

# CLEANING LABORATORY EVALUATION SUMMARY

SCL #: 1995  
 DateRun: 01/05/1995  
 Experimenters: Donald Garlotta, John Bulko  
 ClientType: Capacitor Manufacturer  
 ProjectNumber: Project #1  
 Substrates: Steel, Tin  
 PartType: Part  
 Contaminants: Abrasive, Cutting/Tapping Fluids, Lubricating/Lapping Oils, Oil  
 Cleaning Methods: Ultrasonics  
 Analytical Methods: Gravimetric  
 Purpose: To evaluate ultrasonic and immersion cleaning.

Experimental Procedure: Commonwealth Sprague Capacitor Company (CSCC) currently manufacturers capacitors for a variety of applications and markets. Products are classified under SIC codes 3569, 3629, 3674 and 3675. During production, tin-plated steel capacitor cans and covers are stamped and drilled to provide access holes for wire leads, impregnation with dielectric fluids, soldering and assembly. Cans and covers must be free of any contaminants after cutting and drilling operations so as not to compromise electrical properties. Presently, all can pieces are cleaned by vapor degreasing using trichloroethylene prior to assembly. Once impregnated and/or filled with oil, the cans are sealed holes soldered and excess rosin-based flux removed in a final cleaning step. Several capacitor types require multiple vacuum impregnation steps in forming the capacitor's core composition. Cleaning after these operations is done using 1,1,1-trichloro-ethane vapor degreasing. After cleaning, finished units are tested to validate electrical specifications, painted, stamped and packaged for shipment. Commonwealth Sprague Capacitor has requested assistance with:

- identifying an alternative cleaning process to replace tri- chloroethylene vapor degreasing of capacitor cans and covers,
- alternatives for removing rosin-based flux after soldering operations and
- evaluating the performance of Degreaze 500 solvent cleaner as a potential alternative for cleaning rosin-based flux contaminated capacitors.

Results: The first cleaning trials performed were conducted using 316 stainless steel test coupons as the substrate and two machining/ drilling fluids, Hydraking 32AW (King Oil Co.) and Kutwell 40 (Exxon Co.). Both process fluids were completely removed (100.8% and 100.7% for Hydraking 32AW and Kutwell 40, respectively) using a 10% solution of Daraclean 282 (WR Grace) with ultrasonic agitation (Crest Ultrasonics) for five minutes at 151°-153°F followed by a two minute rinse at 137°-140°F in tap water and then deionized water. Since both contaminants were completely cleaned from the steel surfaces under the given conditions, the cleaning process was repeated using five tin-plated steel capacitor can covers. The covers were approximately 2" in diameter, had two holes drilled about the center and were lightly soiled with the aforementioned process fluids. After a 15 minute period of ultrasonication at 144°F followed by successive five minute rinses in tap and DI water and ambient air drying, the tin-plated steel surfaces showed areas of rust especially around the edges of the holes and outer circumference.

In light of the apparent surface corrosion observed, additional aqueous cleaning products were screened for compatibility using a Branson 8200 benchtop ultrasonic bath (3 gal. capacity; 400 W output). TABLE 1 lists the cleaning products tested, conditions used and results. Results are based on visual examination of the tin-plated steel capacitor can covers after ambient air drying for 60 minutes. As shown in TABLE 1, Kutwell 40 was more readily removed compared to the Hydraking 32AW process fluid under the listed conditions.

Cleaning trials were continued to identify one set of conditions that would effectively remove both contaminants completely. As shown in TABLE 2, by increasing the concentration of the cleaning solution to 20% for two cleaners, all soils were extracted from the surface of the metal covers. However, rust formation was again noted shortly into the drying stage. Testing of two additional cleaning products, Micro (International Products) and Hurrikleen (Hurri-Safe) at 10% dilution also proved effective on both contaminants but suffered the same drawbacks of rust formation (see TABLE 2).

As a result of the continued rust problem, the cleaning process was altered to reduce the period of tap water rinse from five minutes to five seconds on the premise that this would minimize the loss of any corrosion inhibitors imparted to the surface through contact with the cleaning solution. Results are tabulated in TABLE 3 using a Crest Ultrasonics bath (6 gal. capacity; 600 W output) and five minute ultrasonication period. As indicated, a 10% solution of Daraclean 232 (WR Grace) at 138°F for five minutes was effective in removing the contaminant with no rusting observed.

|         |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|
| TABLE 1 |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|

