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Inventor(s)	Todd; Justin Patrick et al.

Systems for cutting boards in recreational vehicles

Abstract

A cutting board assembly for use in recreational vehicles. The cutting board assembly includes a metal tray and a board. The board is selectively mountable to the metal tray such that a bottom surface of the board faces a top surface of the metal tray. An area of the top surface of the metal tray is greater than an area of the bottom surface of the board. When the board is mounted to the metal tray and the cutting board assembly is positioned on a cooking appliance, the metal tray is positioned between the board and a heating element of the cooking appliance.

Inventors:	Todd; Justin Patrick (Louisville, KY), Blackwood; Michael Robin (Louisville, KY)
Applicant:	Haier US Appliance Solutions, Inc. (Wilmington, DE)
Family ID:	1000008762258
Assignee:	Haier US Appliance Solutions, Inc. (Wilmington, DE)
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Primary Examiner: Nejad; Mahdi H

Attorney, Agent or Firm: Dority & Manning, P.A.

Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(1) The present subject matter relates generally to systems for cutting boards in recreational vehicles.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) Recreational vehicles (RV) are motor vehicles or trailers that include amenities such as kitchens, bathrooms, and one or more sleeping areas. Kitchens of recreational vehicles can have typical household appliances such as refrigerators, ovens, cooktops, ranges, and microwaves. Generally, kitchens in RV's have limited counterspace to store items or prepare food. Installed in the counter, ranges or cooktops in recreational vehicles can take up valuable countertop space when not being used. An additional way to use the cooktop space in an RV would be advantageous.

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) In one example embodiment, a cutting board assembly for use in recreational vehicles. The cutting board assembly includes a metal tray and a board. The board is selectively mountable to the metal tray such that a bottom surface of the board faces a top surface of the metal tray. An area of the top surface of the metal tray is greater than an area of the bottom surface of the board. When the board is mounted to the metal tray and the cutting board assembly is positioned on a cooking appliance, the metal tray is positioned between the board and a heating element of the cooking appliance.

(5) In another example embodiment, a cutting board assembly is configured to position atop a cooktop appliance in recreational vehicles. The cutting board assembly includes a metal tray that is configured to be positioned on the cooktop appliance and to withstand heat from the cooktop appliance. The cutting board assembly also includes a board selectively mountable to the metal tray such that a bottom surface of the board faces a top surface of the metal tray. An area of the top surface of the metal tray is greater than an area of the bottom surface of the board. When the board is mounted to the metal

tray and the cutting board assembly is positioned on a cooking appliance, the metal tray is positioned between the board and a heating element of the cooking appliance.

(6) 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 provides a perspective view of an example embodiment of a recreational vehicle according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 2 provides a perspective view of an example embodiment of a kitchen within the recreational vehicle of FIG. 1 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(4) FIG. 3 provides a perspective view of an example embodiment of a range appliance within the kitchen of FIG. 2 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(5) FIG. 4 provides a perspective view of an example embodiment of a cutting board assembly according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(6) FIG. 5 provides a top, perspective view of an example embodiment of a cutting board of the cutting board assembly of FIG. 4 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(7) FIG. 6 provides a bottom, perspective view of an example embodiment of a cutting board of the cutting board assembly of FIG. 4 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(8) FIG. 7 provides a side, section view of the cutting board of FIG. 6 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. 8 provides a top, perspective view of a tray of the cutting board assembly of FIG. 4 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(10) FIG. 9 provides a bottom, perspective view of the tray of FIG. 8 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(11) FIG. 10 provides a perspective view of an example embodiment of a hook according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(12) FIG. 11 provides a perspective view of the cutting board assembly of FIG. 4 mounted at the hook of FIG. 10 according to aspects of the present disclosure.

(13) 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

(14) 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.

