CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A scent warmer, comprising:

a base structure, comprising:

an at least substantially hollow lower portion having at least one sidewall; and

a scented material-holding portion disposed over the at least substantially hollow lower portion;

an electrical heat source disposed at least substantially within the at least substantially hollow lower portion and positioned proximate the scented material-holding portion; and

a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least substantially within the at least substantially hollow lower portion.

2. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the at least one sidewall comprises at least one hole therethrough configured to allow at least some light to pass therethrough.

3. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the at least a portion of the at least one sidewall comprises a material and structure exhibiting less than 100% opacity.

4. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the scented material-holding portion is removable from the at least substantially hollow lower portion.

5. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a power supply input element configured and connected to provide power to the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source.

6. The scent warmer of claim 5, further comprising circuitry configured to control at least one of flickering and intensity of light of the filamentless electrical light source.

7. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a heat plate located between the scented material-holding portion and the electrical heat source.

8. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising structural components sized and configured to hold the filamentless electrical light source and the electrical heat source in place within the at least substantially hollow lower portion.

9. The scent warmer of claim 8, wherein the structural components comprise:

at least one screw;

at least one bracket coupled to the screw;

a lower opening cover through which the screw passes; and

at least one nut complementary to and engaged with the screw.

10. The scent warmer of claim 9, wherein the at least one screw engages with both the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source.

11. The scent warmer of claim 9, wherein the at least one screw engages with the filamentless electrical light source, and further comprising at least another screw that engages with the electrical heat source.

12. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the scented material-holding portion and the at least substantially hollow lower portion are rigidly coupled together.

13. The scent warmer of claim 12, wherein the scented material-holding portion and the base structure lower portion comprise a unitary structure.

14. The scent warmer of claim 11, wherein the electrical heat source is positioned proximate the scented material-holding portion, and the filamentless electrical light source is positioned proximate an opposing end of at least substantially hollow lower portion.

15. A method of warming scented material, comprising:
coupling an electrical heat source disposed at least partially within a base structure with a plate having scented material disposed at least partially thereon;
heating the plate having scented material disposed at least partially thereon by providing electrical power to the electrical heat source; and
producing light by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least partially within the base structure.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising allowing at least some of the light produced by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source to pass through the base structure.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein allowing at least some of the light to pass through the base structure comprises forming at least a portion of a sidewall of the base structure to comprise a material that exhibits less than 100% opacity.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein allowing at least some of the light to pass through the base structure comprises forming at least one hole in a sidewall of the base structure.

19. The method of any one of claims 15 through 18, further comprising causing the light produced by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least partially within the base structure to vary in intensity.

20. A method of forming a scent warmer, comprising:

electrically connecting a power supply to a filamentless electrical light source and to an electrical heat source;

coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure, the electrical heat source disposed at least substantially inside a lower portion of the base structure;

disposing the filamentless electrical light source at least partially within the lower portion of the base structure; and

disposing a scented material-holding portion proximate the electrical heat source.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein electrically connecting a power supply to a filamentless electrical light source comprises electrically connecting a power supply to at least one of a light-emitting diode (LED) and a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL).

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising forming at least one hole through the lower portion of the base structure.

23. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, further comprising selecting a material of at least a portion of the lower portion of the base structure to exhibit less than 100% opacity.

24. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, wherein coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure comprises coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a heat plate comprising a metal or metallic material.

25. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, wherein coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure comprises coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of the scented material-holding portion of the base structure.

AMENDED CLAIMS
received by the International Bureau on 28 February 2012 (28.02.2012)

What is claimed is:

1. A scent warmer, comprising:

a base structure, comprising:

an at least substantially hollow lower portion having at least one sidewall; and

a scented material-holding portion disposed over the at least substantially hollow lower portion;

an electrical heat source disposed at least substantially within the at least substantially hollow lower portion and positioned proximate the scented material-holding portion; a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least substantially within the at least substantially hollow lower portion; and

structural components sized and configured to hold the filamentless electrical light source and the electrical heat source in place within the at least substantially hollow lower portion, the structural components comprising:

at least one screw extending approximately centrally through the at least substantially hollow lower portion of the base structure, wherein the at least one screw is engaged with both the filamentless electrical light source and the electrical heat source.

2. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the at least one sidewall comprises at least one hole therethrough configured to allow at least some light to pass therethrough.

3. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the at least a portion of the at least one sidewall comprises a material and structure exhibiting less than 100% opacity.

4. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the scented material-holding portion is removable from the at least substantially hollow lower portion.

5. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a power supply input element configured and connected to provide power to the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source.

6. The scent warmer of claim 5, further comprising circuitry configured to control at least one of flickering and intensity of light of the filamentless electrical light source.

7. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a heat plate located between the scented material-holding portion and the electrical heat source.

8. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein an end of the at least one screw abuts against the electrical heat source.

9. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the structural components further comprise:
at least one bracket coupled to the screw;
a lower opening cover through which the screw passes; and
at least one nut complementary to and engaged with the screw.

10. The scent warmer of claim 9, wherein at least one of the filamentless electrical light source, the electrical heat source, the lower opening cover, and the at least one bracket includes a threaded portion complementary to the at least one screw.

11. The scent warmer of claim 1, further comprising at least another screw engaged with the electrical light source.

12. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the scented material-holding portion and the at least substantially hollow lower portion are rigidly coupled together.

13. The scent warmer of claim 12, wherein the scented material-holding portion and the base structure lower portion comprise a unitary structure.

14. The scent warmer of claim 11, wherein the electrical heat source is positioned proximate the scented material-holding portion, and the filamentless electrical light source is positioned proximate an opposing end of at least substantially hollow lower portion.

15. A method of warming scented material, comprising:
coupling an electrical heat source disposed at least partially within a base structure with a plate having scented material disposed at least partially thereon, wherein coupling an electrical heat source with a plate comprises pushing the electrical heat source against the plate with a screw that extends approximately centrally through the base structure;
heating the plate having scented material disposed at least partially thereon by providing electrical power to the electrical heat source; and
producing light by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least partially within the base structure.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising allowing at least some of the light produced by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source to pass through the base structure.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein allowing at least some of the light to pass through the base structure comprises forming at least a portion of a sidewall of the base structure to comprise a material that exhibits less than 100% opacity.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein allowing at least some of the light to pass through the base structure comprises forming at least one hole in a sidewall of the base structure.

19. The method of any one of claims 15 through 18, further comprising causing the light produced by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least partially within the base structure to vary in intensity.

20. A method of forming a scent warmer, comprising:

electrically connecting a power supply to a filamentless electrical light source and to an electrical heat source;

coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure, the electrical heat source disposed at least substantially inside a lower portion of the base structure;

disposing the filamentless electrical light source at least partially within the lower portion of the base structure;

engaging a centrally-located screw with both the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source to hold the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source in place relative to the base structure; and

disposing a scented material-holding portion proximate the electrical heat source.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein electrically connecting a power supply to a filamentless electrical light source comprises electrically connecting a power supply to at least one of a light-emitting diode (LED) and a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL).

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising forming at least one hole through the lower portion of the base structure.

23. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, further comprising selecting a material of at least a portion of the lower portion of the base structure to exhibit less than 100% opacity.

24. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, wherein coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure comprises coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a heat plate comprising a metal or metallic material.

25. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, wherein coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure comprises coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of the scented material-holding portion of the base structure.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A scent warmer, comprising:

a base structure, comprising:

an at least substantially hollow lower portion having at least one sidewall; and

a scented material-holding portion disposed over the at least substantially hollow lower portion;

an electrical heat source disposed at least substantially within the at least substantially hollow lower portion and positioned proximate the scented material-holding portion;

a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least substantially within the at least substantially hollow lower portion; and

structural components sized and configured to hold the filamentless electrical light source and the electrical heat source in place within the at least substantially hollow lower portion, the structural components comprising:

at least one screw extending approximately centrally through the at least substantially hollow lower portion of the base structure, wherein the at least one screw is engaged with both the filamentless electrical light source and the electrical heat source.

2. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the at least substantially hollow lower portion of the base structure comprises a lower opening into the at least substantially hollow lower portion, and wherein the filamentless electrical light source is disposed within the at least substantially hollow lower portion and above the lower opening.

3. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the at least a portion of the at least one sidewall comprises a material and structure exhibiting less than 100% opacity.

4. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the scented material-holding portion is removable from the at least substantially hollow lower portion.

5. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a power supply input element configured and connected to provide power to the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source.

6. The scent warmer of claim 5, further comprising circuitry configured to control at least one of flickering and intensity of light of the filamentless electrical light source.

7. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, further comprising a heat plate located between the scented material-holding portion and the electrical heat source.

8. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein an end of the at least one screw abuts against the electrical heat source.

9. The scent warmer of claim 1, wherein the structural components further comprise:
at least one bracket coupled to the screw;
a lower opening cover through which the screw passes; and
at least one nut complementary to and engaged with the screw.

10. The scent warmer of claim 9, wherein at least one of the filamentless electrical light source, the electrical heat source, the lower opening cover, and the at least one bracket includes a threaded portion complementary to the at least one screw.

11. The scent warmer of claim 1, further comprising at least another screw engaged with the electrical light source.

12. The scent warmer of any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the scented material-holding portion and the at least substantially hollow lower portion are rigidly coupled together.

13. The scent warmer of claim 12, wherein the scented material-holding portion and the base structure lower portion comprise a unitary structure.

14. The scent warmer of claim 11, wherein the electrical heat source is positioned proximate the scented material-holding portion, and the filamentless electrical light source is positioned proximate an opposing end of at least substantially hollow lower portion.

15. A method of warming scented material, comprising:

coupling an electrical heat source disposed at least partially within a base structure with a plate having scented material disposed at least partially thereon, wherein coupling an electrical heat source with a plate comprises pushing the electrical heat source against the plate with a screw that extends approximately centrally through the base structure;

heating the plate having scented material disposed at least partially thereon by providing electrical power to the electrical heat source; and

producing light by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least partially within the base structure.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein producing light comprises producing light by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed within the base structure and above a lower opening of the base structure.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein allowing at least some of the light to pass through the base structure comprises forming at least a portion of a sidewall of the base structure to comprise a material that exhibits less than 100% opacity.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein allowing at least some of the light to pass through the base structure comprises forming at least one hole in a sidewall of the base structure.

19. The method of any one of claims 15 through 18, further comprising causing the light produced by providing electrical power to a filamentless electrical light source disposed at least partially within the base structure to vary in intensity.

20. A method of forming a scent warmer, comprising:

electrically connecting a power supply to a filamentless electrical light source and to an electrical heat source;

coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure, the electrical heat source disposed at least substantially inside a lower portion of the base structure;

disposing the filamentless electrical light source at least partially within the lower portion of the base structure;

engaging a centrally-located screw with both the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source to hold the electrical heat source and the filamentless electrical light source in place relative to the base structure; and

disposing a scented material-holding portion proximate the electrical heat source.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein electrically connecting a power supply to a filamentless electrical light source comprises electrically connecting a power supply to at least one of a light-emitting diode (LED) and a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), wherein the filamentless electrical light source is disposed within the lower portion of the base structure and above a lower opening of the base structure.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising forming at least one hole through the lower portion of the base structure.

23. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, further comprising selecting a material of at least a portion of the lower portion of the base structure to exhibit less than 100% opacity.

24. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, wherein coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure comprises coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a heat plate comprising a metal or metallic material.

25. The method of any one of claims 20 through 22, wherein coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of a plate of a base structure comprises coupling the electrical heat source to a surface of the scented material-holding portion of the base structure.