

Wagner & Griswold Society

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Wagner and Griswold Society Information > Cast Iron (general info) > Cleaning and Restoration
(Moderators: [Scott Sanders](#), [Jeff Friend](#))

 **Cleaning WI's** (Read 1670 times)

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

 **Cleaning WI's**

Apr 20th, 2011, 12:06am

Figured I'd share a cleaning session with everyone. This is a set of #11 paddles I need to complete my low base #11 Griswold WI. Here are the pics of the paddles as they appeared in the auction



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

 **Re: Cleaning WI's**

Reply #1 - Apr 20th, 2011, 12:07am

And the other side.



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

 **Re: Cleaning WI's**

Reply #2 - Apr 20th, 2011, 12:10am

Not a very nice set, but I figured I'd give it a try, and give some tips on getting these less than favorite to clean pieces to look good once again. It's a little late to get the pics off the camera, so I'll have to make ya'll wait til tomorrow. I can tell you this, these spent 24 hours in my lye bath for starters. I always start with lye to remove the crude first, and if I need to remove any rust, it takes a dunk in the electro.

C. Perry Rapier
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 23581

 **Re: Cleaning WI's**

Reply #3 - Apr 20th, 2011, 12:28am

Hello Chuck. I don't know if I ever asked you or not, but since you have started using the lye treatment, have you noticed a decrease in your electric bill, in Ky we call it the "juice bill". 😊

Jake Weber

 **Re: Cleaning WI's**

Reply #4 - Apr 20th, 2011, 11:07am

Quote from Chuck Rogers on Apr 20th, 2011, 12:06am:

Figured I'd share a cleaning session with everyone. This is a set of #11 paddles I need to complete my low base #11 Griswold WI. Here are the pics of the paddles as they appeared in the auction

Looking forward to seeing the end result Chuck. I'm working on a Lamb Cake mold right now that was in simlairy awesome condition. 😊

Also I've go to ask ya this, as we all know WI's can be a project to get clean, but have you cleaned a Heart & Stars WI before? I just recently did one and let me tell you, it took the award for pain-in-the-butt to clean. The end result was amazing and totally worth it, but it makes you question why you are doing it while you are cleaning.

Keep us updated!

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Re: Cleaning WI's**

Reply #5 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:25pm

I'm not really sure about the power bill Perry. I don't think it made much difference. I have grown to like the lye bath, and the anode (sacrificial metal, SS) is lasting much longer. I was going through 2 - 3 tank liners a year.

I sure have Jake. I did an aluminum, and several black iron H&S. I'll have to agree that they rank right up there with having a tooth pulled without putting me to sleep first. 😊 I'll have to dig out some before, and afters of the aluminum H&S

Here's the set of paddle pictured above. These are fresh out of the lye bath with a quick dunk in the rinse tank. The black you see on there is just loose gunk. It will be gone soon.

Note the nickel plated alaska handles. They look like they will clean up really well. If the plating is heavily damaged, I do remove it from the handles. It's fairly simple to do.

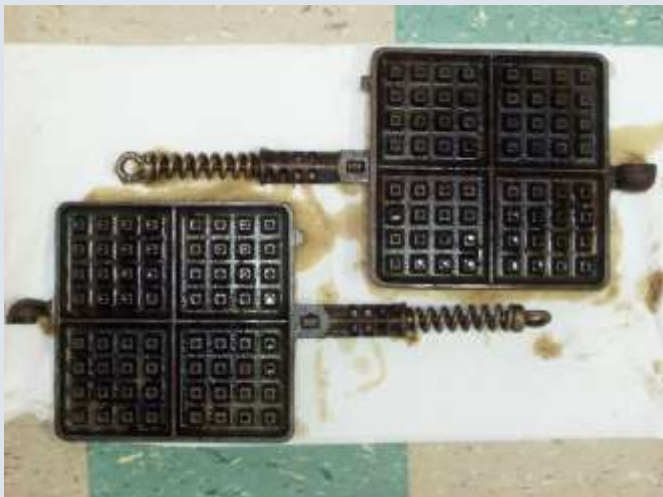


Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #6 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:25pm
And the inside



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #7 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:30pm

Here are the tools for cleaning. That's a stainless steel scrubby there on the left, along with a stiff nylon brush, some pomolive dish soap, and a long handle stainless, and nylon brush.

Use the stiff nylon for the waffle pattern, the scrubby for any smooth surfaces, and the long handle brush for the detail on the outside.



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #8 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:31pm

Here they are after scrubbing, and drying. Notice that the handles have been removed. I will clean those separately with some 0000 steel wool, and a little soap. I don't want to season over the plating.