(15) In order to aid understanding of this disclosure, several terms are defined below. The defined terms are understood to have meanings commonly recognized by persons of ordinary skill in the arts relevant to the present invention. 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”). The terms “first,” “second,” and “third” may be used interchangeably to distinguish one component from another and are not intended to signify location or importance of the individual components. In addition, as used herein, terms of approximation, such as “approximately,” “substantially,” or “about,” refer to being within a ten percent margin of error.

(16) In general, FIG. 1 provides a perspective view of an example recreational vehicle 20 in accordance with aspects of the present disclosure. In general, recreational vehicles may be motorized (drivable) or non-motorized (towable) vehicles that are used for camping, traveling, and other recreational activities. In the current example embodiment, recreational vehicle 20 is a non-motorized recreational vehicle 20, although one of skill in the art would understand that aspects of the present subject matter may be used in either motorized or non-motorized recreational vehicles. In general, recreational vehicle 20 defines a passenger compartment 40 which may include amenities such as kitchens, bathrooms, one or more sleeping areas with beds, and multiple compartments for storing items. During use of recreational vehicle 20, people may spend significant amounts of time within passenger compartment 40. Thus, recreational vehicle 20 may be employed for a variety of purposes including transportation, cooking, eating, sleeping, entertaining, and more of the like.

(17) As may be seen in FIGS. 2 and 3, passenger compartment 40 of recreational vehicle 20 may include a kitchen 50 for cooking, preparing, and storing food. FIG. 2 provides a perspective view of an example kitchen 50. In general, kitchen 50 may include typical household appliances, e.g., refrigerator, oven, cooktop, and a microwave. In the current example embodiment, a cooking appliance, e.g., range 60, may be included in kitchen 50. Additionally, kitchen 50 may include a countertop 80 generally configured for the receipt, storage, and preparation of food items. A cooktop 70 of range 60 may be

inserted into countertop **80**, e.g., cooktop **70** may be integrated into and reduce counterspace of countertop **80**. In general, cooktop **70** may be an electric, or gas, cooktop with heating elements configured to provide heat to items placed thereon. Further, FIG. **3** illustrates an example embodiment of range appliance **60** and cooktop **70**. In the present example embodiment, a cutting board assembly **100** is positioned on cooktop **70**. In general, cutting board assembly **100** may be configured for providing counterspace on cooktop **70** of range appliance **60**. In particular, cutting board assembly **100** may be generally configured for withstanding heat from heating elements of cooktop **70** in the event the heating elements were recently, or are actively, heating.

(18) FIG. **4** illustrates an example embodiment of cutting board assembly **100** according to aspects of the present disclosure. In general, cutting board assembly may include a board **110** and a tray **120**. Board **110** may be generally configured for receiving food items for preparation, and tray **120** may be generally configured for positioning atop cooktop **70** and receiving board **110**. Additionally, tray **120** may include a plurality of flanges including a mounting flange **130** with a plurality of holes **132** generally configured for mounting cutting board assembly **100** within recreational vehicle **20** as will be described in more detail below. Cutting board assembly **100** may be generally configured for different size ranges or, more specifically, cooktops of various sizes. For example, cutting board assembly **100** may be up to fifty-six centimeters (56 cm) wide (in the lateral direction L), and up to fifty-three centimeters (53 cm) long (in the Transverse direction T), e.g., the area of top surface **121** of tray **120** may be no less than five hundred centimeters squared (500 sq-cm) and no greater than three thousand square centimeters (3000 sq-cm). Specifically, in one example embodiment, cutting board assembly **100** may be twenty-four centimeters (24 cm) wide by forty-one centimeters (41 cm) long or nine-hundred and eighty-four square centimeters (984 sq-cm).

