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(54) **CANDLE WARMING IMAGE DISPLAY LAMP**

(71) Applicant: **Douglas R. Nielson**, Logan, UT (US)

(72) Inventor: **Douglas R. Nielson**, Logan, UT (US)

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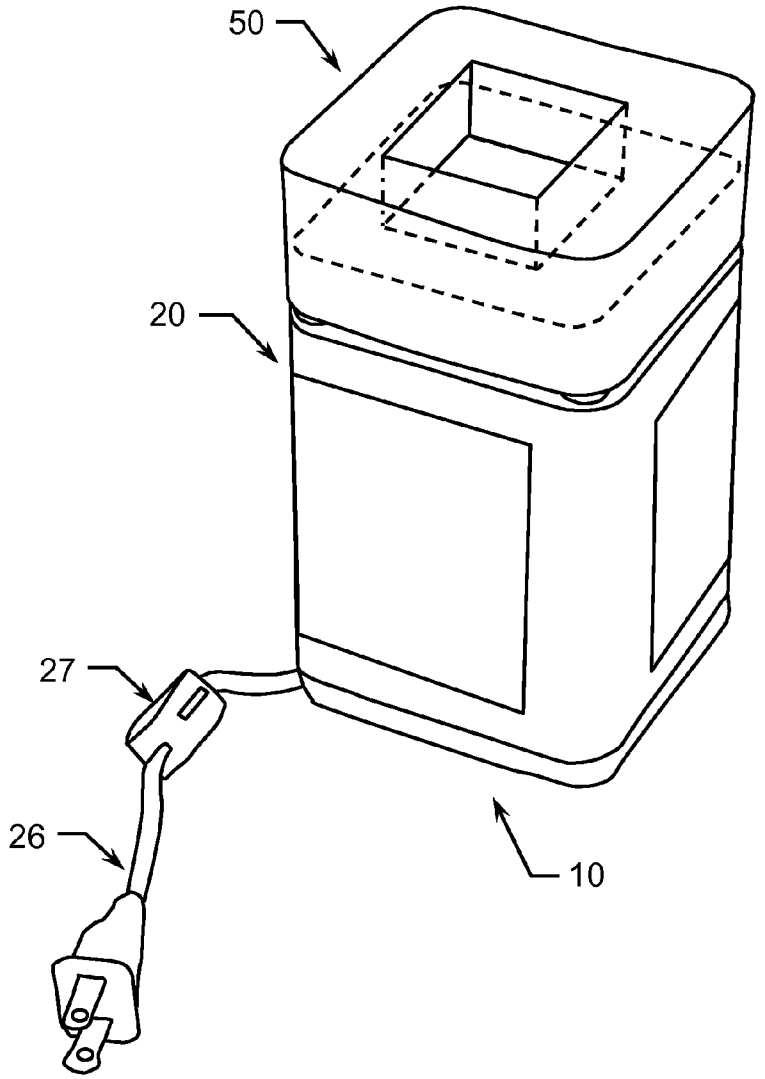
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention is a candle warming image display lamp (CWIDL) for use in displaying user selectable images while providing light such as to light a room brightly or as a night light, while also warming a preferably spill resistant wickless scented candle, without spilling molten candle wax.



