FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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 ar  | MID  | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  MIDDLEBY CORP [ midd ] |  |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  | all app<br>Direc  | oplicable)<br>ector                        |          | Person(s) to Issuer |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|------|---|---|-------------------------|--|-------|--|---|--|----------|---------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| (Last)  | (Fir   | st) (N  | (Middle)   |   |      |   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/28/2003 |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     | Office  | er (give title<br>v)   |   | Other (specify below)                                  |   |
| 1400 TOASTMASTER DRIVE  |  |   |  |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     | Chi   | nief Administrative Officer                                      |   |  | er  |
| (Street)  |  | 4. If A   | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicab Line) |  |          |                     |   | Applicable   |   |  |   |
| ELGIN   | IL 60004   |   |  |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     | X Form filed by One Reporting Person  |  |   |  |   |
|   |  |   |  |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |  |   |  | oorting   |
| (City)  | (Sta   | ate) (Z   | Zip)   |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     |   |  |   |  |   |
|   | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |   |  |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     |   |  |   |  |   |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transacti Date (Month/Day |  |   |  |   |      | Execution Date,                               |   |                         |  |       |  | rities Acquired (<br>ed Of (D) (Instr.                    |  |          | 3, 4 Se<br>Be<br>Ov |   | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following |   | wnership<br>n: Direct<br>or<br>rect (I)<br>r. 4)       | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   |  |   |  |   | Code | v   | Amount  |                         | (A) or<br>(D)  | Price | •  | Repor<br>Trans  | eported<br>ransaction(s)<br>nstr. 3 and 4) |          | ,                   | ()  |  |   |  |   |
| The Midd  | lleby Corpo  | 2003  |  |   |      | P   |   | 325                     |  | A     | \$5.25   |   | 5 24,208                                   |          |                     | D   |  |   |  |   |
| The Midd  | 2003   |   |  |   | P    |   | 2,000   |                         | A  | \$5.9 |  | 26,208  |  |          | D                   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |   |      |   |   |                         |  |       |  |   |  |          |                     |   |  |   |  |   |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)           | ivative Conversion Date Execution Date, urity or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any  |   | on Date,   | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |      | of<br>Deriv<br>Secu<br>Acqu<br>(A) o<br>Dispo | vative rities sired rosed ) r. 3, 4                         | Expiration<br>(Month/Da | Date Exercisable a xpiration Date Month/Day/Year)  ate Expirat xercisable Date |       | Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr<br>3 and 4) |   | ount<br>nber                               | nt<br>er |                     | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s (Instr. 4) |  | 0.<br>Ownership<br>orm:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>I) (Instr.<br>) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |   |

## Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Option exercise of 325 shares in conjunction with an option to buy grant dated November 1, 1996
- 2. Option exercise of 2,000 shares in conjunction with an option to buy grant dated February 26, 2002

<u>David B. Baker</u> <u>08/29/2003</u>

\*\* 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 4 (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.