(19) In general, FIGS. **5-7** illustrate an example embodiment of board **110** according to aspects of the present disclosure. Board **110** may be constructed of wood, such as bamboo or any other suitable wood, a plastic, or other suitable materials. As seen in FIG. **5**, a top surface **111** of board **110** may include a groove **112** generally configured for receipt of any oils, juices, other liquids, or loose pieces of food being cut to sit and pool so as to reduce interference with the food being cut. As such, groove **112** may reduce spills while cutting, thus preventing liquids from spilling onto cooktop **70**. As seen in FIG. **6**, a bottom surface **113** of board **110** may include one or more of a fastener **114** generally configured for fastening board **110** to tray **120**. In the current example embodiment, board **110** includes four (4) fasteners **114**. One of fasteners **114** may be best seen in the section view illustrated in FIG. **7**. In general, fastener **114** may be a magnet coupled at bottom surface **113** of board **110**. A screw **116** or any other suitable fastener, e.g., adhesive, may be generally configured to couple fastener **114** to board **110**.

(20) In general, FIGS. **8-9** illustrate an example embodiment of tray **120** according to aspects of the present disclosure. Tray **120** may be constructed of metal, such as stainless steel or any other suitable metal. In general, bottom surface **113** of board **110** faces a top surface **121** of metal tray **120** and an area of top surface **121** of the metal tray may be greater than an area of the bottom surface **113** of board **110**. Thus, tray **120** may be larger than board **110**, e.g., in order to advantageously protect board **110** from heating by elements of cooktop **70**.

(21) Top surface **121** of tray **120** may include a back flange **122** and side flanges **124**. Back flange **122** and side flanges **124** may be generally configured for preventing any oils, juices, other liquids, or loose pieces of food being cut from spilling while using cutting board assembly **100**, e.g., preventing liquids from spilling onto cooktop **70**. Side flanges **124** may also include handles **126** extending from side flanges **124**. Handles **126** may be generally configured for providing easy grab positions for a user to grab and move cutting board assembly **100** as desired. Generally, when board **110** is mounted to metal tray **120** and the cutting board assembly **100** is positioned on the cooking appliance, e.g., cooktop **70**, metal tray **120** may be positioned between board **110** and heating elements of the cooking appliance. Thus, tray **120** may advantageously protect board **110** from heating by elements of cooktop **70**.

(22) As seen in FIG. **9**, a bottom surface **123** of tray **120** may include one or more feet **128** generally configured for positioning tray **120** on cooktop **70**. Feet **128** may be made of silicon or any other material suitable for withstanding heat from cooktop **70**. In the current example embodiment, tray **120** includes four (4) silicon feet **128**. In general, feet **128** may be coupled at bottom surface **123** by any suitable fastener, e.g., adhesive. Feet **128** may extend to a grill, panel, or other feature of cooktop **70**.

(23) In the current example embodiment, cutting board assembly **100** may include a bamboo board **110** with a groove **112** on top surface **111** and four (4) magnets **114** attached via screws **116** at bottom surface **113**. Board **110** may be coupled to tray **120** that includes back flange **122**, side flanges **124**, and handles **126** at top surface **121** as well as four (4) feet **128** at bottom surface **123**. In other example embodiments, as would be understood by one of skill in the art, other materials of board **110** may be used in combination with other types of fasteners **114** to secure board **110** to tray **120**. Additionally, in other example embodiments, other materials of tray **120** may be used in combination with other types of feet **128** and the current example embodiment and description of cutting board assembly **100** is not meant to be limiting to this specific configuration.

(24) In general, FIGS. **10** and **11** provide a perspective view of a wall bracket **140** generally configured to removably couple cutting board assembly **100** to the recreational vehicle for storage while traveling or otherwise not in use. As may be seen in FIG. **10**, wall bracket **140** may include one or more hooks **142**. Hooks **142** may be generally configured for engaging with holes **132** of mounting flange **130**. As may be seen in FIG. **11**, cutting board assembly **100** may mount vertically to hooks **142** of wall bracket **140** via holes **132** of mounting flange **130**. As such, cutting board assembly **100** may be removably mountable to any wall within recreational vehicle **20**, including kitchen **50**, wall-space permitting.

(25) 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 languages of the claims.

