

TITLE

UNIT FOR A COFFEE DEVICE

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a unit for a coffee apparatus. The unit comprises a container module and a lid, wherein the container module comprises at least one coffee bean container and a portioning device.

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PRIOR ART

Coffee is a natural stimulant which requires expert preparation. In order for coffee to be able to develop its aroma in an optimal manner, the coffee beans should for example always be ground just immediately prior to the preparation of the coffee. Since not everyone has a preference for the same kinds of coffee beans, it is also desirable to be able to change between different kinds of coffee as quickly and simply as possible.

20 Depending on the type of coffee, i.e. espresso or lungo, a different quantity of coffee beans is required. Some coffee machines therefore have portioning devices which supply a predefined quantity of coffee beans to the grinder or which weigh the freshly ground coffee grounds.

25 Furthermore, the correct grinding degree is very important in order for all of the aromatic substances to develop in an optimal manner. As a rule, in fully automatic coffee machines, coffee powder from espresso beans and for example from white coffee beans or else from lungo beans is produced with the same degree of fineness. However, it is very important that the corresponding beans, be they dark or light roast, are also ground with the correct grinding
30 degree.

In the unpublished international patent application PCT/EP2018/086732, the content of which is incorporated here by reference, a unit of a coffee apparatus is described. Said unit has a coffee bean container for storing the coffee beans, a portioning device for metering the

coffee beans for a coffee beverage, and a grinder for grinding the metered coffee beans. The coffee bean container and the portioning device are configured in a common container module. The unit has a module receptacle, to which the container module, when in use, can be connected and from which said container module, after use, can be removed. The
5 container module has user-selectable settings of a metered quantity and of a grinding degree, wherein the setting of the metered quantity affects the portioning device and the setting of the grinding degree affects the grinder. The coffee apparatus described therein is for example a coffee machine having a brewing apparatus or a coffee mill, in particular for the preparation of single portions. Depending on the embodiment, it is also suitable for the preparation of
10 double portions. As an alternative or in addition, other embodiments make it possible to prepare multiple portions.

Since the settings with respect to the grinding degree and with respect to the metering are set directly on the container module, said settings are fixedly associated with the kind of
15 coffee beans with which the bean container is filled. Since these settings are taken into account and implemented, without further action on the part of the user, when the container module is connected to the rest of the coffee machine, said settings do not need to be reset on the machine with every renewed use of said kind of coffee. The handling is thus simple and guarantees consistent coffee quality.

20 Said unit therefore always provides a freshly ground coffee without adversely affecting the aroma. It is possible to change the kind of beans in a simple manner, since merely the container module has to be exchanged. The settings on the coffee machine can be changed in a simple and bean-dependent and user-dependent manner, wherein parameters which have
25 been set once for one kind of coffee no longer need to be set during subsequent use of the machine, even if another kind of coffee has been brewed in between. Since the container module does not need to have any electronic components, it can be produced in a relatively cost-effective manner. In other embodiments, in particular for the gastronomy sector or for machines in a higher price range, the container module also has electronic components.

30 The container modules described in these two unpublished applications thus have great potential. However, they give too little consideration to how the container modules are filled and stored.

SUMMARY

According to an aspect, the present disclosure refers to a unit having a container module, wherein the container module comprises at least one coffee bean container and a portioning device for metering coffee beans, wherein the container module as a whole is configured for connection to a coffee apparatus, wherein said connection makes possible a metered delivery of coffee beans from the container module into a grinder of the coffee apparatus and wherein the coffee bean container is tightly closed prior to the first use and, after an opening operation, has an opening through which coffee beans enter into the portioning device, and wherein, during intended use of the container module with a coffee apparatus, the coffee bean container is arranged over the portioning device, characterized in that the coffee bean container is coupled with the portioning device in a releasable and reconnectable manner, in that a coupling element is arranged around the opening, said element being used for connection to the portioning device, and in that the opening can be closed again when the coffee bean container is separated from the portioning device.

