of the bowl carrier, the bowl selectively mountable on the two arms of the bowl carrier, the bowl carrier defining a pocket at the back portion of the bowl carrier, the pocket facing forward such that the pocket is configured for receiving a bowl retention protuberance of the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms, each of the two arms defining a respective orifice on a top portion of the two arms, each of the two arms comprising a respective plunger, the orifice of each of the two arms configured for receiving a respective locking tab of the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms, the plunger of each of the two arms having an end portion that extends into the orifice to engage the respective locking tab on the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms.
2. The stand mixer of claim 1, wherein the pocket is open at a top of the pocket, the pocket has a floor at a bottom of the pocket to support the bowl retention protuberance, and the pocket comprises a cuff at a back of the pocket that is configured to receive the bowl retention protuberance on the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms.
3. The stand mixer of claim 2, wherein the cuff is configured to selectively fix the bowl retention protuberance in the pocket.
4. The stand mixer of claim 2, wherein the cuff comprises a friction member to securely fix the bowl retention protuberance on the bowl to the back portion of the bowl carrier.
5. The stand mixer of claim 1, wherein the plunger of each of the two arms is a spring plunger.
6. The stand mixer of claim 1, wherein the plunger of each of the two arms is a ball plunger.
7. The stand mixer of claim 1, wherein the bowl retention protuberance is one of a pin, a fin, and a post and is positioned to engage the pocket when the bowl is mounted on the two arms.
8. The stand mixer of claim 1, wherein each locking tab is shaped and positioned on the bowl to engage the respective orifice on each of the two arms.
9. The stand mixer of claim 1, wherein each locking tab is shaped to first translate and then receive the end of the plunger extending into the respective orifice on the two arms as each locking tab is received by the respective orifice.
10. A method for retaining a bowl on a stand mixer, a bowl carrier of the stand mixer mounted on a column of the stand mixer, a back portion of the bowl carrier positioned adjacent the column, two arms of the bowl carrier extending forward from the back portion of the bowl carrier, the bowl carrier defining a pocket at the back portion of the bowl carrier, the pocket facing forward such that the pocket is configured for receiving a bowl retention protuberance on the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms, each of the two arms defining a respective orifice on a top portion of the two arms, each of the two arms comprising a respective plunger, the orifice on each of the two arms configured for receiving a respective locking tab of the bowl, the plunger of each of the two arms having an end extending into the orifice to engage the respective locking tab of the bowl, the method comprising: securing the bowl on the bowl carrier by inserting the bowl retention protuberance into the pocket; and inserting each locking tab of the bowl into a respective orifice on the two arms.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein securing the bowl on the bowl carrier comprises: angling a

front of the bowl upward while inserting the bowl retention protuberance into the pocket; and then angling the front of the bowl downward in order to insert each locking tab of the bowl into the respective orifice on the two arms.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein: the pocket is open at a top of the pocket, the pocket has a floor at a bottom of the pocket to support the bowl retention protuberance, and the pocket comprises a cuff at a back of the pocket that is configured to receive the bowl retention protuberance on the bowl when the bowl is mounted on the two arms, and inserting the bowl retention protuberance into the pocket comprises placing the bowl retention protuberance on the floor of the pocket and sliding the bowl retention protuberance into the cuff.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the cuff is configured for securely fixing the bowl retention protuberance of the bowl to the back portion of the bowl carrier.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the bowl retention protuberance is one of a pin, a fin, and a post.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the cuff comprises a friction member to securely fix the bowl retention protuberance on the bowl in the pocket.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein each locking tab is shaped and positioned on the bowl to engage the respective orifice on each of the two arms.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the plunger of each of the two arms is a spring plunger and inserting each locking tab of the bowl into a respective orifice on the two arms comprises first depressing an end of each plunger with the respective locking tab and then receiving the end of the plunger within the respective locking tab as each locking tab is received by the respective orifice.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein the plunger of each of the two arms is a ball plunger and inserting each locking tab of the bowl into a respective orifice on the two arms comprises first depressing an end of each plunger with the respective locking tab and then receiving the end of the plunger within the respective locking tab as each locking tab is received by the respective orifice.
