

HYBRID SOLAR OVEN – LIMITED OR LIMITLESS

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Abstract:

The solar cooking industry has bifurcated itself into two main groups. The first group keeps wanting to produce simpler and simpler inexpensive entirely (solar only) panel type devices for third world use and the other half has been trying a more mainstream business approach by trying to get mainstream consumers to buy into solar cooking by producing high-quality engineered parabolic, vacuum tube solar grills type devices and hybrid solar ovens. With the exception of the hybrid solar oven manufacturers, no matter which approach is taken by either of these groups that produce entirely (solar only) cooking devices; they both suffer from the same historical problem, NO SUN – NO FUN, unfortunately.

The hybrid solar oven with its secondary power source backup heating option solves the solar cooking industry's historical no sun-no fun problem. The hybrid solar oven's solar-electric technology should offer a limitless advantage over all other (solar only) powered devices. However, with every solution comes along a new unexpected problem which has limited the hybrid solar oven's third world and mainstream consumer adaptation.

What's the new problem?

It is not a quality issue or cost issue per say, economies of scale will solve those problems. In fact, I could see a hybrid solar oven produced and sold at good margins to mainstream consumers and for use in third world relief for less than \$150USD. No, the real reason the hybrid solar oven adaption has been limited instead of limitless is because, in my view and experience, the hybrid solar oven is deemed to be more of an appliance in people's minds than a solar cooking device. And even though the hybrid solar oven may be an apex product with its problem solving No Sun - No Fun solution; it's completely off-the-radar of the major appliance industry manufacturers.

What's the solution?

The solar cooking industry has to start creating hybrid awareness by producing not more solar only devices no matter how well made or simple they maybe but rather start producing more hybrid devices: hybrid panel, hybrid box, hybrid parabolic and hybrid solar grills in AC or DC backup formats. Only then will the major appliance industry manufacturers begin to take notice because without the appliance industries interest and its huge financial resources the hybrid solar oven's full potential will remain in the void between limited and limitless.

Keywords: Hybrid solar oven, solar cooking, panel, parabolic, solar grill