


# Wagner & Griswold Society

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

 Cleaning wafer iron (Read 1513 times)

 **Bob Cox**

 **Cleaning wafer iron**

Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:58pm

Posts: 285

Hi everybody. I need some help, but first let me explain how I happened to have this wafer iron. A few months back, I was at an antique mall, and I found this piece that had a tag on it that said French waffle iron, and priced \$90.00. At that time I had never heard of a French waffle, and I thought it was a little over priced. So I went home and looked in the BB, 4th edition. Found it on page 101, but it was a Griswold wafer iron. The value \$300--\$400. Needless to say, I was back at the mall the next morning when they opened. They had what they call a madness sale every third Saturday. Picked it up for \$77.94 including tax. The 5th edition also lists the same value. That is the best deal I have ever made on a piece of cast iron.

The handles are either nickle steel or stainless steel, and are riveted to the paddles. My question is, can I put them in the electro, or lye vat, without hurting the handles? Any help and advice will be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Bob

 [DSC00040\\_001.JPG](#)



 **Bob Cox**

 **Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #1** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:59pm

Posts: 285

Pic 2

 [DSC00041\\_001.JPG](#)




 **Bob Cox**

 **Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #2** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 4:00pm

Posts: 285

Pic 3

 [DSC00043.JPG](#)



 **Bob Cox**

 **Re: Cleaning wafer iron**


**Reply #3** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 4:04pm

Posts: 285

Pic 5

 [DSC00047\\_001.JPG](#)



 **Tom Neitzel**  
Forum Administrator

 **Re: Cleaning wafer iron**



Posts: 4559

**Reply #4** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 5:00pm

Looking at the pictures it almost looks like it has been little used and well taken care of. It looks like there was and still is japanning on the base (particularly on the handle). I would be tempted to leave the base alone. Maybe it's just old seasoning though.

As far as the handles, I don't *think* they were nicked, it would be strange to just do the handle. I suspect they are plain steel. If you want to be careful, lye won't hurt steel, nicked or plain. You will find two types of handles, those in cast loop and socket like yours and some just flattened and riveted on.

If the base isn't japanned, I'd put both in the self-cleaning oven. The handles on mine look pretty much like those in your picture, nice shiny steel even after being through a cleaning cycle. I've cleaned 3 of them in the oven.

Your're the best judge on what you want to do.

By the way, I wish I had one of those stores with the French wafer irons by me 😊

Tom



Posts: 4559

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #5** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 5:19pm

Bobby, don't do what I said regarding the oven. You might soften the handles. I do get a little discoloring on newer iron, but it always buffs out with 0000 steel wool. I've not had a big problem in the past myself, but I would hate to tell someone to do it and have a problem. Lye, or even electro will be just fine.

Tom



Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #6** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 5:22pm

Thanks Tom. I don't have a seif cleaning oven. I do my seasoning in a gas grill, which will heat up to about 550, I think. Also, what exactly is japanning? Don't really think it is japanned. It looks to me like it is just crud. I think you are right about the handles, but why have they not rusted? Thanks a lot, Bob



Posts: 4559

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #7** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 5:24pm

There's a link to a pdf I posted a month or so about japanning. I a sentence, it looks like black paint but is much tougher. It was used a lot on the bases and other iron products like Stanley wood planes and sewing machines.

Tom



Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #8** - Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:09pm

Thanks Tom, you have been very helpful. According to what you have said, and what the dictionary says, I don't think it was japanned. If it was, a lot of it is peeled, or worn off. So, I am going to try to get my electro up and running this weekend, and put it in there, then see what happens.

Bob



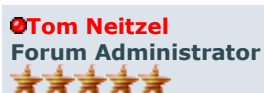
Collecting

Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #9** - Mar 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:28pm

Hey Tom. One more question. On which board would I find the pdf file on japanning?



Posts: 4559

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #10** - Mar 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 11:59pm

Here's a link.

<http://www.griswoldandwagner.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?num=1299161660/4#4>

I don't know if you have used the Search function at the top of page. It works well. It does default to the past 30 days so you might want to bump it to 3 months or even all messages when searching. I also usually check the box to show only 1 message per thread to get the most possible hits listed.

Tom



Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #11** - Mar 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:05pm

Tom, I found it, and printed it. There is a lot of info there. I appreciate it, and thanks.



Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #12** - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:02pm

Here are some pics of the wafer iron after cleaning and seasoning.

Bob

 [DSC00173.JPG](#)




Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #13** - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:03pm

Pic 2

 [DSC00076\\_001.JPG](#)



Posts: 285

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #14** - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:09pm

pic 3

 [DSC00176.JPG](#)



**Bob Cox**

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

Posts: 285

**Reply #15** - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:13pm  
pic 4

 [DSC00186.JPG](#)



**Ed Winslow**

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

Posts: 809

**Reply #16** - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 11:39pm  
Looks Great !

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

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #17** - May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 10:06am

Ditto on the nice cleaning. I really appreciate the great pictures. I've not seen the 872 pattern number on the button piece before. Went and looked quickly at my examples and didn't see it. I'll look closer with a magnifying glass, but I don't think it is present on mine. The number is in the BB.

Posts: 4559

Tom

**Jerry Cermack**  
Global Moderator  
WAGS member  
★★★★★

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #18** - May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 1:09pm

Bobby.....I'd say you got a bargain considering just the base will bring a lot more than you paid for the set. There has been a world of paddles sold on Ebay over the years without the base and the base is highly sought after. Several years ago, I've seen just the base sell for \$150-\$200 by itself, if you can find one.

Posts: 5810

**Bob Cox**

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #19** - May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:48pm

Thanks for the info. Yes, I think I really got a bargain on that deal. Will probably never get one to beat it.

Posts: 285

Bob

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

**Re: Cleaning wafer iron**

**Reply #20** - May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:07am

Bobby, I agree with Jerry's comments plus you did a nice job of cleaning.

Posts: 4559

Tom