Claims

1. A system (110) for dispensing ground coffee, in particular for preparing a coffee beverage, the system (110) comprising:

- one or more receptacles (13, 14) for storing one or different types of roasted coffee beans,
- one or more dosing devices (60, 70) for dispensing coffee beans, which are stored in the one or more receptacles (13, 14),
- a grinder (30) for receiving coffee beans, which are dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), in order to grind said coffee beans and subsequently dispense the so ground coffee beans, the grinder (30) being configured to move into different grinding positions for different grinding degrees, respectively,
- wherein the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) are arranged between the one or more receptacles (13, 14) and the grinder (30) ~~such that the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) can act as one or more retaining elements for retaining coffee beans inside of the one or more receptacles (13, 14)~~,
- a control unit (91) for controlling the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) and the grinder (30), wherein the control unit (91) is configured to
    - control one or more of the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) so that a specific amount of coffee beans is dispensed to the grinder (30), and to
    - control the grinder (30) so that the grinder (30) grinds said specific amount of coffee beans and, thus, dispenses the so ground coffee beans until the grinder (30) is free from coffee beans so that the grinder (30) can subsequently be moved in one of the different grinding positions:

the system (110) for dispensing ground coffee is characterized in that the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) are arranged to act as one or more retaining elements for retaining coffee beans inside of the one or more receptacles (13, 14), so that the coffee beans in the receptacles (13, 14), at least partly lying or are at least in part supported on the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), by preventing coffee beans from being removed from the receptacles (13, 14), and

wherein the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) are arranged such that a dispensing of coffee beans can be selectively blocked or stopped so that always only the specific or desired amount of coffee beans is dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) to the grinder (30).

2. The system (110) according to claim 1, wherein the grinder (30) comprises two grinding elements (31, 32), which are separated by a distance and relatively movable

to one another in order to grind the received coffee beans between the two grinding elements (31, 32), wherein the grinder (30) is preferably configured to vary said distance in order to move the grinding elements (31, 32) and thus the grinder (30) between the different grinding positions.

3. The system (110) according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the one or more receptacles (13, 14) is connected to a respective one of the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), preferably such that each of the one or more receptacles (13, 14) and the respective dosing device (60; 70) can be removed as a whole unit.

4. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a measuring unit (80) for measuring the amount of coffee beans, dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), and configured to send signals to the control unit (91) indicative of the measured amount of dispensed coffee beans, wherein, preferably, the measuring unit (80) is part of the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) and/or is arranged in the one or more dosing devices (60, 70).

5. The system (110) according to claim 4, wherein the measuring unit (80) is arranged to measure the volume and/or weight and/or number of the coffee beans, dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70).

6. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the system (110) comprises only one grinder (30), ~~and/~~or wherein the system (110) comprises a plurality of grinders (30), wherein each grinder (30) is arranged for receiving coffee beans, dispensed by one or more of the dosing devices (60, 70).

7. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising one or more driving units, such as one or more motors, for moving the grinder (30), in particular the grinding elements (31, 32), between the different grinding positions and/or for operating the grinder (30) for grinding coffee beans, wherein the one or more driving units are preferably detachably connected to the grinder (30).

8. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the grinder (30) is of a conical burr type or of a flat burr type.

9. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the grinder (30) is adapted to grind the coffee beans with a constant and/or variable velocity.

10. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a further retaining element, wherein the further retaining element is arranged to force coffee beans, which are received by the grinder (30), towards the grinder (30), in particular into a gap delimited by the two grinding elements (31, 32), in order to grind these coffee beans.

11. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the control unit (91) is configured to receive presence signals indicative of a presence and non-presence of coffee beans received by the grinder (30) and to control the grinder (30) such that the grinder (30) operates to grind, in particular by relatively moving the two grinding elements (31, 32) to one another, at least until the control unit (91) receives presence signals indicative of the non-presence of coffee beans received by the grinder (30).

12. The system (110) according to claim 11, wherein the presence signals are based on a sensed force and/or torque for operating the grinder (30) for grinding, in particular by relatively moving the grinding elements (31, 32) to one another, wherein the control unit (91) receives presence signals indicative of the non-presence if the sensed force and/or torque falls below a defined threshold value.

13. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the control unit (91) is configured to control, based on a specific control input of the control unit (91), the grinder (30) to move into one of the different grinding positions and/or to control, based on a specific control input of the control unit (91), one or more of the dosing devices (60, 70) to dispense a specific amount of coffee beans.

14. The system (110) according to claim 13, wherein the control input is a recipe, in particular a recipe for a coffee beverage to be prepared.

15. The system (110) according to claim 13 or 14, further comprising a user interface (90) functionally connected to the control unit (91) for inputting the control input.

16. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the one or more receptacles (13, 14) is a tight container, preferably at least partly made of an oxygen barrier material.

17. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein each of the one or more dosing devices (60, 70) is configured to act as a pump in order to dispense coffee beans or as a reverse pump in order to dispense coffee beans back into the respective one or more receptacles (13, 14).

18. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a weighing unit (50), wherein the weighing unit (50) is arranged to measure the

weight of the ground coffee, which is ground and dispensed by the grinder (30), wherein the weighing unit (50) is configured to send signals to the control unit (91) indicative of the measured weight of received ground coffee, wherein the control unit (91) is preferably configured to control the grinder (30) such that the grinder (30) operates to grind, in particular by relatively moving the two grinding elements (31, 32) to one another, at least until the weight of the ground coffee, measured by the weighing unit (50), corresponds to the amount of the coffee beans, measured by the measuring unit (80).

19. The system (110) according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a brewing unit for receiving the ground coffee beans, which are dispensed by the grinder (30), in order to brew a coffee beverage with the so received ground coffee beans.