

PUTNAM PHILIP G  
Form 4  
December 16, 2005

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
PUTNAM PHILIP G

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
1400 TOASTMASTER DR  
(Street)  
ELGIN, IL 60120

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/14/2005

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

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

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                    | 12/14/2005                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 5,000<br><u>(1)</u>   | A  | \$ 7.5 <u>(1)</u> 10,000                              | D |
| Common Stock                    | 12/15/2005                           |  | S                              |   | 3,000   | D  | \$ 85.0047 7,000                                      | D |

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

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(9-02)

**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) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Option to Buy                              | \$ 7.5   | 12/14/2005                           |  | M                              | 5,000   | 02/14/1996 02/14/2006                                    | Common Stock  | 5,000                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                            | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| PUTNAM PHILIP G<br>1400 TOASTMASTER DR<br>ELGIN, IL 60120 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Philip G.  
Putnam  
12/16/2005

\*\*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).

(1) Option exercise of grant dated 02-14-96 for 15,00 shares at a strike price of \$7.50 per share

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.