# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM 8-K

# CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 3, 2007

## THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

**Delaware** (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) 1-9973 (Commission File Number)

36-3352497 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

1400 Toastmaster Drive, Elgin, Illinois 60120

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

(847) 741-3300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing

obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

# Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Com pensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On May 3, 2007, the stockholders of The Middleby Corporation (the "Company") approved the Company's 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2007 Plan"). The Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") previously adopted the 2007 Plan subject to stockholder approval. The following summary of the 2007 Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the text of the 2007 Plan, which was previously filed as Appendix C to the Company's proxy statement filed on April 3, 2007.

Administration of the Plan. The Board administers the 2007 Plan. The Board has the authority to make grants and to determine their terms; provided, however, that the selection of eligible individuals for participation and decisions concerning the timing, pricing and amount of a grant are made solely by a committee consisting of two or more directors who are (a) "non-employee directors" under Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act, (b) "outside directors" under Section 162(m) of the Code and "independent directors" pursuant to Nasdaq requirements. Subject to the provisions of the 2007 Plan, the Board has the authority to interpret the provisions of the 2007 Plan, to adopt any rules, procedures and forms necessary for the operation and administration of the 2007 Plan, and to determine all questions relating to the eligibility and other rights of all persons under the 2007 Plan.

*Eligibility*. All employees of the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates are eligible to be participants. The Company's non-employee directors as well non-employee service providers are also eligible to be selected for grants under the 2007 Plan.

Shares Available for Grant; Individual Award Limits. The Board has authorized up to 100,000 shares of common stock for issuance under the 2007 Plan. No more than 100,000 shares may be issued with respect to grants made in any single year to any individual participant. If a grant expires or is canceled, any shares which were not issued or fully vested under the grant at the time of expiration or cancellation will

again be available for grants. Any shares of common stock used for the payment of required tax withholding amounts or the exercise price applicable to a grant, shall count against the total number of shares available for issuance under the 2007 Plan.

Adjustments. The number and kind of shares of common stock available for grants under the 2007 Plan, the number and kind of shares of common stock issued in respect of outstanding grants, the exercise price, grant price or purchase price and any individual limitations applicable to grants are subject to adjustment if there are changes affecting the common stock, such as a merger, consolidation, stock dividend, split-up, combination, or exchange of shares, recapitalization or change in capitalization with respect to the shares of common stock.

**Types of Awards**. The 2007 Plan permits the grant of any or all of the following types of awards: (1) stock options, including incentive stock options, (2) stock appreciation rights ("SARs"), in tandem with stock options or free-standing, (3) restricted stock, and (4) performance stock.

Amendment or Termination of the Plan. The Board may suspend, amend or terminate the 2007 Plan at any time and in such respects as it shall deem advisable, provided that, stockholder approval will be required for any amendment that would: (a) increase the total number of shares available for issuance under the plan, (b) extend the term of the plan, or (c) modify the class of individuals eligible to receive awards of options, SARs, restricted stock or performance stock under the plan. The Board may not amend or terminate the Plan to the extent that such amendment or termination would adversely affect a participant's rights pursuant to an award without the consent of the participant.

Also on May 3, 2007, the Compensation Committee of the Board approved a form of Restricted Stock Agreement (the "RSA") that the Company will use for grants of restricted stock to participants under the 2007 Plan.

The RSA is substantially the same as the RSA that the Company uses for grants under its 1998 Stock Incentive Plan and includes certain performance-based vesting criteria as more fully described therein. The RSA provides for accelerated vesting of awards in the event that the employee is terminated without Cause (as defined in the RSA) or if the employee terminates employment within the six-month period immediately following a Change in Control (as defined in the RSA).

The foregoing summary of the RSA is qualified in its entirety by reference to the RSA, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 10.2 hereto and is incorporated by reference herein.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

#### (c) Exhibits

Exhibit No Description

10.1 The Middleby Corporation 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to

Appendix C of the Company's definitive proxy statement filed with the Securities and

Exchange Commission on April 3, 2007).

10.2 Form of Restricted Stock Agreement for The Middleby Corporation 2007 Stock

Incentive Plan, effective May 3, 2007.

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

#### THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

By: /s/ Timothy J. FitzGerald

Timothy J. FitzGerald Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

### EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No Description

Dated: May 7, 2007

10.1 The Middleby Corporation 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Appendix C of the Company's definitive proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 3, 2007).

Form of Restricted Stock Agreement for The Middleby Corporation 2007 Stock Incentive Plan, effective May 3,2007.