It is therefore an object of the present disclosure to optimize the container module.

Said object is achieved by a unit having the features of the above aspect.

The unit according to an example has at least one container module. The container module comprises at least one coffee bean container and a portioning device for metering coffee beans, wherein the container module as a whole is configured for connection to a coffee apparatus. Said connection makes possible a metered delivery of coffee beans from the container module into a grinder of the coffee apparatus. The coffee bean container filled with coffee beans is tightly closed prior to a first use and, after an initial opening operation, said container has an opening through which coffee beans enter into the portioning device. In this case, during intended use of the container module with a coffee apparatus, the coffee bean container is arranged over the portioning device. The coffee bean container is coupled with the portioning device in a releasable and reconnectable manner. A coupling element is arranged around the opening, said element being used for connection to the portioning device, wherein the opening can be closed again when the coffee bean container is separated from the portioning device.

By virtue of said releasable connection of coffee bean container and portioning device, it is possible for the coffee beans to be provided already in a prefabricated container. Prior to use, the consumer needs merely to establish the connection to the portioning device. In addition, when not in use, it is not necessary for the entire container module to be stored in the refrigerator or at another suitable location. The coffee bean container can be removed from the portioning device again and can be tightly closed by way of its lid until the next use. Furthermore, the portioning device can be used multiple times, even if the coffee bean container is formed as a disposable packaging. However, the coffee bean container can preferably likewise be used several times. By way of example, the container can also be refilled again at a coffee supplier, for example a roaster. Preferably, the coffee bean container is manufactured from a stiff or semi-stiff material. Preferably, the coffee bean container is manufactured from metal, glass or PET. In other examples, the coffee bean container has a soft or flexible main body. By way of example, said coffee bean container is a coffee pouch or a bag. The main body is connected to the coupling element in a fixed or releasable manner. By way of example, said coupling element is a threaded ring, which can be fastened

to the coffee pouch or to the bag or has already been fastened, at the point of sale, to the coffee pouch or to the bag.

Said simple releasable connection is possible since the coffee bean container does not need
5 to be plugged directly onto the coffee machine or onto the coffee mill. In this case, specifically during the plugging-on operation, the opening would be directed downward in an unprotected manner and the coffee beans would fall out. In the apparatus according to the invention, the coffee bean container, with upwardly directed opening, can be connected to the overturned portioning device, and the assembled container module must only then be
10 turned over for mounting on the coffee apparatus. The opening is then protected by the portioning device, and the coffee beans held in the module.

In a simple example, the container filled with coffee beans is covered, sealed or welded with a film, or closed in some other way. After separation from the portioning device, said
15 container can likewise be closed again. This can in turn be carried out, for example, by adhesive bonding, welding, folding over container edges, or in another manner.

However, in a preferred example, the unit has a lid for closing the container. Depending on the example, said lid is used for closing purposes only after the first use or already prior to
20 the first use.

In a simple example, the lid is a removable air-tight and aroma-tight film. In another example, the lid can be pushed back onto the coffee bean container in an air-tight manner. In other examples, a second coupling element is present for the tight connection. In preferred
25 examples, the coupling element which is used for connection to the portioning device is also used for the tight connection to the lid.

In a preferred example, the coupling element is a first thread, and the portioning device has a matching second thread which can be brought into engagement with the first thread. This
30 is a simple, stable and cost-effective type of connection. Preferably, the lid has a third thread which can be brought into engagement with the first thread. This also minimizes the production costs and is also simple to handle.

Preferably, the coffee bean container is of closed configuration, except for the opening.

