

CLAIMS

1. A cartridge receptacle for producing a beverage by means of a cartridge which comprises a reservoir filled with a beverage substance, wherein the cartridge receptacle is insertable into a beverage preparation machine and is connectable to a cartridge, wherein the cartridge receptacle has a mixing chamber that is fluidically connectable to the reservoir and a fluid feed that leads into the mixing chamber, wherein the cartridge receptacle comprises a cover element and an outlet element connected to the cover element, wherein the cover element is reversibly connectable to the cartridge such that a cartridge opening leading to the reservoir is closed at least temporarily by the cover element, wherein the outlet element is reversibly connectable to the cover element, wherein a fluidic connection between the cartridge opening and the mixing chamber is able to be established by means of a valve unit, and wherein the valve unit is transferable by a relative movement between the cover element and the outlet element from a closed state into an open state in order to establish the fluidic connection.
2. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cartridge receptacle has a cartridge emptying device which is provided to at least partially transfer the beverage substance from the reservoir into the mixing chamber.
3. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the cartridge receptacle is connectable fixedly or releasably to the cartridge, and/or wherein the mixing chamber has mixing structures in the region of the outlet of the fluid feed into the mixing chamber.
4. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the cartridge emptying device comprises a compressed-air connection for connecting to a compressed-air source, and a compressed-air line which extends from the compressed-air connection to a compressed-air outlet, and wherein the compressed-air outlet protrudes in particular in the direction of the reservoir of the cartridge in order to blow compressed air into the reservoir.
5. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cartridge emptying device is configured such that the beverage substance is pushed out of the reservoir into the mixing chamber by the compressed air.
6. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mixing chamber has a beverage outlet through which the beverage formed from a blend of the beverage substance with the fluid is discharged, wherein the cartridge receptacle is

preferably configured such that the beverage is able to be introduced directly into a portable vessel from the beverage outlet.

7. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cartridge receptacle is releasably connectable to a cartridge via a latching connection.
8. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cartridge receptacle has elastic latching elements which engage behind a retaining flange formed on the cartridge when the cartridge is fastened in the cartridge receptacle.
9. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the outlet element has the fluid feed, a compressed-air connection, the mixing chamber and/or a beverage outlet.
10. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 9, wherein the cover element has the compressed-air outlet, projecting in the direction of the reservoir, in particular in the form of a hollow spike, which is operatively connected via the compressed-air line to the compressed-air connection formed on the cover element or on the outlet element.
11. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cover element has a passage opening leading to the cartridge opening, wherein the valve unit is formed by the passage opening and a protrusion, protruding into the passage opening, of the outlet element, wherein, by way of a relative movement between the cover element and the outlet element, the protrusion is shifted from a position closing the passage opening into a position partially opening up the passage opening.
12. The cartridge receptacle as claimed in claim 11, wherein the wall of the passage opening is provided with at least one lateral channel and wherein the protrusion is arranged in the region of the at least one lateral channel in the position partially opening up the passage opening.
13. A cartridge system for producing a beverage, wherein the cartridge system is insertable into a beverage preparation machine, wherein the cartridge system has a cartridge, which comprises a reservoir filled with a beverage substance, and a cartridge receptacle, connected to the cartridge, as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

14. The cartridge system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the cartridge receptacle has a mixing chamber, a cartridge emptying device which is provided to at least partially transfer the beverage substance from the reservoir into the mixing chamber, and a fluid feed that leads into the mixing chamber.
15. The cartridge system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the cartridge system is configured such that the beverage substance is pushed out of the reservoir into the mixing chamber by compressed air.
16. The cartridge system as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the fluid feed is supplied with fluid which is cooled by a refrigeration unit, wherein the refrigeration unit is part of the beverage preparation machine or of a separate refrigerator operatively connected to the beverage preparation machine.
17. The cartridge system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the refrigeration unit comprises a compressor cooling unit, an absorber cooling unit or a thermoelectric cooler.
18. The cartridge system as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the fluid feed is supplied with fluid to which carbonic acid is added by a carbonator.
19. The cartridge system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the carbonator is part of the beverage preparation machine, and wherein the carbonator has a receptacle for a CO₂ cartridge and a feeding device for adding CO₂ from the CO₂ cartridge to the fluid.
20. The cartridge system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 19, wherein the cartridge receptacle is releasably connected to the cartridge via a latching connection.
21. The cartridge system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the cartridge receptacle has elastic latching elements which engage behind a retaining flange formed on the cartridge when the cartridge is fastened in the cartridge receptacle.
22. A beverage preparation machine for producing a beverage, into which a cartridge system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 21 is insertable, wherein the beverage preparation machine has a retaining unit into which the cartridge receptacle connected to the cartridge is insertable, a fluid source for injecting the fluid into the fluid feed, and a compressed-air source for blowing compressed air into a compressed-air connection.

23. A method for producing a beverage with a cartridge system as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 21, having the following steps:

- inserting the cartridge system into a retaining unit of a beverage preparation machine,
- transferring the beverage substance from the reservoir of the cartridge into a mixing chamber of the cartridge receptacle by means of a cartridge emptying device,
- injecting a fluid into a mixing chamber by means of a fluid feed,
- discharging the beverage created in a mixing chamber by blending the beverage substance with the fluid, by means of a beverage outlet,
- wherein, before, during or after the insertion of the cartridge system into the retaining unit, a fluidic connection is established between the reservoir and a mixing chamber by a valve unit being opened by way of a relative movement between a cover element and an outlet element.

24. The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the beverage substance is transferred from the reservoir into a mixing chamber by compressed air.

25. The method as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24, wherein the fluid is cooled and/or carbonated before being injected into a mixing chamber.