

| OMB APPROVAL | |
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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>WHITMAN BARBARA K</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O MIDDLEBY CORPORATION</u> <u>1400 TOASTMASTER DRIVE</u> (Street) <u>ELGIN IL 60120</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/21/2003</u> | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MIDDLEBY CORP [midd]</u> | |
| | | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock | 536,550 ⁽²⁾ | D | |
| Common Stock | 437,250 ⁽¹⁾ | I | Acting as trustee on behalf of son and daughter |
| Common Stock | 1,643,674 ⁽³⁾ | I | Spouse |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- Represents a transfer of 218,625 common shares for no consideration from a trust for the benefit of W. Fifield Whitman III with Robert R. Henry acting as trustee to a trust for the benefit of W. Fifield Whitman III with Barbara K. Whitman acting as trustee and a transfer of 218,625 common shares for no consideration from a trust for the benefit of Laura B. Whitman with Robert R. Henry acting as trustee to a trust for the benefit of Laura B. Whitman with Barbara K. Whitman acting as trustee.
- Reporting person owns 255,300 in trust for benefit of Barbara K. Whitman with Thomas Danziger acting as trustee and 281,250 shares are owned in a trust for the benefit of Barbara K. Whitman with Barbara K. Whitman acting as trustee.
- Represents shares held in trust by the reporting persons spouse with Thomas Danziger acting as trustee.

Barbara K. Whitman 12/30/2003

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.