Preferably, the base which lies opposite is thus closed and cannot be removed in a destruction-free manner. In other examples, said base likewise has a removable lid. In a preferred example, the container is of substantially circular cylindrical configuration. It preferably has an internal diameter. These configurations make it possible to produce a
5 simple and cost-effective container. Preferably, said container is configured, together with the lid, so as to be stackable. In a preferred example, said container has the form of a plain jam jar, wherein the dimensions of said container also correspond approximately to a jar of this kind. The storage capacity thereof is preferably 100 g to 250 g and more preferably about 160 g.

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Preferably, the portioning device substantially has a circular cylindrical outer contour. Preferably, the outer contours of the portioning device and of the coffee bean container are aligned, or the coffee bean container has a slightly smaller external diameter.

15 The portioning device can be configured in various ways. Depending on the example, it corresponds to one of the portioning devices known from the prior art. However, it preferably corresponds to a portioning device as has been described and disclosed in the unpublished European patent applications mentioned in the introduction. Said portioning device therefore preferably has a first setting means, preferably a first setting ring, by means of which a
20 metering of the coffee beans can be manually selected. In the interior, said portioning device preferably has a metering chamber for this purpose, which can be varied in terms of its capacity by way of the first setting means.

In a simple example, the container module is composed of the coffee bean container and the
25 portioning device. However, in preferred example, the container module furthermore has a grinding degree setting device for the selectable setting of the grinding degree. When the container module is connected to the grinder, the grinding degree setting device affects the grinder. The portioning device is preferably arranged between the coffee bean container and the grinding degree setting device. The grinding
30 degree setting device preferably has a second setting means, preferably a second setting ring, by means of which the grinding degree can be manually selected. However, the grinding degree device can also be realized by other means. By way of example, the container module can be provided with an RFID tag with data for the setting of the grinding degree, and the coffee apparatus has a corresponding reader. Different types of grinding degrees setting

devices can be used. Preferably, grinding degree setting devices as have been described in the unpublished EP applications mentioned in the introduction are used. In the variants described therein, manual setting by way of the setting means, in particular the setting ring, is also preferred.

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The grinder is preferably designed, and/or is preferably operated, such that, after each grinding operation, it is emptied completely and no ground coffee powder remains in the grinder. Solutions for this are well known and are therefore not described in detail here.

- 10 The entire container module preferably has a substantially cylindrical outer contour. If a grinding degree setting device is present, said portion preferably also has said outer contour. This results in a simple, space-saving design, which increases the flexibility in the development of new coffee apparatuses and which makes it possible to store the container modules in a simple manner when they are not in use.

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The coffee bean container of such a unit according to the invention is preferably of circular cylindrical and one-piece configuration, having a closed base and having the opening opposite the base. The opening is surrounded by an external thread, and the lid has a matching internal thread.

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In another preferred example, the coffee bean container is a bag having an edge which surrounds an opening of the coffee bean container, wherein the coupling element has a lower ring for connection to the portioning device and an upper ring and wherein the edge of the coffee bean container, in the open state of the coffee bean container, is held in a clamped

- 25 manner between the upper and the lower ring.

Further examples are specified in the present disclosure.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described below with reference to the drawings, which serve merely for explanation and are not to be interpreted as limiting. In the drawings:

- figure 1 shows a perspective illustration of a coffee bean container according to the invention with lid;
- 5 figure 2 shows a longitudinal section through the coffee bean container with lid as per figure 1;
- figure 3 shows a perspective illustration of the coffee bean container as per figure 1, without lid;
- 10 figure 4 shows a perspective illustration of the coffee bean container as per figure 1 when assembled with the portioning device and the grinding degree setting device to form a container module;
- 15 figure 5 shows a side view of the container module according to the invention as per figure 4 in a use position;
- figure 6 shows a longitudinal section through the container module as per figure 5;
- 20 figure 7 shows a longitudinal section through a variant of the container module as per figure 6 in use with a coffee mill;
- figure 8 shows a perspective illustration of a coffee mill with two container modules according to the invention as per figure 5;
- 25 figure 9 shows a perspective exploded illustration of a coffee bean container according to the invention in a further embodiment;
- figure 10 shows a longitudinal section through the coffee bean container as per figure 9; and
- 30 figure 11 shows an enlarged detail of the coffee bean container as per figure 10.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate a can 1 according to the invention with a coffee bean container 10 and a lid 12. The coffee bean container 10 is manufactured from a rigid or semi-rigid material, for example glass, metal or a plastic, for example PET. The lid 12 is preferably
5 manufactured from PET, another plastic or from metal. The lid 12 is round and flat. The container 10 is of circular cylindrical form with a flat base. Said container defines an interior space 13 having a constant internal diameter up to and including the outlet opening thereof. The container 10 is preferably of one-piece configuration. Said container has, at the upper free end thereof, a coupling element 11, here in the form of an external thread which can be
10 brought into engagement with an internal thread of the lid 12. The external thread 11 can be readily recognized in figure 3.

