

ABSTRACTELECTROPLATING APPARATUS

5 There is disclosed apparatus for selectively electrolytically treating defined regions of a continuously moving conductive workpiece. The apparatus comprises means for conveying the workpiece through an electrolytic treatment zone of the apparatus where it is
10 contacted with a treatment electrolyte; the conveying means affording masking means to mask the workpiece so that electrolyte contacts only the defined regions; the conveying means comprising an endless chain affording indexing means by which the workpiece is located in
15 register with the masking means; means for supplying electrolyte to the masked workpiece; and means for passing a current between the workpiece as one electrode and another electrode; the means for conveying the workpiece comprising two endless chain conveyors made of
20 articulated links of electrically non-conductive material between which the workpiece is held whilst it is passed through the treatment zone.

 Indexing means may be provided for ensuring that the two endless chain conveyors remain in register with each
25 other at least in the treatment zone.

 Each of the endless chain conveyors may be provided with a support structure at least in the treatment zone and the support structures may be mounted for movement towards and away from each other.

30 The two endless chain conveyors may be keyed to each other at least in the treatment zone and only one of the conveyors may be provided with driving means, the driven conveyor acting to carry the other conveyor in register with itself through the treatment zone.

At least one of the endless chain conveyors may be provided with a support structure at least in the treatment zone and may be keyed to the support structure at least in the treatment zone in such a way as to hold the conveyor to the support structure whilst permitting the conveyor to slide along the said structure.

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