

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

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>FITZGERALD TIMOTHY JOHN</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. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MIDDLEBY CORP [MIDD]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Chief Financial Officer</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>05/22/2008</u>	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

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	05/22/2008		M ⁽¹⁾		2,000	A	\$5.255 ⁽¹⁾	196,062	D	

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

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)				6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Option to Buy	\$5.255 ⁽¹⁾	05/22/2008 ⁽¹⁾		M ⁽¹⁾				2,000 ⁽¹⁾	03/05/2008 ⁽¹⁾	03/05/2013 ⁽¹⁾	common stock	2,000	\$5.255 ⁽¹⁾	29,992	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Transaction represents the exercise of 2,000 Incentive Stock Option shares on May 22, 2008. Exercise part of an original grant of 10,000 (split adj.) Incentive Stock Option shares on March 5, 2003 at an exercise price of \$5.255 (split adj). The grant vests in 20% increments with an expiration of March 5, 2013.

Timothy Fitzgerald 05/27/2008

** 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.