

MIDDLEBY CORP
Form 4
December 21, 2010

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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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 OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
FITZGERALD TIMOTHY JOHN

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O MIDDLEBY CORPORATION, 1400 TOASTMASTER DRIVE

(Street)

ELGIN, IL 60120

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
MIDDLEBY CORP [MIDD]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/17/2010

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
Chief Financial Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/17/2010		M ⁽¹⁾	500 ⁽¹⁾ A 9.235 ⁽¹⁾	255,454	D	

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

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

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
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Option to Buy (1)	\$ 9.235	12/17/2010	M ⁽¹⁾	500	10/23/2003 ⁽¹⁾	10/23/2013 ⁽¹⁾	Common Stock	500
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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
FITZGERALD TIMOTHY JOHN C/O MIDDLEBY CORPORATION 1400 TOASTMASTER DRIVE ELGIN, IL 60120			Chief Financial Officer	

Signatures

Martin M. Lindsay POA	12/21/2010
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- Transaction represents the exercise of vested stock options. Reporting person was granted 70,000 shares of common stock of the Company on October 23, 2003 that carried an exercise price of \$9.235, the fair market value of the Company common stock on the date of grant, and expires on October 23, 2013.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.