Claims

1. A method for dispensing ground coffee for preparing a coffee beverage, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a machine (110), which comprises 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), and a grinder (30) for receiving coffee beans, which are dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), the grinder (30) being configured to move into different grinding positions for different grinding degrees, respectively,
- storing 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),
- setting up the grinder (30) so that the grinder (30) is in a specific grinding position,
- dispensing, with the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), a specific amount of coffee beans to the grinder (30) subsequent to the step of setting up the grinder (30), and
- grinding, with the grinder (30), said specific amount of coffee beans and, thus, dispensing the so ground coffee beans until the grinder (30) is free from coffee beans

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of moving the grinder (30), preferably with a driving unit such as a motor, in one of the different grinding positions subsequent to the step of grinding.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, 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) and,~~.~~

~~**4.** The~~ wherein the method ~~according to claim 3,~~ further ~~comprising~~ comprises the step of varying said distance in order to move the grinding elements (31, 32) and thus the grinder (30) between the different grinding positions.

~~5. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the machine (110) comprises only one grinder (30).~~

~~6. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of detaching the grinder (30), such as by detaching the grinder (30) from the driving unit.~~

~~7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the grinder (30) is of a conical burr type or of a flat burr type.~~

~~8.~~4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the grinder (30) grinds the coffee beans with a constant and/or variable velocity.

~~9.~~5. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the steps of:

- sensing a presence of coffee beans received by the grinder (30) and
- operating the grinder (30) for grinding at least during the sensing of the presence of the coffee beans, e.g. until a non-presence of coffee beans received by the grinder (30) is sensed.

~~10.~~6. The method according to claim ~~9~~5, further comprising the steps of:

- sensing a force and/or torque, which is applied for operating the grinder (30) for grinding, and
- stopping the grinding if the sensed force and/or torque falls below a defined threshold value.

~~11.~~7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the steps of:

- inputting a specific control input and
- moving the grinder (30) into one of the different grinding positions based on said specific control input, and/or
- dispensing, with the one or more of the dosing devices (60, 70), a specific amount of coffee beans based on said specific control input.

~~12.~~8. The method according to claim ~~11~~7, wherein the control input is a recipe, in particular a recipe for a coffee beverage to be prepared.

~~13. The method according to claim 11 or 12, the machine (110) further comprising a user interface (90) for inputting the control input.~~

~~14.~~9. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of forcing, such as with a retaining element, coffee beans, which are received by 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.

~~15.~~10. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, 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), wherein the method preferably further comprises the step of removing at least one of the one or more receptacles (13, 14) and the respective dosing device (60, 70) as a whole unit.

~~16.~~11. The method 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, and
wherein storing the coffee beans in the receptacles (13, 14) comprises storing the coffee beans in a tight atmosphere.

~~17.~~12. The method 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 receptacles (13, 14).

~~18.~~13. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the steps of measuring, with a measuring unit (80), the amount of coffee beans, which are dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70), and sending signals, with the measuring unit (80), indicative of the measured amount of dispensed coffee beans.

~~19.~~14. The method according to claim ~~18~~13, wherein the measuring unit (80) measures the volume and/or weight and/or number of the coffee beans, dispensed by the one or more dosing devices (60, 70).

~~20.~~15. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the steps of:

- measuring, with a weighing unit (50), the weight of the ground coffee, which is ground and dispensed by the grinder (30), and

- sending signals, with the weighing unit (50), indicative of the measured weight of received ground coffee,

wherein the method preferably further comprises the step of:

- operating the grinder (30) 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).

~~21.~~16. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of receiving, by a brewing unit, ground coffee beans, which are dispensed by the grinder (30).