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|  |                        |               |                 |                 |
|--|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Branson 8200 Ultrasonic Bath                     |                        |               |                 |                 |
| Conditions: 15 min. duration @ 133°F             |                        |               |                 |                 |
| Tap water rinse 5 min. @ 133°F                   |                        |               |                 |                 |
| Substrate: Tin-plated Steel capacitor can covers |                        |               |                 |                 |
| Manufacturer                                     | Buckeye                | Sky Products  | Modern Chemical | Sunshine Makers |
| Product  | Shopmaster Cleaner #10 | Blue Gold     | Simple Green    |                 |
| Concentration                                    | 10                     | 10            | 10              | 10              |
| Contaminant                                      | Results                |               |                 |                 |
| Hydraking 32AW                                   | Oil remaining          | Oil remaining | Clean           | Oil remaining   |
|  |                        | rust present  | rust present    | rust present    |
| Kutwell 40                                       | Clean                  | Clean         | Clean           | Clean           |

TABLE 2  
Crest Ultrasonics Bath  
Substrate: Tin-plated steel capacitor can covers  
Conditions: 15 min. duration @ 140°F  
Tap water rinse 5 min. @ 140°F

|                |                        |              |                        |              |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Manufacturer   | Buckeye                | Sky Products | International Products | Hurri-Safe   |
| Product        | Shopmaster Cleaner #10 | Micro        | Hurrikleen             |              |
| Concentration  | 20                     | 20           | 10                     | 10           |
| Contaminant    | Results                |              |                        |              |
| Hydraking 32AW | Clean                  | Clean        | Clean                  | Clean        |
|                | rust present           | rust present | rust present           | rust present |
| Kutwell 40     | Clean                  | Clean        | Clean                  | Clean        |
|                | rust present           | rust present | rust present           | rust present |

TABLE 3  
Crest Ultrasonics Bath  
Substrate: Tin-plated steel capacitor can covers  
Contaminant: Hydraking 32AW

| Cleaner       | Agitation time (min) | Temp F | Rinse time (sec) | Rinse Temp F | Observations    |
|---------------|----------------------|--------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Hurrikleen    | 5                    | 150    | 5                | 140          | Clean with rust |
| Micro         | 5                    | 136    | 5                | 140          | Clean with rust |
| Cleaner #10   | 5                    | 136    | 5                | 140          | Soil remaining  |
| Daraclean 232 | 5                    | 138    | 5                | 140          | Clean rust free |

After determining an effective cleaning product, gravimetric analysis was performed to verify the cleaning performance quantitatively. Two clean tin-plated steel capacitor cans (3"long x 2" diameter) were sectioned into pieces of varying size (12 total) for use as the substrate to be contaminated. All pieces were weighed prior to contamination and again after application of 10- 50mg of either Hydraking 32AW (six pieces) or Kutwell 40 (six pieces). The can pieces were then cleaned using a similar process outlined in Table 3 using ultrasonic agitation followed by rinsing in tap water (5 sec.) and drying under a system of

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air knives (2) for two minutes. All sections were weighed again after each cleaning trial. Performance data are compiled in TABLE 4 with " % REMOVAL" being the average change in weight of the six tin-plated steel pieces. It is apparent from the weight change data that % REMOVAL values greater than 100% indicated the loss of metal substrate. Duplicate trials using Daraclean 232 as well as trying several different cleaners all showed similar results. When uncontaminated sections were placed in tap water at 146°F and cycled through the cleaning stages, weight losses between 1.5-10.1mg were recorded suggesting that ultrasonic agitation was responsible for the substrate loss.

TABLE 4  
Crest Ultrasonics Bath  
Substrate: Six tin-plated steel capacitor can pieces per cleaning trial

| Contaminant: Hydraking 32AW |               |                      |        |           |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|
| Cleaner                     | Concentration | Agitation time (min) | Temp F | % Removal |
| Daraclean 232               | 10            | 5                    | 146    | 178.9     |
| Daraclean 232 Repeat        | 10            | 5                    | 144    | 150       |
| Gillite 0650 Cl             | 10            | 5                    | 140    | 137       |
| Seawash Neutral             | 10            | 5                    | 138    | 192.7     |
| Contaminant: Kutwell 40     |               |                      |        |           |
| Daraclean 232               | 10            | 5                    | 144    | 154.6     |
| Daraclean 232 Repeat        | 10            | 5                    | 138    | 120.3     |
| Gillite 0650 Cl             | 10            | 5                    | 141    | 135       |
| Seawash Neutral             | 10            | 5                    | 140    | 163.6     |

The cleaning process was then converted to agitated immersion following a similar sequence of stages and duration. Repeating the blank run with clean can pieces immersed in tap water at 140°F for 5 minutes produced no weight changes (within experimental error), thus verifying the harmful effects caused by ultrasonication.