Coffee beans can be stored in the coffee bean container 10. In a customary manner, the container 10 can correspondingly have writing on its outer side in order to provide
15 information about its contents.

Instead of the connection to the lid 12, the coffee bean container 10 can be assembled with a module part to form a container module M. To this end, said container is oriented with its opening toward the top, and the module part, here being composed of a portioning device 2
20 and a grinding degree setting device 3, is attached to the container 10. As can be seen in figure 6, the module part, here a main body 20 of the portioning device 2, has a corresponding internal thread, such that the module part 2, 3, instead of the lid 12, can be screwed onto the container 10.

25 The container module M, in particular the portioning device 2 and the grinding degree setting device 3, can be readily recognized in figures 4 to 6. The portioning device 2 is used to meter the coffee beans which, as per figures 5 and 6, in the use position, then fall from above out of the container 10 into the portioning device 2. To this end, the beans fall onto an oblique surface 23 of the portioning device 2 and further into a metering chamber 24. The size of
30 said metering chamber 24 can be changed by means of a first setting ring 21. The first setting ring 21 preferably surrounds the main body 20. Specifically, in this exemplary embodiment, as a result of rotation of the first setting ring 21, two rotary disks are displaced relative to one another in the longitudinal direction of the module such that the volume of the metering chamber 24 changes. In this case, the position of the main body 20 does not change, in

particular it is not co-rotated. A mark 22 on the main body 20 indicates how far the first setting ring 21 has been rotated.

5 The grinding degree setting device 3, which is arranged under the portioning device 2 in the use position, is used, when coupled to a coffee apparatus, to correspondingly set the grinder therein. In the majority of embodiments, this means that the spacing between the grinding disks 43, 44 of the grinder 4 is changed and set according to the grinding degree setting device (see figure 7). The grinding degree setting device 3 likewise has a main body 30, which is preferably fixedly connected to the main body 20 of the portioning device or is even
10 configured in one piece therewith. The two main bodies 20, 30 are preferably of circular cylindrical configuration and preferably have the same external diameter. The grinding degree setting device 3 preferably has a second setting ring 31 which surrounds the main body 30. A mark 32 on the main body 30 is used to identify the selected rotary position of the setting ring 31 relative to the main body 30.

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In the interior of the main body 30 of the grinding degree setting device 3, there is arranged a mechanism which permits a pre-setting of the grinding degree and which, when coupled to a coffee apparatus, preferably transmits said pre-setting to the grinder 4 in a mechanical manner. The mechanism is preferably composed of a plurality of gear wheels and toothings,
20 which are adjusted in terms of their position relative to one another by means of the second setting ring 31. The mechanism is not described in detail here. Various embodiments for this are explained in a comprehensive manner in the two unpublished European patent applications mentioned in the introduction. In figure 6, a first gear wheel of the mechanism is provided with the reference designation 34, and an internal gear rim with the reference
25 designation 36. A rotating ring, which is used to transmit the setting to the grinder, bears the reference designation 33. A drive axle receptacle 37 is configured to be open toward the bottom and is used for connection to a drive axle 6, which can be readily recognized in figure 7. The drive axle receptacle 37 is connected to the portioning device 2, so that, during use, the metering chamber 24 is emptied into the grinder 4.

