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(Moderators: [Scott Sanders](#), [Jeff Friend](#))

 Cleaning Jappeded Pieces (Read 1219 times)

 **Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator


So - What do they do with the rest of the mole?

Posts: 4559

 **Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Nov 18th, 2010, 1:08pm

I didn't get an answer to my question on the dark side about japanning on a Keen Kutter waffle iron base, so I'm going to ask a different question here.

It looks to me like the high base I have was japanned. Does anybody have experience cleaning the old buildup off a piece while retaining as much of the japanned finish as possible?

I'm going to give Dawn Power Dissolver a try since I think it usually leaves paint on.

Tom

 **Roger Barfield**
Forum Administrator
WAGS member


 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #1 - Nov 18th, 2010, 1:14pm

Tom, all I can tell you is don't put it in lye water. I had one years ago that was japanned and the lye removed it. I don't know if the Keen Kutter pieces were japanned or not. I would check it every few hours to see if it starts to remove it. I would think the power dissolver would be safe, but you never know until you try it.

Posts: 7399

 **Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator


 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #2 - Nov 18th, 2010, 1:35pm

Thanks Roger. As I've looked closer it looks like more of it is missing than I had thought. I'm going to see if I can leave what is there as a test, then likely strip it to bare metal.

Here's a picture of the base and the coating under the handle I think is japan finish. I just don't believe it is a natural seasoning.

In the next message, I'll show the whole iron. Just remember, I've just started to clean it. I've removed the handles and it has been one trip in the lye (paddles only).

I'm tired of the lye, so next into the oven.

Tom



 **Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator


 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #3 - Nov 18th, 2010, 1:40pm

Here's the whole iron. Just surface rust after I rinsed it off. The casting looks just like it came out of the mold. The seasoning was very heavy.

Posts: 4559

Tom



📍**Harry Riva**
Forum Administrator
★★★★★★

Posts: 3941

📄 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #4 - Nov 18th, 2010, 11:44pm
Tom, I bought an old WW wafer iron that was really rusty so I used it for a test run using Evapo Rust. To my surprise not only was the rust removed but it seems to have left what japanning there was intact. One test does not a process make but you may want to try it on a piece you can afford to lose the jappaning on.
Harry

📍**Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator
★★★★★★

Posts: 4559

📄 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #5 - Nov 19th, 2010, 12:58am
I don't doubt that it did just that. My issue with the base is that there is a bunch of seasoning, not rust on it - it won't touch that. I'm trying Dawn Power Dissolver, then I figured I would try a pretty high concentration of cleaning ammonia - I know that cuts grease. Then we'll see what the jappanning really looks like. I'm leaning toward probably taking it all off.

That Evapo-Rust is like magic isn't it.

📍**Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator
★★★★★★

Posts: 4559

📄 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #6 - Nov 20th, 2010, 10:31am
Well, the Dawn Power Dissolver really took a great deal of the seasoning off the base. Enough to let me see that indeed it was jappanned but most of it is gone. I'm going to just strip the rest off (most of it is at the base and under the handles. Here's what it looks like before I take the rest off.

Tom



📍**Roger Barfield**
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★★

Posts: 7399

📄 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #7 - Nov 20th, 2010, 12:04pm
I'll have to file that away for the future Tom. That's good to know it won't hurt the Japan if I need to use it. Also, that's a sharp looking waffle iron.

📍**Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator
★★★★★★

Posts: 4559

📄 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #8 - Nov 20th, 2010, 2:27pm
The iron itself isn't marked, but it is about the same size as a #8 American or #18 Heart Star on a high base.

Tom

📍**Tom Neitzel**
Forum Administrator
★★★★★★

Posts: 4559

📄 **Re: Cleaning Jappeded Pieces**

Reply #9 - Nov 27th, 2010, 12:44am
Here's what the iron looks like cleaned up with a coat of mineral oil.

I ran it through the self-cleaning oven, then cleaned up the paddles with evapo-rust (i removed the darkening on the steel rods the handles fit over). Coil handles were cleaned lye, the finished in evapo-rust.

Tom



🔴Tom Neitzel
Forum Administrator
★★★★★
Posts: 4559

📄 Re: Cleaning Japped Pieces

Reply #10 - Nov 27th, 2010, 12:45am
Here's a look at the base.
It was done in the oven, then electro to remove any rust (wasn't much).



🔴Roger Barfield
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

📄 Re: Cleaning Japped Pieces

Reply #11 - Nov 27th, 2010, 1:21am
Wow, nice job. That looks sharp 🤔

Posts: 7399