

## **Entfetter - Electrocleaner**

### **Electrocleaner / Degreaser – Beginner Guide Brush, Tampon & Bath Electroplating**

**This guide is beginner-friendly, practical, and aligned with internationally established sources and training. It applies equally to brush/tampon plating, bath cleaning, and non-electrolytic cleaning.**

**The electrocleaner is the first and most important preparation step in electroplating. It removes oil, grease, dirt, silicone residues, polishing compounds, and light oxides, ensuring proper adhesion of subsequent coatings.**

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#### **1. Purpose of an Electrocleaner**

**Even the smallest traces of grease or dirt can prevent proper adhesion of electroplated layers.**

**Without proper cleaning, plating may result in:**

- **beading of electrolyte**
- **stains or cloudy areas**
- **poor adhesion or peeling**

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#### **2. Suitable Materials**

**The electrocleaner is suitable for:**

- **Stainless steel**
- **Nickel**
- **Copper and brass**
- **Silver and jewelry**
- **Dechromed parts**
- **Most conductive metals and alloys**

**Also suitable for:**

- **Ultrasonic cleaning**
- **Non-electrical cleaning**

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#### **3. Safety Instructions**

- **Wear protective gloves**
- **Wear safety goggles**
- **Avoid skin and eye contact**

- Rinse splashes immediately with water
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#### **4. Electrical Connection (Normal Polarity)**

**No polarity reversal is used during electrocleaning.**

- **Positive (+):** handpiece with electrode and pad
- **Negative (-):** workpiece with crocodile clip

**Recommended electrode:**

- **Stainless steel**
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#### **5. Operating Parameters**

- **Voltage:** start at approx. 6 V
- **Temperature:** minimum room temperature
- **Electrolyte:** liquid or thickened (gel former optional)

**i** **Note:** A missing or very low current (ampere) reading is normal and not a fault.

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#### **6. Brush / Tampon Cleaning**

- 1. Connect polarity correctly**
- 2. Soak pad with electrocleaner**
- 3. Clean surface using gentle circular motions**
- 4. Pay special attention to contact points and clamps**

**Typical cleaning time: 30 seconds to 1 minute.**

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#### **7. Bath Cleaning**

- 1. Place workpiece in cleaning bath**
  - 2. Connect electrode (positive)**
  - 3. Connect workpiece (negative)**
  - 4. Set voltage to approx. 6 V**
  - 5. Clean briefly**
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#### **8. Non-Electrical Cleaning**

**The electrocleaner can also be used without electricity:**

- **Apply cleaner to sponge or cloth**
  - **Thoroughly wipe the surface**
  - **Ideal for pre-cleaning or sensitive parts**
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#### **9. Rinsing – Critical Step**

- **Rinse thoroughly immediately after cleaning**
- **Preferably with distilled water**
- **Do not allow surface to dry**

**➔ Proceed directly to activation or plating.**

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## **10. Common Beginner Mistakes**

**Poor adhesion: insufficient degreasing or dirty clamps**

**Staining: uneven cleaning or inadequate rinsing**

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**Key takeaway:**

**Thorough cleaning is the foundation of successful electroplating – no activation or coating can compensate for poor degreasing.**