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As can be readily recognized in figure 4, the container module M, here the grinding degree setting device 3, has a means for connection to a coffee apparatus. This can likewise be a thread, a snap closure, or another suitable means. In this case, the connection is effected via a bayonet closure 35.

Said connection can be seen in figure 7. The container module M is fastened on a machine housing 8 of the coffee apparatus. The coffee bean container 10 does not correspond to the embodiment described above. It has a fixed connection to the portioning device 2 and has, at the opposite end, an upper lid 14. According to the invention, use is made not of said container 10 but rather of the container 10 as described above, and the connection to the portioning device 2 is correspondingly adapted, that is to say is configured so as to be releasable in a destruction-free manner and so as to be reconnectable.

10 The housing 8 has a passage opening 870, which is arranged below an outlet of the container module M, more precisely of the metering chamber 24, and thus creates a connection from the metering chamber 24 to the grinder 4. The grinder 4 having a first and a second grinding disk 43, 44 is arranged in the housing 8. The grinding disks 43, 44 are preferably arranged at a spacing from one another in the vertical direction. The spacing defines the grinding degree and thus the fineness of the coffee grounds obtained from the coffee beans. A setting disk 41 of the grinder 4 is operatively connected to the grinding degree setting device 3, preferably to the rotating ring 33. If the container module M is mounted on the housing 8, then the grinding degree setting device 3 rotates the setting ring 41. A bevel gear of the setting ring 41 engages into a beveled toothing of a union nut 42 and rotates the latter. As a result, the first grinding disk 43 which is held in the union nut is displaced relative to the second grinding disk 44. The spacing therebetween changes and the desired grinding degree is set. The changing spacing between flanges of the two grinding disks 43, 44 is provided with the reference designation 45, and the changing spacing between the two grinding disks 43, 44 themselves is designated with the reference designation 46. The two spacings have a relationship to one another.

The second grinding disk 44 is driven by means of a grinder motor 5. The grinder motor 5 is usually an electric motor. It has a motor axle 50 which rotates a conveying rotor 47 with external conveying spiral. The conveying rotor 47 drives the second grinding disk 44.

The coffee apparatus has a second electric motor (not illustrated here), which drives the drive axle 6 prior to or during actuation of the grinder 4. As a result, the metering chamber 24 is rotated, and it opens an outlet via an infeed duct 40 of the grinder 4. The metered quantity of coffee beans slides, due to gravity, into the infeed duct 40 and is conveyed, from there,

between the two grinding disks 43, 44 by means of the conveying rotor 47. The resulting coffee grounds move through the outlet duct 48 into the next region of the coffee apparatus. If the apparatus is a coffee brewing machine, the coffee grounds move into the brewing region. If the apparatus is a coffee mill, then the coffee grounds move into an outlet 81 of the apparatus.

Figure 8 illustrates a preferred example of a coffee mill in combination with two container modules M, M' according to the invention. The coffee mill has the abovementioned housing 8. The housing 8 has a main body 80, in which the grinder 4, the electric motor 5, possible control devices and possible further elements of the coffee mill are arranged. The interior thereof is preferably configured correspondingly to figure 7.

The main body 80 preferably has a pedestal 86 with feet 860. Other types of configuration of the housing 8 are likewise possible. The main body 80 protrudes from the pedestal 86 on one side. In said region, said main body has the downwardly directed outlet 81, through which the coffee grounds are extracted. A screen support receptacle 82 is arranged below the outlet 81, in order to receive a screen support of a coffee brewing machine. Below the screen support receptacle 82, there is preferably a collecting tray 85 in order to collect possible scattered coffee grounds.

