

Wagner & Griswold Society

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Electro cleaning (Read 818 times)

Bob Kern

WAGS member



cast iron collecting
is addictive

Posts: 109

Electro cleaning

May 2nd, 2011, 11:21pm

Just joined and would like to know if you can clean more than one item at a time I have a charger set up for the bath and my first pan came out ok (not great but i'll work on it)

Thanks

Bob

Scott Sanders

Moderator



I'll look for iron
just about anywhere

Posts: 1300

Re: Electro cleaning

Reply #1 - May 3rd, 2011, 2:42pm

Hi Bob....Welcome to the WAGS forum. Sorry you didn't get an answer yet. Glad you're jumping right in there with an electrolysis system. Don't know how you have your system set up....container, anode (sacrificial material), size of charger, etc., etc. It is said that electrolysis cleaning is generally a line-of-sight method. That is, your cast iron (negative) must be in the line-of-sight of your sacrificial material (positive) in order for the electrolysis (cleaning) to take place. As for cleaning multiple pieces, some say they do it and have good success. Myself, I just clean one piece at a time...using a stainless steel barrel so the the cast iron is fully encircled by the anode. If I were to hang more than one piece of iron in the barrel, one piece would be blocking the "line-of-sight" of the other piece, unless they are hung at different elevations. Also, the bigger or more iron you are cleaning and the closeness to the anode will affect the amount of amps your charger is pulling. If you are pulling too many amps you are creating more heat in your solution, your iron and the charger leads....all of which is not necessary to get a good cleaning. Also, depending on how much crud you are trying to remove, the time needed to get your iron clean will vary. You might try a lye bath first to remove most of the crud, and then use the electrolysis to remove the remainder of the crud and any rust that may have been present (less time spent in the electro). The good thing about cleaning iron is that there are several options, and you can experiment with all or some of them until you find a method you are happy with.

Hope this helps a little. Show us some pictures of your set up and some of your cleaning results.....we like to see before and after pictures.

Welcome again and have fun. Ask more questions if you have any.

Scott

Roger Barfield
Forum Administrator

WAGS member



Posts: 7399

Re: Electro cleaning

Reply #2 - May 3rd, 2011, 2:55pm

You can clean more than one piece at a time, just don't put them too close together when you do it. Leave 6 inches or more between them so they don't interfere with each other. There are some photos on a thread here somewhere that show two pieces that were side by side and it made a design on one of them.

Scott Sanders

Moderator



I'll look for iron
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Posts: 1300

Re: Electro cleaning

Reply #3 - May 3rd, 2011, 3:08pm

Bob, here is a link to a thread by an ex forum member that really has the mutiple piece cleaning method down to a science. Does your set up look anything like his???



<http://www.griswoldandwagner.com/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl?num=1199253741>

Scott

Chuck Rogers

WAGS member



WAGS: She Finds The
Iron For Me

Posts: 8632

Re: Electro cleaning

Reply #4 - May 3rd, 2011, 6:59pm

Quote from Roger Barfield on May 3rd, 2011, 2:55pm:

You can clean more than one piece at a time, just don't put them too close together when you do it. Leave 6 inches or more between them so they don't interfere with each other. There are some photos on a thread here somewhere that show two pieces that were side by side and it made a design on one of them.

That's what I call "shadowing" Roger. Electro for the most part depends on "line of sight" If you block the area between the anode, and one piece, with another, it will still clean, but will have a "shadow" on it that can't be removed. Also, I've seen some setups that have a plastic crate in the bottom that they rest the iron on instead of hanging it. The outline of the crate was transferred to the iron.

I will hang multiple pieces in my 55 gallon setup, but they are at different levels in the tank so they don't interfere with one another.

Mike Nowik

WAGS member



WAGS: Heartbeat of
Cast Iron Cookware
Collecting

Posts: 188

Re: Electro cleaning

Reply #5 - May 5th, 2011, 10:43am

Thanks for the "shadowing" explanation Chuck. That's just what was happening to me. I was using a cut down plastic crate as a separator, and couldn't figure out why I was getting an image transfer of the crate grid on my pieces. I didn't know about "line of sight", and had reverted to using the lye bath until I could figure it out. Now I know.

Thanks again!