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## THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

#### FORM OF 2007 STOCK INCENTIVE PLAN RESTRICTED STOCK AGREEMENT

RESTRICTED STOCK AGREEMENT		
This RESTRICTED STOCK AGREEMENT (this "Agreement"), dated as of the day of, 20, is entered into by and between The Middleby Corporation, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), Middleby Marshall Inc., a Delaware Corporation ("MMI") (together, the "Employer"), and (the "Grantee" and, together with the Company, the "Parties").		
RECITALS		
Pursuant to the Company's 2007 Stock Incentive Plan (the "Plan"), the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board"), as the administrator of the Plan, has determined to grant to the Grantee restricted shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), on the terms and conditions set forth herein, and hereby grants such restricted shares.		
NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereto agree as follows:		
1. <u>Grant of Restricted Stock.</u> The Grantee is entitled to <u></u>		
2. <u>Restrictions and Restricted Period</u> .		
(a) <u>Restrictions.</u> Shares of Restricted Stock granted hereunder may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged, hypothecated or otherwise disposed of and shall be subject to a risk of forfeiture as described in Section 4 below until the lapse of the Restricted Period (as defined below).		
(b) Restricted Period. The restrictions set forth above shall lapse and the shares of Restricted Stock shall become vested and transferable (provided, that such transfer is otherwise in accordance with federal and state securities laws) as to the number of shares described below on each vesting date described below: one-fifth of the shares of Common Stock shall vest IF the average closing price of the Common Stock for a 30 day period averages \$ or greater on or between the dates of, 20 and, 20; one-fifth of the shares of the Common Stock shall vest IF the average closing price of the Common Stock for a 30 day period averages \$ or greater on or between the dates of, 20 and, 20; one-fifth of the shares of the Common Stock shall vest IF the average closing price of the Common Stock for a 30 day period averages \$ or greater on or between the dates of, 20 and, 20; one-fifth of the shares of the Common Stock shall vest IF the average closing price of the Common Stock for a 30 day period averages \$ or greater on or between the dates of, 20 and, 20; and one-fifth of the shares of the Common Stock shall vest IF the average closing price of the Common Stock for a 30 day period averages \$ or greater on or between the dates of, 20 and, 20; and one-fifth of the shares of the Common Stock shall vest IF the average closing price of the		
Common Stock for a 30 day period averages \$ or greater on or between the dates of, 20 and, 20; provided that in each case that the Grantee is employed by the Employer on such date (the "Restricted Period"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that, as of the end of any vesting period, the stated vesting condition has not been met, the number of shares that could have vested as of such vesting date shall be forfeited. The number and price of shares of Common Stock set forth in this paragraph 2(b) are subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms of the Plan.  3. Rights of a Stockholder. From and after the Date of Grant and for so long as the Restricted Stock is held by or for the benefit of the Grantee, the Grantee shall have all the rights of a stockholder of the Company with respect to the Restricted Stock, including, but not limited to, the right to receive dividends and the right to vote such shares. If there is any stock dividend, stock split or other change in character or amount of the Restricted Stock, then in such event, any and all new, substituted or additional securities to which Grantee is entitled by reason of the Restricted Stock shall be immediately subject to the Restrictions with the same force and effect as the Restricted Stock subject to such Restrictions immediately before such event.		
4. <u>Cessation of Employment</u> .		
(a) <u>Forfeiture</u> . If the Grantee's employment with the Employer is terminated for any reason other than those set forth in Section 4(b) of this Agreement, then any portion of the Restricted Stock for which the Restricted Period has not lapsed shall be forfeited to the Company without payment of any consideration by the Company, and neither the Grantee nor any of his successors, heirs, assigns, or personal representatives shall thereafter have any further rights or interests in such shares of Restricted Stock.		
(b) Accelerated Vesting. If the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Employer prior to, 20 for reasons other than Cause (as defined in Section 8(a) below) or the Grantee		

terminates his employment within the six-month period immediately following a Change in Control (as defined in Section 8(a) below), by providing written notice of such termination to the Employer, the Restricted Stock shall immediately vest in full.

- 5. <u>Certificates.</u> Restricted Stock granted herein may be evidenced in such manner as the Board shall determine. If certificates representing Restricted Stock are registered in the name of the Grantee, then the Company may retain physical possession of the certificate until the Restricted Period has lapsed.
- 6. <u>Legends</u>. The Company may require, as a condition of the issuance and delivery of certificates evidencing Restricted Stock pursuant to the terms hereof, that the certificates bear the legend as set forth immediately below, in addition to any other legends required under federal and state securities laws or as otherwise determined by the Board. All certificates representing any of the shares of Restricted Stock subject to the provisions of this Agreement shall have endorsed thereon the following legend:

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THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS UPON TRANSFER HELD BY THE ISSUER OR ITS ASSIGNEES(S) AS SET FORTH IN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE HOLDER OF THE SHARES, A COPY OF WHICH IS ON FILE AT THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE COMPANY.