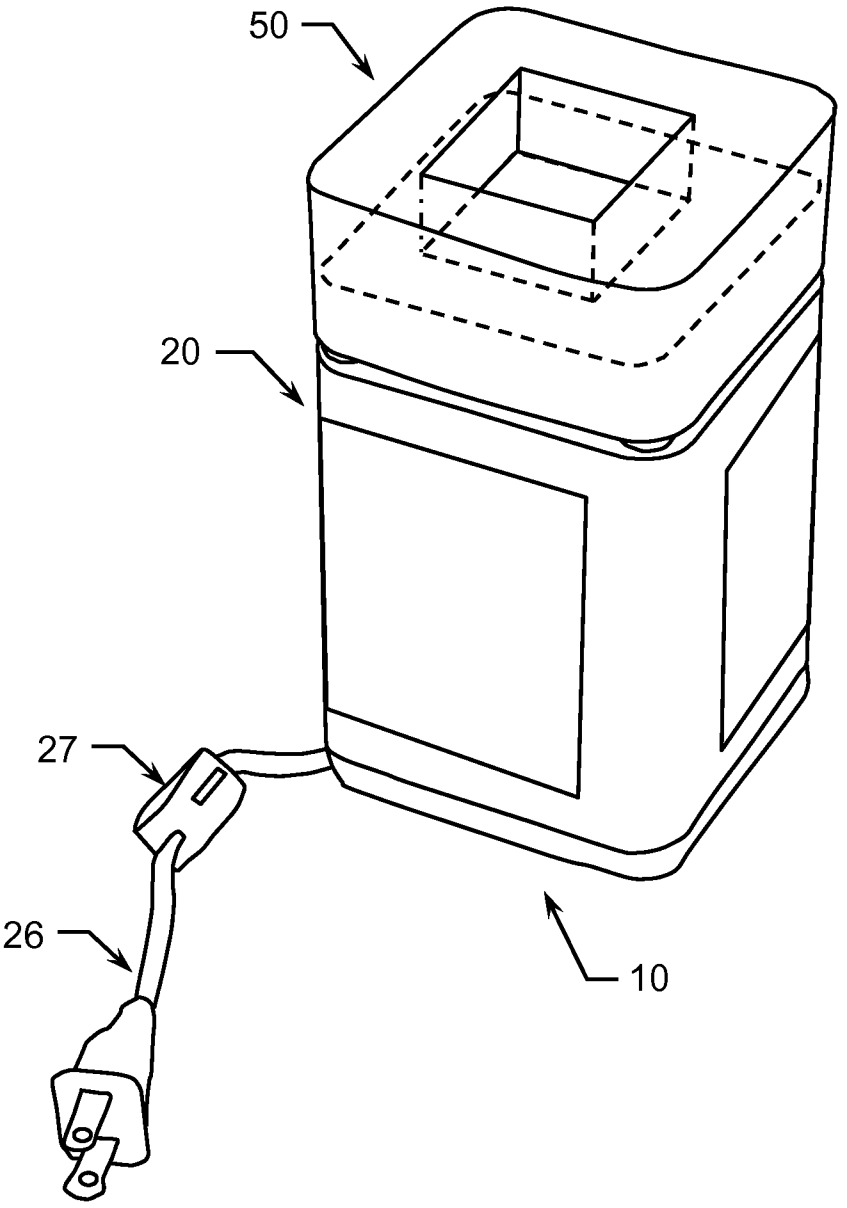


Figure 1

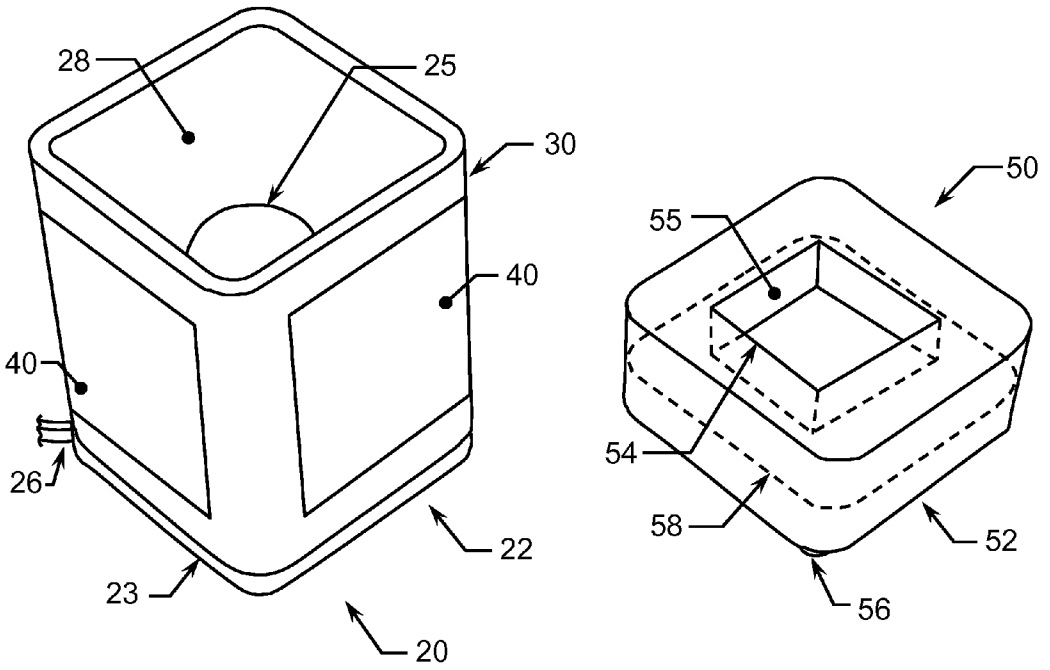


Figure 2

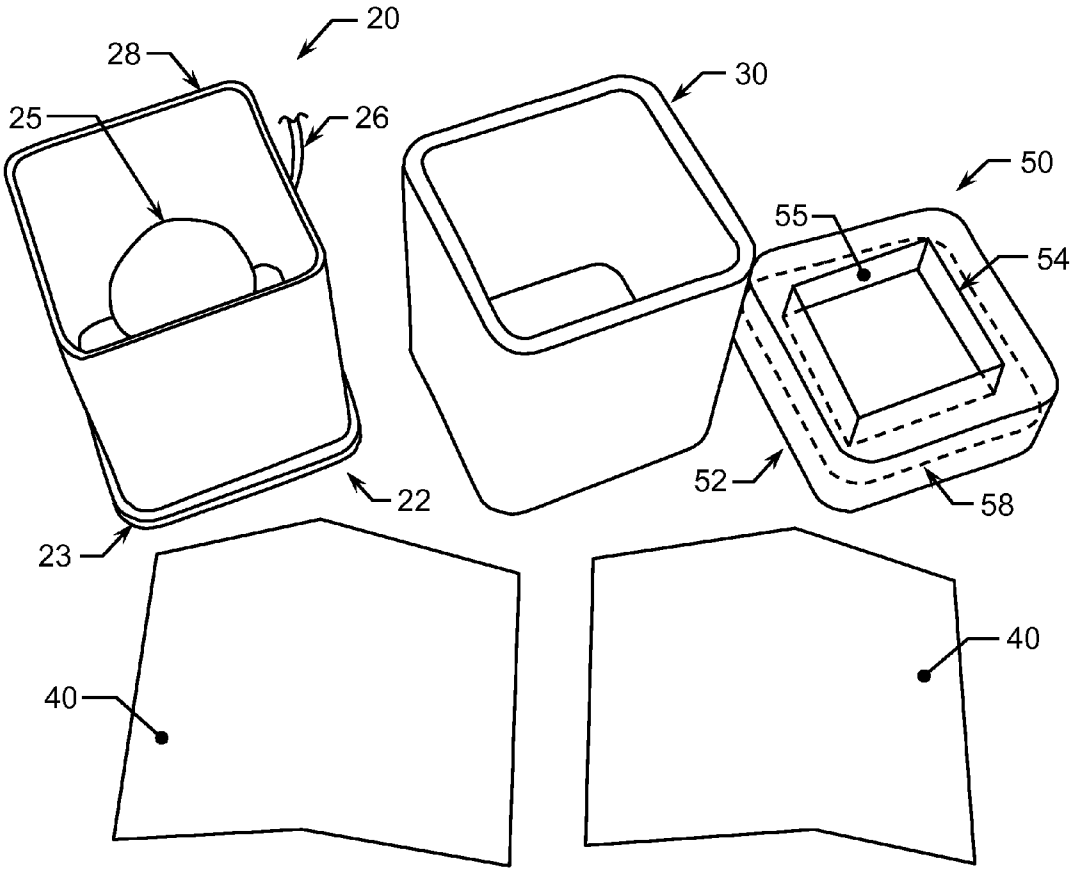


Figure 3

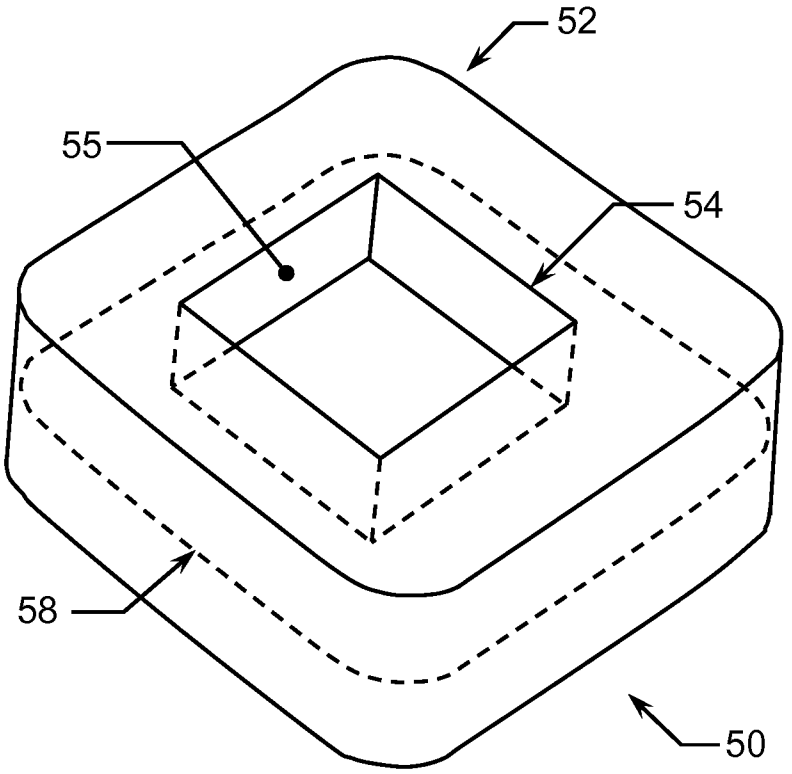


Figure 4

CANDLE WARMING IMAGE DISPLAY LAMP

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This U.S. nonprovisional utility patent application claims the benefit under 35 USC §119(e) of U.S. provisional application No. 61/931,576 filed Jan. 25, 2014 which is incorporated in its entirety by this reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to light emitting lamps having changeable user selected images displayed thereon that simultaneously function as candle warmers, and more especially as wax spill resistant candle warmers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Lamps and night lights are well known in the art and have been widely used in providing light. Further image display apparatuses are well known in the art and have enjoyed considerable commercial success. Examples of such image display apparatuses are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,240,783, 7,234,258 and 7,637,047 and are expressly incorporated herein by reference. Further spill resistant containers having inwardly extending funnels are well known in the art and have enjoyed considerable commercial success. Examples of such spill resistant containers are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,246,046, 7,942,109, 8,430,708, and application 2014/0190858 and are expressly incorporated herein by reference. Further candle apparatuses are well known in the art and have enjoyed considerable commercial success. An example of such candle