

Removing Nickel Plating

When I was having the top put on my 1913 Touring, I found that the only Murphy snaps and rings I could buy were nickel plated brass. With the earlier Model T's all the top hardware was brass, so the problem of removing the nickel plating was at hand. Buffing the nickel off small parts is next to impossible, so another solution had to be found. A superb top and upholstery man explained how to use the electrolysis process to unplate items.

To unplate brass items you need a battery charger, a plastic or glass container large enough to submerge the items you wish to unplate, water, salt and a small strip of copper. Put the water into the container and add some salt to make the water a conductor of electricity. Attach the part to be unplated to the negative side of the battery charger and submerge it into the saline solution. Then take the strip of copper, connect it to the positive side of the battery and submerge it into the saline solution. Turn on the battery charger and the amp draw should be between two and four. You can get the proper amp draw by adding more salt to the solution. You will need to check the process regularly so as to avoid pitting the part you are unplating.