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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/23172 (22) International Filing Date: 12 December 1997 (12.12.97) (30) Priority Data: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>60/032,831</td> <td>13 December 1996 (13.12.96)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60/045,343</td> <td>2 May 1997 (02.05.97)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29/071,503</td> <td>30 May 1997 (30.05.97)</td> <td>US</td> </tr> </table> (63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application US 29/071,503 (CON) Filed on 30 May 1997 (30.05.97) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MAGUIRE PRODUCTS, INC. [US/US]; 400 W. Knowlton Road, Media, PA 19063 (US). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): MAGUIRE, Stephen, B. [US/US]; 1549 E. Street Road, Glen Mills, PA (US). (74) Agents: QUINN, Charles, N. et al.; Dann, Dorfman, Herrell and Skillman, Suite 720, 1601 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2307 (US).	60/032,831	13 December 1996 (13.12.96)	US	60/045,343	2 May 1997 (02.05.97)	US	29/071,503	30 May 1997 (30.05.97)	US	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GM, GW, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
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(54) Title: **REDUCED SIZE GRAVIMETRIC BLENDER HAVING REMOVABLE HOPPERS WITH INTEGRAL DISPENSING VALVES**

(57) Abstract

A gravimetric blender (10) of a reduced size mounted to be directly over the feed trough a small molding machines or extruders. The blender has an upright hollow rectangular frame (14) with a cradle for removably supporting a plurality of hoppers (12) having a bottom discharge controlled by a valve mechanism (19). The valve mechanism is mounted on each hopper and is connected to a control station having a quick-disconnect fitting on the hopper. The hoppers discharge sequentially into a weigh bin (15) supported on a load cell (32) connected to the control station of the blender. The weigh bin (15) has an openable bottom portion pivotally mounted thereon for actuation by the control station when the appropriate weight is registered by the load cell (32). The weigh bin (15) discharges into a mixing chamber (20) having an agitator or mixer (22) removably mounted therein. The mixer is journaled for rotation in the transparent panel (17) which is removable so that when the panel (17) which is removed, the mixer agitator is disengaged from its drive and removed with the panel.