Quantitative results using the agitated immersion cleaning process are shown in TABLE 5 for several cleaning products tested. As indicated earlier (see TABLE 3), a 10% solution of Daraclean 232 effectively removed both machining oils while preserving the integrity of the tin-plated steel substrate. Two additional candidate cleaners were selected for evaluation due to their lower pH properties (7-9 pH range) as compared to the more alkaline solution, Daraclean 232 (pH≈12). Tin is highly sensitive to alkaline environments over a pH of 10. Daraclean 232 is a liquid amine blend of ferrous and nonferrous corrosion inhibitors, silicate, nonionic surfactants, anionic surfactant, EDTA and a citrus fragrance at less than 0.5% in a water base. This product contains no phosphate, chloride or nitrite.

The last series of cleaning trials was performed using rosin-based flux(#115) as the contaminant. Initial experiments were performed using ultrasonic agitation of 10% Daraclean 232 for 5 minutes at temperatures between 134°-145°F followed by 15 sec. tap water rinse at 140°-142°F and air knife drying for 2-5 minutes. Specimens appeared clean and free of rust by visual inspection. Inspection under a long wave UV lamp (black light) confirmed the complete removal of applied flux. Parallel cleaning trials using an agitated immersion process to clean rosin-based flux contaminated surfaces remains to be completed.

Commonwealth Sprague Capacitor also requested that Degreaze 500 (Solvent Kleen, Inc.), a hydrocarbon solvent cleaner, be evaluated for removing rosin-based flux from capacitor cans and assembled units. The solvent was used in an agitated immersion process to clean fluxed capacitor covers for 5 minutes at 75°F followed by immediate drying under air knives for 2 minutes without rinsing. Black light inspection revealed several spots of suspected contaminant remaining, thus indicating incomplete cleaning under the stated conditions. Evaluation of flux removal from assembled capacitors (after soldering operations to attach wire leads) using Degreaze 500 is being contemplated.

TABLE 5  
Agitated Immersion Wash Substrate: Three tin-plated steel capacitor can pieces per cleaning trial

| Contaminant: Hydraking 32AW |               |                      |        |           |           |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Cleaner                     | Concentration | Agitation time (min) | Temp F | % Removal | Effective |

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|                         |    |   |     |       |     |
|-------------------------|----|---|-----|-------|-----|
| Daraclean 235           | 10 | 5 | 136 | 64.6  |     |
| Gillite 0650 Cl         | 10 | 5 | 136 | 1100  |     |
| Daraclean 232           | 10 | 5 | 138 | 101.8 | Yes |
|                         |    |   |     |       |     |
| Contaminant: Kutwell 40 |    |   |     |       |     |
| Daraclean 235           | 10 | 5 | 140 | 112   |     |
| Gillite 0650 Cl         | 10 | 5 | 136 | 107.8 |     |
| Daraclean 232           | 10 | 5 | 140 | 101.4 | Yes |

A note of concern must be mentioned regarding the objectionable odor emitted when using the Degrease 500 solvent cleaner in the cleaning trials. Although no permissible exposure limits to this product are indicated on the Material Safety Data Sheet, health effects do include eye irritation, mild skin irritation and nasal/respiratory irritation upon excessive overexposure. Other health, safety and disposal issues may also be of concern depending on how this product is used, handled and integrated into the cleaning operations and manufacturing process at the company.

Summary:

|                                    |   |               |                    |                                     |                      |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Substrates:</b>                 | Steel, Tin  |               |                    |                                     |                      |
| <b>Contaminants:</b>               | Abrasive, Cutting/Tapping Fluids, Lubricating/Lapping Oils, Oil |               |                    |                                     |                      |
| <b>Company Name:</b>               | <b>Product Name:</b>  | <b>Conc.:</b> | <b>Efficiency:</b> | <b>Effective:</b>                   | <b>Observations:</b> |
| International Products Corporation | Micro (no longer available)                                     | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Buckeye International              | Shopmaster  | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Simple Green                       | Concentrated Industrial Strength Cleaner and Degreaser          | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Sky Products Company Inc           | Cleaner #10   | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Magnaflux                          | Daraclean 232   | 10            |                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                      |
| Warren Chemical Company            | Sea Wash Neutral  | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Carroll Company                    | Blue Gold Heavy Industrial Cleaner                              | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Hurri Kleen Corporation            | HurriSafe - Hot Immersion Degreaser                             | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |
| Man Gill Chemical Company          | Gillite 0650 Cl   | 10            |                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |

Conclusion:

In conclusion, an aqueous cleaning chemistry was found that effectively removed machining and stamping fluids from tin-plated steel capacitor cans and covers. Using an agitated immersion process at 138°-140°F for 5 minutes, a 10% solution of Daraclean 232 completely removed both Hydraking 32AW and Kutwell 40 contaminants while preserving the substrate and eliminating corrosion. Ultrasonic agitation was found to cause the loss of metal substrate and was disqualified from further evaluation.