apparatuses is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 8,364,028, and is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0004] The present invention is a candle warming image display lamp (CWIDL) for use in displaying user selectable images while providing light such as to light a room brightly or as a night light, while also warming a preferably wickless scented candle, without spilling molten candle wax. The displayed images may be for instance printed photos. The lamp may be powered for instance by plugging the lamp into a power outlet or a USB port, or by batteries, or by a combination thereof. The candle is preferably a scented wickless candle comprising scented wax contained within an open container having a funnel extending therein. The candle is preferably adapted such that the candle may be readily positioned on top of the lamp such that the wax may be melted by heat from the lamp causing scent of the melted wax to waft from the candle into the room or other location where the lamp is located.

[0005] The candle is preferably adapted such that when the candle is melted, and the candle is rotated in any orientation, molten candle wax will not run out of the candle. The candle is preferably adapted such that similar candles of various colors and scents may readily exchanged for the candle on top of the lamp.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0006] In order that the advantages of the invention will be readily understood, a more particular description of the invention briefly described above will be rendered by reference to specific embodiments that are illustrated in the appended drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the invention and are not therefore to be considered to be limiting of its scope, the invention will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0007] FIG. **1** is a trimetric view of the CWIDL in an assembled configuration;

[0008] FIG. **2** is a trimetric view of the CWIDL in a partially disassembled configuration, with the candle assembly removed from the image display lamp;

[0009] FIG. **3** is a trimetric view of the CWIDL in a disassembled configuration, with the candle assembly removed from the image display lamp, and with the image display lamp disassembled, and;

[0010] FIG. **4** is an enlarged trimetric view of the candle assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0011] Reference throughout this specification to "one embodiment," "an embodiment," or similar language means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, appearances of the phrases "in one embodiment," "in an embodiment," and similar language throughout this specification may, but do not necessarily, all refer to the same embodiment.

[0012] Furthermore, the described features, structures, or characteristics of the invention may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments. In the following description, numerous specific details are included to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize, however, that the invention can be practiced without one or more of the specific details, or with other methods, components, materials, and so forth. In other instances, well-known structures, materials, or operations are not shown or described in detail to avoid obscuring aspects of the invention.