Claims

1. A cutting board assembly for a recreational vehicle, the recreational vehicle comprising a wall and a wall bracket mounted to the wall, the cutting board assembly comprising: a metal tray; a board selectively mountable to the metal tray such that a bottom surface of the board faces a top surface of the metal tray; and an L-shaped mounting flange extending from the metal tray, the L-shaped mounting flange defining a plurality of holes, wherein the L-shaped mounting flange of the cutting board assembly is configured to couple to the wall bracket of the recreational vehicle, the plurality of holes located on a leg of the L-shaped mounting flange orthogonal to the top surface of the metal tray, wherein an area of the top surface of the metal tray is greater than an area of the bottom surface of the board, and wherein, when the board is mounted to the metal tray and the cutting board assembly is positioned on a cooking appliance, the metal tray is positioned between the board and a heating element of the cooking appliance.
 2. The cutting board assembly of claim 1, wherein the metal tray comprises a plurality of feet positioned at a bottom surface of the metal tray, the plurality of feet extending to the cooking appliance when the cutting board assembly is positioned on the cooking appliance.
 3. The cutting board assembly of claim 2, wherein the plurality of feet are silicon feet.
 4. The cutting board assembly of claim 1, wherein the metal tray comprises a plurality of flanges, each of the plurality of flanges extending upwardly from the top surface of the metal tray at a respective side of the top surface of the metal tray, the board received between the plurality of flanges when the board is mounted to the metal tray.
 5. The cutting board assembly of claim 1, wherein the board is a wooden board comprising bamboo.
 6. The cutting board assembly of claim 1, wherein the metal tray is a steel tray.
 7. The cutting board assembly of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of fasteners selectively coupling the board to the metal tray.
 8. The cutting board assembly of claim 7, wherein the fasteners comprise magnets coupled to the board at the bottom surface of the board, the magnets configured to engage with the metal tray.
 9. The cutting board assembly of claim 1, wherein the area of the top surface of the metal tray is no less than five hundred centimeters squared and no greater than three thousand square centimeters.
 10. A cutting board assembly configured to position atop a cooktop appliance in a recreational vehicle, the recreational vehicle comprising a wall and a wall bracket mounted to the wall, the cutting board assembly comprising: a metal tray configured to be positioned on the cooktop appliance and to withstand heat from the cooktop appliance; a board selectively mountable to the metal tray such that a bottom surface of the board faces a top surface of the metal tray; and an L-shaped mounting flange extending from the metal tray, the L-shaped mounting flange defining a plurality of holes, wherein the L-shaped mounting flange of the cutting board assembly is configured to couple to the wall bracket of the recreational vehicle, the plurality of holes located on a leg of the L-shaped mounting flange orthogonal to the top surface of the metal tray, wherein an area of the top surface of the metal tray is greater than an area of the bottom surface of the board, and wherein, when the board is mounted to the metal tray and the cutting board assembly is positioned on the cooking appliance, the metal tray is positioned between the board and a heating element of the cooking appliance.
 11. The cutting board assembly of claim 10, wherein the metal tray comprises a plurality of feet positioned at a bottom surface of the metal tray, the plurality of feet extending to the cooktop appliance when the cutting board assembly is positioned on the cooktop appliance.
 12. The cutting board assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of feet are silicon feet.
 13. The cutting board assembly of claim 10, wherein the metal tray comprises a plurality of flanges, each of the plurality of flanges extending upwardly from the top surface of the metal tray at a respective side of the top surface of the metal tray, the board received between the plurality of flanges when the board is mounted to the metal tray.
 14. The cutting board assembly of claim 10, wherein the board is a wooden board comprising bamboo.
 15. The cutting board assembly of claim 10, wherein the metal tray is a steel tray.
 16. The cutting board assembly of claim 10, further comprising a plurality of fasteners selectively coupling the board to the metal tray.
 17. The cutting board assembly of claim 16, wherein the fasteners comprise magnets coupled to the board at the bottom surface of the board, the magnets configured to engage with the metal tray.
 18. The cutting board assembly of claim 10, wherein the area of the top surface of the metal tray is no less than five hundred centimeters squared and no greater than three thousand square centimeters.
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