Preferably, in the region of the screen support receptacle 82, there is an actuating lever 83 which is actuated as a result of the bearing of a screen support and which, via the control device, actuates the grinder 4, that is to say activates the coffee mill.

On a top side 87 of the main body 80, there are arranged two receptacles 88, 89 for two container modules M, M'. Said receptacles are formed correspondingly to the coupling means of the container module M, M'. They are preferably of identical configuration, such that both container modules M, M' can be selectively connected to one of the two receptacles 88, 89. In this example, they are bayonet closures. The first receptacle 88 has the mentioned passage opening 870 to the infeed duct 40 and thus to the grinder 4. The second receptacle 89 is of blind configuration, that is to say it is used merely for bearing and fixing the second container module M' and it has no connection to the interior space and to the grinder of the coffee mill.

Figures 9 to 11 illustrate a further embodiment of a coffee bean container according to the invention. Here, the coffee bean container 10 is configured in the form of a flexible or soft bag. Said bag has an edge 101 which surrounds an opening which, prior to the first use, is preferably closed in an air-tight manner.

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In a preferred embodiment, a compressive closure, also referred to as Minigrip, is present, as is known in the prior art for food bags, for example for nuts. To this end, the bag usually has, adjacent to the opening, a sealing rib 102 with a matching opposite groove, which makes it possible to re-close the coffee bean container in an air-tight manner. As a result of the two mutually opposite sides of the bag being pressed against one another, the sealing rib 102 engages into the groove and the bag is tightly closed again as a result. In other embodiments, the bag can be re-closed in another manner if said bag is removed from the portioning device 2, or no special means for re-closing are provided.

15 As has already been described in a comprehensive manner above, the coffee bean container 10 can be used in the container module, wherein the container module can be connected to a coffee apparatus, for example a coffee mill or a coffee machine, in a releasable manner.

In turn, the coupling element 11 is used for connection to the rest of the container module.

20 In this example, the coupling element 11 is configured in the form of a separate part. It has a lower ring 115 and an upper ring 114. The lower ring 115 has, at a first end, the thread 113 for connection to the thread of the portioning device 2. Preferably, the thread 113 of the lower ring 115 is an external thread. The lower ring 115 has a circumferential flange 110, from which a conical region 111 extends as far as the second end of the lower ring 115. The conical region 111 is of planar configuration or it has ribs 112, nubs or small toothings over at least a part of the height thereof, as is the case in this example.

The lower ring 115 has a passage opening 130, which is aligned with the opening of the coffee bean container 10 and thus creates a connection between the interior space 13 of the container 10 and the metering device 2, said connection being constantly open when the container 10 has been mounted .

30 The upper ring 114 is, on its inner side, likewise of conical configuration and forms the counterpart to the cone of the lower ring 115. The outer side preferably runs parallel to the

longitudinal center axis, such that the upper ring 114 has a thickness which decreases toward the bottom in the direction of the flange 110 of the lower ring 115. Depending on the embodiment, the inner surface of the upper ring 115 is of planar configuration or it likewise has ribs, nubs or small toothings.

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During use, after the coffee bean container 10 has been opened, the edge 101 of said coffee bean container can be put over the conical region 111 and the ribs 112 of the lower ring 115. So that the coffee beans do not fall out of the bag, the opening of the bag is in this case directed upward, that is to say in the direction opposite to that illustrated in the figures.

10 Subsequently, the upper ring 114 is pushed over the coffee bean container 10 and the conical region 111 of the lower ring 115, such that the edge 101 of the bag is clamped between the two rings 114, 115. The bag and the coupling element 11 can subsequently be jointly connected to the portioning device 2, and this also happens with an upwardly directed opening 130 of the coupling element 11, that is to say once again differently than illustrated
15 in the figures.

In figure 9, the bag is illustrated in a realistic manner with a soft surface. In figure 10, said bag is illustrated schematically with a rectilinear surface, which, in reality, is hardly ever the case with soft bags.