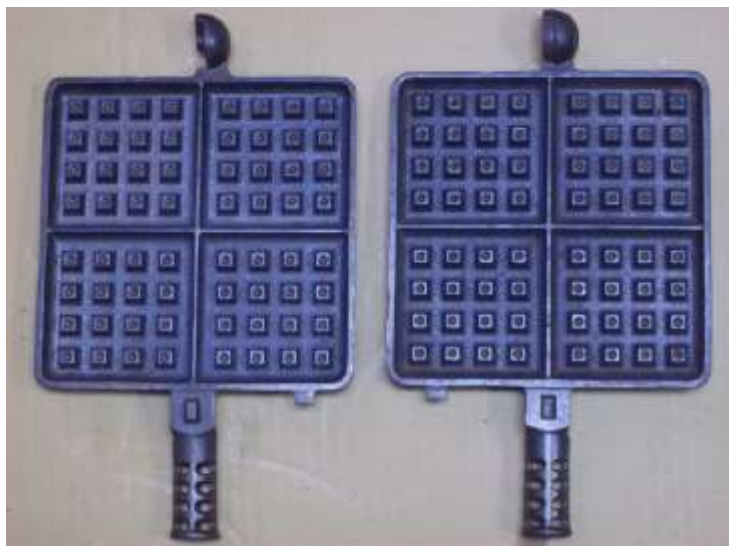


Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #9 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:31pm
2



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #10 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:34pm
First spray without wiping



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #11 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:35pm
2



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #12 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:36pm
And after wiping



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #13 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:36pm
2



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #14 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:37pm
Now the final spray



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #15 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:38pm
2



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #16 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:39pm

Remember those plated handles. Here they are after very little polishing with the 0000 steel wool



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #17 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:40pm

And finally, after the final wipe, and the handles installed.



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #18 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:40pm

2



Gene Dietzenbach
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #19 - Apr 20th, 2011, 8:59pm

Chuck they look great. I had them on my watch list and forgot to place a bid.. They cleaned up real nice.

Craig Smith
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #20 - Apr 20th, 2011, 9:16pm

Nice, Chuck! All you need now is one of those price doubling stickers. 😊

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #21 - Apr 20th, 2011, 10:35pm

Thanks Gene, and Craig. It was sort of a crap shot as to whether these would clean up well or not, but they were the only set I've seen without the base for some time, and I didn't want to miss out. I figured the appearance in the auction pics would scare most folks away, and I'm glad it did. I now have a complete 7th variation of the #11 WI. I'm still in the market for a no notch #11 base. I have a set of paddles that originally came with a notched base for the stop pins. That's where these cleaned paddles end up. It's not a different variation, but it would make a great user. There are 2 other variations that I need, but you never know if something new will show up.

C. Perry Rapier
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 23581

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #22 - Apr 20th, 2011, 10:50pm

Chuck you sure are gettin to be a variation man. All that stuff keeps it interesting. Tom Neitzel is working, and has been, on an article about the different variations of the Wagner Wafer Iron. As a matter of fact Chuck, you could write a nice article on the different variations of the number 11 here, some food for thought. 😊

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #23 - Apr 20th, 2011, 10:57pm

I'm working on an article for the casting call about the #11 variation, but I just need to get all of my info together. I still need pics of the 2 variations that I don't have. If anyone has pics of any of the #11's, you can send them to me. That's if you don't mind me using them for the article. I'll be sure to give credit for the donated pics in the write up. One variation is the low base, side handle. I should have gotten some pics of the one that Larry and Sue Foxx had, but missed my chance. There is another one where the Alaska handles don't have the center eye screw. The coil part of the handle sorta threads on around the handle mounting point of the paddle. (If that makes any sense). If anyone has either one of these for sale, I could always just buy them, and take my own pics.

David Fox
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #24 - Apr 24th, 2011, 12:38am

I have some questions about the waffle iron handles. How does one take off wooden handles to clean the WI and where does one get replacement plated handles for WIs? Aside from the obvious differences, I assume the wood handled are older?

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #25 - Apr 24th, 2011, 10:04am

Wooden handles have a small nail in it that can be pulled out, and the handles then removed. The handles may still be very tight, and will take some effort to remove. Slowly heating the paddles can help loosen the wood handles. Yes, the wood handles are the older version.

Unless you were going to have the plated handles remade at a shop, there are no replacements available that are new. Someone may have a spare set around that would fit the bill. It's worth asking.

Jake Weber

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #26 - Apr 24th, 2011, 11:07pm

Couldn't agree more with the tooth pulling. hahaha..

Here's the a couple pics of the H&S WI just did. Came out IMO so i suppose it was worth it.... 😊



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #27 - Apr 24th, 2011, 11:21pm

You should try it in aluminum Jake. Here's the before.



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #28 - Apr 24th, 2011, 11:21pm

And the after



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #29 - Apr 25th, 2011, 7:37am

For the most part, there are 2 styles of Griswold wood handles. Straight, and sculpted. The sculpted style can easily be turned on a lathe. Just be aware that either style is a custom fit in the iron. I haven't found a set of paddles where the wood handles section, that goes into them, is the same size. If you want a good fit, take your time, and size it correctly.

Sandy Glenn
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 6499

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #30 - Apr 25th, 2011, 10:16am

Nice #19 Heart & Star, Jake! That's a size not often seen. It looks beautiful, too. 😊

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★
Posts: 8632

Re: Cleaning WI's

Reply #31 - Apr 25th, 2011, 6:44pm

I didn't catch that Sandy. Completely missed the 19 on the paddle. You're right, that is a seldom seen piece.