[0013] In order to facilitate the understanding of the present invention in reviewing the drawings accompanying the specification, a feature table is provided below. It is noted that like features are like numbered throughout all of the figures.

FEATURE TABLE

#	Feature	#	Feature
10	Candle warming image display lamp apparatus	20	Image display lamp
22	Base assembly	23	Base
24	Light bulb socket	25	Light bulb
26	Electrical cord	27	Electrical switch
28	Inner wall	30	Outer wall
40	Display image	50	Candle assembly
52	Container	54	Container upper opening
55	Container funnel	56	Container feet
58	Wax		

[0014] Referring now to the drawings, in a preferred embodiment the invention is a candle warming image display lamp apparatus **10** (CWIDL **10**) for use in displaying user selectable images while providing light such as to light a room brightly or as a night light, while also warming a preferably wickless candle, without spilling molten candle wax comprising an image display lamp **20** and a candle assembly

50 removably mountable to the top of image display lamp **20**. Image display lamp **20** further comprises a base assembly **22**, an outer wall **30**, and at least one display image **40**. Base assembly **22** further comprises a base **23**, a light bulb socket **24** (not shown) connected to base **23**, a light bulb **25** electrically connected to light bulb socket **24**, an electrical cord **26** electrically connected to light bulb socket **24**, an electrical switch **27** electrically connected to electrical cord **26**, and a preferably translucent inner wall **28** mounted to base **23**. Image display lamp **20** further includes a preferably translucent outer wall **30** and at least one display image preferably defining an image printed on a paper or like substrate. Outer wall **30** is adapted to be slidingly positioned over inner wall **28** such that with the display image **40** may be displayably positioned in a gap formed between inner wall **28** and outer wall **30**. Outer wall **30** preferably includes a flange on the top thereof that covers the gap formed between inner wall **28** and outer wall **30**. It is noted that in an alternate embodiment, the image display lamp **20** may be powered by batteries or by a USB port mounted to base **23** or by batteries that are positioned within base **23** and recharged via a USB port that is mounted to base **23**. Further, base **23** or other members of image display lamp **20** or candle assembly **50** may be made of glowing-in-the-dark or phosphorescent plastic. Candle assembly **50** further preferably defines a scented wickless candle assembly having a container **52** preferably defining generally translucent cubic shaped container having an upper opening **54** and a funnel **55** connected to upper opening **54** and extending inwardly into the inner cavity of container **52**. Container **52** may include a plurality of feet **56** connect to an underside thereof. Container **52** may be a single integral structure or may be an assembly of structures such as a two piece container of a lower cup and an upper lid having a funnel such that the cup and lid fit together in a snap-tight configuration. Container **52** further includes a predetermined quantity of scented and preferably colored wax **58** cast into container **52**. Container **52** may also optionally have a receiving flange to snappingly receive a snap-on cover for use when candle assembly **50** is not being heated or otherwise not in use such that scent of wax **58** is substantially contained within container **52** and such that wax **58** does not evaporate from candle assembly **50**. Candle assembly **50** is adapted such that when wax **58** of candle assembly **50** is melted, because of inwardly extending funnel **55**, wax **58** will not run out of container **52** regardless of the orientation in which the candle assembly **50** may be positioned. Candle assembly **50** is preferably adapted such that multiple instances of candle assembly **50** may be nestably stacked upon each other. It is noted that in an alternate embodiment, candle assembly **50** may have include wick.

[0015] In practice, with display image **40** positioned in image display lamp **20**, image display lamp **20** electrically powered, and candle assembly **50** mounted upon display lamp **20**, CWIDL **10** provides light while displaying a selected display image **40** and while spill resistantly warming candle assembly **50** without the use of a flame so as to cause the aroma of candle assembly **50** to waft from candle assembly **50** via container opening **54**. CWIDL **10** may be adapted such that there is some gap between display lamp **20** and candle assembly **50** to allow for ventilation or air to pass therebetween. If the user desires to change display image **40**, the user may merely remove candle assembly **50** from the display lamp **20**, slide outer wall **30** off of inner wall **28**, exchange display image **40** with a different image, replace outer wall **30**, and replace candle assembly **50**. If the user tires of the scent or color of candle assembly **50**, or when wax **58** of candle assembly **50** is consumed, the user merely substitutes one instance of candle assembly **50** with another instance of candle assembly **50**. Candle assembly **50** is preferably a disposable candle (i.e. candle assembly **50** is discarded after consumption of wax **58** of candle assembly **50**), but may alternately be a serviceable candle (i.e. candle assembly **50** may be recycled by adding wax **58** to container **52** to replace consumed wax **58** or by adding additional fragrance to existing wax **58** to replace dispersed fragrance). It is further noted that the CWIDL **10** may optionally have a battery powered fan mounted thereon to aid in the dispersal of the scent of the candle.