20 In order to remove the bag again, the upper ring 114 can be pushed away from the lower ring 115 again, such that the edge 101 of the bag is freed, and said bag can be removed in a simple manner, re-closed for a subsequent use, or, if empty, discarded.

This embodiment has the advantage that the coffee beans can be offered in bags of this kind
25 in stores, and these bags, labeled with expiration date and content information, can be used in the container module with the portioning device.

The unit according to the invention makes it possible to handle and enjoy coffee in a cost-effective and environmentally aware manner.

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LIST OF REFERENCE DESIGNATIONS

1	Can	37	Drive axle receptacle
10	Coffee bean container		
101	Edge	4	Grinder
102	Sealing rib	40	Infeed duct
11	Coupling element	41	Setting disk
110	Flange	42	Union nut
111	Conical region	43	First grinding disk
112	Ribs	44	Second grinding disk
113	Thread	45	First spacing
114	Upper ring	46	Second spacing
115	Lower ring	47	Conveying rotor
12	Lid	48	Outlet duct
13	Interior space		
130	Opening	5	Grinder motor
14	Upper lid	50	Motor axle
2	Portioning device	6	Drive axle
20	Main body		
21	First setting ring	8	Machine housing
22	Mark	80	Main body
23	Oblique surface	81	Outlet
24	Metering chamber	82	Screen support receptacle
		83	Actuating handle
3	Grinding degree setting device	85	Collecting tray
		86	Pedestal
30	Main body	860	Foot
31	Second setting ring	87	Top side
32	Mark	870	Passage opening
33	Rotating ring	88	First receptacle
34	Gear wheel	89	Second receptacle
35	Bayonet closure		
36	Internal gear rim	M	First container module

M' Second container module

CLAIMS

1. A unit having a container module, wherein the container module comprises at least one coffee bean container and a portioning device for metering coffee beans, wherein the container module as a whole is configured for connection to a coffee apparatus, wherein said connection makes possible a metered delivery of coffee beans from the container module into a grinder of the coffee apparatus and wherein the coffee bean container is tightly closed prior to the first use and, after an opening operation, has an opening through which coffee beans enter into the portioning device, and wherein, during intended use of the container module with a coffee apparatus, the coffee bean container is arranged over the portioning device, characterized in that the coffee bean container is coupled with the portioning device in a releasable and reconnectable manner, in that a coupling element is arranged around the opening, said element being used for connection to the portioning device, and in that the opening can be closed again when the coffee bean container is separated from the portioning device.
2. The unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coupling element is a first thread and wherein the portioning device has a matching second thread which can be brought into engagement with the first thread.
3. The unit as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, wherein the unit has a lid for closing the container.
4. The unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coupling element is used for connection to the lid.
5. The unit as claimed in claim 4, wherein the lid has a third thread which can be brought into engagement with the first thread.
6. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the coffee bean container is of closed configuration, except for the opening.
7. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the coffee bean container is of

substantially circular cylindrical configuration.

8. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the coffee bean container has a constant internal diameter.
9. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the coffee bean container is manufactured from a stiff or semi-stiff material.
10. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the coffee bean container is a flexible or soft bag and wherein the coupling element has a ring with a thread for connection to the portioning device.
11. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the portioning device substantially has a circular cylindrical outer contour.
12. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the portioning device has a first setting means, by means of which a metering of the coffee beans can be manually selected.
13. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the container module furthermore has a grinding degree setting device for the selectable setting of the grinding degree, wherein, when the container module is connected to the grinder, the grinding degree setting device affects the grinder.
14. The unit as claimed in claim 13, wherein the portioning device is arranged between the coffee bean container and the grinding degree setting device.
15. The unit as claimed in either of claims 13 and 14, wherein the grinding degree setting device has a second setting means, by means of which the grinding degree can be manually selected.
16. The unit as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the container module has a substantially cylindrical outer contour.