

laterally, which although permitting a simple moving, however this being either against a large friction force or with a corresponding large play and with a reduced positional accuracy, which leads to a high proneness to becoming damaged and often to a low-quality impression.

It is an object of the invention to provide a drinks preparation machine which overcomes the disadvantages of the state of the art. In particular, it is an object of the invention to ensure a high automation with a high user friendliness and user safety, together with a high user comfort.

These and further objects are achieved by the drinks preparation machine which is defined in the patent claims.

A drinks preparation machine of the type according to the invention is designed as a drinks preparation machine for preparing a drink, in particular a hot drink such as coffee or tea, from a portion capsule. The drinks preparation machine comprises a motorised brewing module which contains a brewing chamber which can be formed from a first brewing module part and of a second brewing module part which is movable relative to the first brewing module part. The brewing chamber which can be formed by the relative movement of the first and second brewing module parts, said brewing chamber, given the brewing procedure, at least partly surrounding the portion capsule which is located in a brewing position. Herein, the brewing module is configured to brew a brewed drink by way of introducing a brewing fluid into the portion capsule and to discharge this drink out of the brewing module. The brewed drink subsequently via a drinks outlet gets into a drinks vessel which is placed below a drinks outlet.

The motorised brewing module further comprises an electrical drive which effects the movement of the first and second brewing module parts that forms the brewing chamber.

The drinks preparation machine further comprises a housing with a capsule insert opening, through which the portion capsule can be inserted into the drinks preparation machine.

The drinks preparation machine further comprises a closure unit and a sensor. The closure unit for its part comprises a manually operable operating lever. The operating lever is pivotable about a rotation axis between a closed position in which the operating lever closes the capsule insert opening and an open position in which the capsule insert opening is accessible, wherein by way of the sensor it can be determined whether the operating lever assumes the closed position.

The closed position and the open position for example form the two limiting positions which limit a movement range of the operating lever.

PATENT CLAIMS

1. A drinks preparation machine for preparing a drink from a portion capsule, comprising a motorised brewing module containing:

a first brewing module part and a second brewing module part which is movable relative to the first brewing module part, wherein a brewing chamber can be formed by the relative movement of the first and second brewing module parts, said brewing chamber, given the brewing procedure, at least partly surrounding the portion capsule which is located in a brewing position, wherein the brewing module is configured to brew a brewed drink by way of introducing a brewing fluid into the portion capsule and to discharge this drink out of the brewing module;

an electrical drive configured to effect the relative movement of the first and second brewing module parts that forms the brewing chamber;

a housing with a capsule insert opening, through which the portion capsule can be inserted into the drinks preparation machine; and

a closure unit and a sensor, wherein the closure unit comprises a manually operable operating lever which is pivotable about a rotation axis between:

(a) a closed position, in which the operating lever closes the capsule insert opening; and

(b) an open position, in which the capsule insert opening is accessible,

wherein the sensor is configured to determine whether the operating lever assumes the closed position.

2. The drinks preparation machine according to claim 1, wherein the operating lever is pivotable by way of applying a force, and wherein the closure unit further comprises a resistance element which opposes a movement of the operating lever with a resistance which is dependent on a position of the operating lever.

3. The drinks preparation machine according to claim 2, wherein the resistance is based on friction and/or elastic deformation.

4. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the closure unit further comprises a cam which is movable by way of a pivoting movement of the operating lever about a rotation axis and which is designed, by movement to the closed

position by the operating lever, to interact with the sensor such that the movement to the closed position by the operating lever can be determined.

5. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the movement of the second brewing module part relative to the first brewing module part and the movement of the operating lever are mechanically decoupled from one another.

6. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the operating lever is also pivotable during the brewing procedure.

7. The drinks preparation machine according to claim 6, wherein a pivoting of the operating lever out of the closed position during the brewing procedure stops the brewing procedure.

8. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the drinks preparation machine is further configured to eject a spent portion capsule out of the brewing module without actuation of the operating lever.

9. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a display device and an operating element, wherein the drinks preparation machine is configured, via the display device, to display a number of brewing programs which can be selected via the operating element, in a manner depending on a result of the capsule recognition.

10. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a capsule recognition module which is configured to carry out a capsule recognition on a portion capsule which is inserted through the capsule insert opening and is located at the capsule recognition position, by way of predefined features, wherein the drinks preparation machine is configured to activate the capsule recognition after movement to the closed position by the operating lever.

11. The drinks preparation machine according to claim 10, wherein the capsule recognition position and the brewing position are different to one another, and wherein a transfer of the portion capsule from the capsule recognition position into the brewing position requires an activation by the user.

12. The drinks preparation machine according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the drinks preparation machine is configured, after the effected capsule recognition, to permit a removal of the portion capsule through the capsule insert opening before the brewing chamber is closed.