[0016] In a first alternate embodiment, the invention is substantially identical to CWIDL **10** except that rather than using a light bulb to melt wax, the invention includes a heating element—such as those found in coffee cup warmers or wax warmers—to melt wax **58**.

[0017] In a second alternate embodiment, the invention forms a fondue warming apparatus which is substantially identical to CWIDL **10** except that in the alternate embodiment, wax **58** of candle assembly **50** is replaced with chocolate, caramel, fudge, marsh mellows, or like edible composition having a relatively low melt temperature such that strawberries, pineapple fruit, marshmallows, and like edible snacks may be dipped into the melted composition and consumed as a fondue style treat.

[0018] The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus comprising a light emitting lamp having a user selectable and user changeable image displayed thereon, and a candle device mounted to said lamp.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said candle device defines an open container having a quantity of meltable wax contained therein.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said candle device defines at least one of a colored candle device, a wickless candle device, a scented candle device, and a combination thereof.

4. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said candle device defines at least one of a candle device adapted to nest with and stack upon another instance of said candle device and a candle device having a lid receiving member and being adapted to substantially hermetically engage a lid.

5. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said lamp includes at least one of an AC power source, a rechargeable DC battery power source, a USB port, a fan, and a combination thereof.

6. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein said lamp includes a plurality of walls, at least two of said walls being repositionable relative to each other, wherein said at least two walls form a gap therebetween and a user selectable and user changeable image is displayed within said gap.

7. An apparatus comprising a light emitting lamp having a user selectable and user changeable image displayed thereon, and a melt device mounted to said lamp.

8. The apparatus of claim **7**, wherein said melt device defines at least one of a candle device defining an open container having a quantity of meltable wax contained therein and a fondue device defining a container having a quantity of edible melt composition contained therein.

9. The apparatus of claim **8**, wherein said candle device defines at least one of a colored candle device, a wickless candle device, a scented candle device, and a combination thereof, and wherein said edible melt composition defines at least one of chocolate, caramel, fudge, marsh mellow, and a combination thereof.

10. The apparatus of claim **7**, wherein said melt device defines at least one of a melt device adapted to nest with and stack upon another instance of said melt device and a melt device having a lid receiving member and being adapted to substantially hermetically engage a lid.

11. The apparatus of claim **7**, wherein said lamp includes at least one of an AC power source, a rechargeable DC battery power source, a USB port, a fan, and a combination thereof.

12. The apparatus of claim **7**, wherein said lamp includes a plurality of walls, at least two of said walls being repositionable relative to each other, wherein said at least two walls form a gap therebetween and a user selectable and user changeable image is displayed within said gap.

13. The apparatus of claim **7**, wherein said melt device defines at least one of a disposable melt device and a serviceable melt device.

14. A light emitting lamp having a user selectable and user changeable image displayed thereon, wherein said lamp includes a battery and a USB port.

15. The lamp of claim **14**, wherein said lamp includes a melt device mounted to thereon.

16. The lamp of claim **15** wherein said melt device defines at least one of a candle device defining an open container having a quantity of meltable wax contained therein and a fondue device defining a container having a quantity of edible melt composition contained therein.

17. The lamp of claim **16**, wherein said candle device defines at least one of a colored candle device, a wickless candle device, a scented candle device, and a combination thereof, and wherein said edible melt composition defines at least one of chocolate, caramel, fudge, marsh mellow, and a combination thereof.

18. The lamp of claim **15**, wherein melt device defines at least one of a melt device adapted to nest with and stack upon another instance of said melt device and a melt device having a lid receiving member and being adapted to substantially hermetically engage a lid.

19. The lamp of claim **14**, wherein said lamp includes at least one of an AC power source, a rechargeable DC battery power source, a USB port, a fan, and a combination thereof.

20. The lamp of claim **14**, wherein said lamp includes a plurality of walls, at least two of said walls being repositionable relative to each other, wherein said at least two walls form a gap therebetween and a user selectable and user changeable image is displayed within said gap.

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