Such legend shall not be removed until such shares vest pursuant to the terms hereof.

7. Taxes. The Grantee shall pay to the Employer promptly upon request, at the time the Grantee recognizes taxable income in respect to the shares of Restricted Stock, an amount equal to the federal, state and/or local taxes the Company determines it is required to withhold under applicable tax laws with respect to the shares of Restricted Stock. In lieu of collecting payment from the Grantee, the Employer may, in its discretion, distribute vested shares of Common Stock net of the number of whole shares of Common Stock the fair market value of which is equal to the minimum amount of federal, state and local taxes required to be withheld under applicable tax laws. The Grantee understands that he (and not the Company) shall be responsible for any tax liability that may arise as a result of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.

#### 8. <u>Miscellaneous</u>.

- (a) <u>Definitions</u>. As used in this Agreement:
- (i) "Cause" shall mean gross negligence, willful misconduct, breach of fiduciary duty involving personal profit, substance abuse, or commission of a felony.
- (ii) "Change of Control" shall mean any twenty-five percentage point increase in the percentage of outstanding voting securities of The Middleby Corporation hereafter held by any person or group of persons who agree to act together for the purpose of acquiring, holding, voting, or disposing of such voting securities as compared to the percentage of outstanding voting securities of The Middleby Corporation held by such person or group of persons on the date hereof.

Example: On February 11, 2007 individual A owns 2.42% of the total outstanding voting securities of The Middleby Corporation. Thereafter, individual A commences a series of open market and private purchases, and on March 1,2007 for the first time his holdings exceed 27.42% of the outstanding voting securities of The Middleby Corporation. A Change of Control occurs on March 1, 2007.

(b) Restrictions on Transfer. Shares of Restricted Stock may not be transferred or otherwise disposed of by the Grantee, including by way of sale, assignment, transfer, pledge, hypothecation or otherwise, except as permitted by the Committee, or by will or the laws of descent and distribution.

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- (c) <u>Compliance with Law and Regulations</u>. The award and any obligation of the Employer hereunder shall be subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations and to such approvals by any government or regulatory agency as may be required. Any purported transfer or sale of the shares of Common Stock shall be subject to restrictions on transfer imposed by any applicable state and federal securities laws. Any transferee shall hold such shares of Common Stock subject to all the provisions hereof and shall acknowledge the same by signing a copy of this Agreement.
  - (d) Invalid Transfers. No purported sale, assignment, mortgage, hypothecation, transfer,

pledge, encumbrance, gift, transfer in trust (voting or other) or other disposition of, or creation of a security interest in or lien on, any of the shares of Restricted Stock by any holder thereof in violation of the provisions of this Restricted Stock Agreement shall be valid, and the Company will not transfer any of said shares of Restricted Stock on its books or otherwise nor will any of said shares of Restricted Stock be entitled to vote, nor will any dividends be paid thereon, unless and until there has been full compliance with said provisions to the satisfaction of the Company. The foregoing restrictions are in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies, legal or equitable, available to enforce said provisions.

remedies, legal or equitable, available to enforce said provi	sions.	
(e) Incorporation of Plan. This Agreement is made under the provisions of the Plan (which is incorporated herein by reference) and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with it. To the extent that this Agreement is silent with respect to, or in any way inconsistent with, the terms of the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall govern and this Restricted Stock Agreement shall be deemed to be modified accordingly.		
(f) Notices. Any notices required or permitted hereunder shall be addressed to the Employer, at its principal offices, or to the Grantee at the address then on record with the Employer, as the case may be, and deposited, postage prepaid, in the United States mail. Either party may, by notice to the other given in the manner aforesaid, change his or its address for future notices.		
(g) <u>Successor</u> . This Agreement shall successors and assigns, and the Grantee and his or her person	bind and inure to the benefit of the Employer, its nal representatives and beneficiaries.	
(h) Governing Law. This Agreement with the laws of the State of Delaware. The Board shall have and this Agreement and to make any and all determinations conclusive upon the Grantee and his personal and legal repunder the Plan or this Agreement.	under them, and its decision shall be binding and	
(i) Amendment. This Agreement may time; provided that notice is provided to the Grantee in acc no amendment or modification that is adverse to the rights be effective unless set forth in a writing signed by the partie	of the Grantee as provided by this Agreement shall	
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have execute written.		
	THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION	
	Name: Title:	
	MIDDLEBY MARSHALL INC.	
	By Name: Title:	
The undersigned hereby accepts and agrees to all the terms	and provisions of the foregoing Agreement.	
Grantee		
Address		