WO 96/27316 A1 refers to a device comprising a filter-carrying cup provided with helicoidal lateral projections adapted to bear on shoulders of shouldered axles fixed below a cup carrier.

In all instances known today, when a beverage preparation machine comprises a detachable functional element (i.e. an element that is necessary to conduct the correct functioning of the machine from the ingredients to the dispensing of the finished product to the serving container), said machine comprises complex means to attach and detach the functional element from the main machine base. For instance, such means can involve, cams, levers, hooks, locks and other similar mechanical means. Such means are complex and therefore expensive to manufacture, and also they are somehow complex to use for the consumer as they require several handling steps to unlock, unscrew, etc. Last but not least, their complex construction is an obstacle to easy maintenance and cleaning, and some of them can be subject to breakage after a certain time, due to the wearing of the mechanical parts. This is of course undesirable to the consumer.

There is therefore a need for a flowable food, or beverage preparation machine that comprises at least one detachable functional element, that obviates the disadvantages of the known systems.

## Summary of the invention

The objectives set out above are met with a food or beverage preparation machine for preparing a flowable food product or a beverage by mixing a fluid with a precursor ingredient, said machine comprising:

- a base having a fluid source, a pump means suitable for conducting said fluid from the source through fluid-conducting pipes to a fluid delivery port, and
- a functional element detachable from the base, comprising connecting means for connecting fluidly to the delivery port of the base,

characterized in that said base and said detachable functional element both have cooperating magnetic releasable attachment means comprising:

(i) at least one first permanent magnetic element attached to the detachable functional element or to the base, said first magnetic