



Designation: E 1558 – 99

## Standard Guide for Electrolytic Polishing of Metallographic Specimens<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1558; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last approval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This guide deals with electrolytic polishing as a means of preparation of specimens for metallographic purposes. Procedures are described for polishing a variety of metals.

NOTE 1—References (1-133)<sup>2</sup> on electrolytic polishing will provide the reader with specific information beyond the scope of this guide.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* Specific safety precautions are described in Section 5 and 6.3.1.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 3 Methods of Preparation of Metallographic Specimens<sup>3</sup>

E 7 Terminology Relating to Metallography<sup>3</sup>

E 407 Test Methods for Microetching Metals and Alloys<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—All terms used in this guide are either defined in Terminology E 7 or are discussed in 3.2.

#### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *electrolytic polish (electropolish)*—A method of polishing metals and alloys in which material is removed from the surface by making the metal the anode in an electrolytic bath.

### 4. Significance and Use

#### 4.1 Advantages of Electrolytic Polishing:

4.1.1 For some metals, a high quality surface finish can be produced that is equivalent to, or better than, that which can be obtained by mechanical methods.

4.1.2 Once procedures have been established, satisfactory results can be obtained rapidly with reproducibility.

4.1.3 There can be a marked saving of time if many specimens of the same material are polished sequentially.

4.1.4 Electropolishing a selected area on the surface of a relatively large metal part can be accomplished nondestructively, that is, without the need for sectioning to remove a piece.

4.1.5 Soft, single-phase metals, which may be difficult to polish by mechanical methods, may be successfully electropolished.

4.1.6 The true microstructure of a specimen can be obtained because artifacts (such as disturbed metal, scratches, and mechanical twins), produced on the surface even by careful grinding and mechanical polishing operations, can be removed. These features are important in low-load hardness testing, X-ray diffraction studies, and in electron microscopy, where higher resolution puts a premium on undistorted metal surfaces.

4.1.7 After electropolishing is completed, etching can often be accomplished by reducing the voltage (generally to about one-tenth that required for polishing) for a short time before it is turned off.

NOTE 2—Not all electropolishing solutions produce good etching results.

#### 4.2 Disadvantages of Electrolytic Polishing:

4.2.1 Many of the chemical mixtures used in electropolishing are poisonous or dangerous if not properly handled (see Section 5). These hazards are similar to those involved in the mixing and handling of etchants, see Test Methods E 407.

4.2.2 In multi-phase alloys, the polishing rate of each phase may be different. The result may be a non-planar surface.

4.2.3 Electropolished surfaces may be slightly undulated rather than perfectly planar and, therefore, may not be suitable for examination at all magnifications.

4.2.4 The rate of polishing in areas adjacent to various inhomogeneities, such as nonmetallic inclusions and voids, is usually greater than that in the surrounding matrix and tends to exaggerate the size of the inclusions and voids.

4.2.5 Dimples, pits, and waviness limit applications involving surface phenomena, coatings, interfaces, and cracks. Edges tend to be attacked preferentially, resulting in edge rounding.

4.2.6 Artifacts may be produced by electropolishing.

4.2.7 Specimen mounting materials may react with the electrolyte.

<sup>1</sup> This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E-4 on Metallography and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E04.01 on Sampling, Specimen Preparation, and Photography.

Current edition approved October 10, 1999. Published December 1999. Originally published as E 1558 - 93. Last previous edition E 1558 - 93.

<sup>2</sup> The **boldface** numbers in parentheses refer to the references at the end of this standard.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.01.

4.2.8 The electropolished surfaces of certain materials may be passive and difficult to etch.

4.2.9 Metal removal rates by electropolishing are usually quite low, typically about 1 μm/min, and all of the prior induced damage from cutting and grinding may not be removed if preparation is stopped after a 600-grit SiC grind and electropolishing times are short.

4.2.10 A large number of electrolytes may be needed to polish the variety of metals encountered by a given laboratory. Considerable time may be required to develop a procedure for a new alloy.

## 5. General Safety Precautions

5.1 Before using or mixing any chemicals, all product labels and pertinent Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) should be

read and understood concerning all of the hazards and safety precautions to be observed. Users should be aware of the type of hazards involved in the use of all chemicals used, including those hazards that are immediate, long-term, visible, invisible, and with or without odors.

5.1.1 Consult the product labels and MSDS for recommendations concerning proper protective clothing.

5.1.2 All chemicals are potentially dangerous. All persons using any electrolyte should be thoroughly familiar with all of the chemicals involved and the proper procedure for handling, mixing, and disposing of each chemical, as well as any combinations of those chemicals.

5.1.3 Table 2 includes specific safety precautions for the mixing or use of some electrolytes. The user should take care to observe each of these specific precautions.

**TABLE 2 Electrolytes for Electropolishing**

Class	Use	Formula	Cell Voltage	Time	Remarks
Group I (Electrolytes Composed of Perchloric Acid and Alcohol With or Without Organic Additions)					
I-1	Al and Al alloys with less than 2 percent Si	ethanol (95 %) distilled water perchloric acid (60 %)	800 mL 140 mL 60 mL	30 to 80	15 to 60 s
	steels—carbon, alloy, stainless		35 to 65	15 to 60 s	
	Pb, Pb-Sn, Pb-Sn-Cd, Pb-Sn-Sb		12 to 35	15 to 60 s	
	Zn, Zn-Sn-Fe, Zn-Al-Cu		20 to 60	...	
	Mg and high Mg alloys		...	...	nickel cathode
I-2	stainless steel and aluminum	ethanol (95 %) perchloric acid (60 %)	800 mL 200 mL	35 to 80	15 to 60 s
I-3	stainless steel	ethanol (95 %) perchloric acid (65 %)	940 mL 60 mL	30 to 45	15 to 60 s
I-4	steel, cast iron, Al, Al alloys, Ni, Sn, Ag, Be, Ti, Zr, U, heat-resisting alloys	ethanol (95 %) 2-butoxy ethanol perchloric acid (30 %)	700 mL 100 mL 200 mL	30 to 65	15 to 60 s
					one of the best formulas for universal use
I-5	steels—stainless, alloy, high-speed; Fe, Al, Zr, Pb	ethanol (95 %) glycerin perchloric acid (30 %)	700 mL 100 mL 200 mL	15 to 50	15 to 60 s
					universal electrolyte comparable to I-4

**TABLE 1 Electropolishing Procedural Problems and Corrections**

Trouble	Possible Cause	Suggested Correction
Center of specimen deeply etched	no polishing film at center of specimen	(1) increase voltage (2) decrease agitation (3) use more viscous electrolyte
Pitting or etching at edges of specimen	too viscous or thick film	(1) decrease voltage (2) increase agitation (3) use less viscous electrolyte
Sludge settling on surface	insoluble anode product	(1) try new electrolyte (2) increase temperature (3) increase voltage
Roughness or matte surface	insufficient or no polishing film	(1) increase voltage (2) use more viscous electrolyte
Waviness or streaks on polished surface	(1) insufficient time (2) incorrect agitation (3) inadequate preparation (4) too much time	(1) increase or decrease agitation (2) better preparation (3) increase voltage and decrease time
Stains on polished surface	attack after polishing current is off	(1) remove specimen while current is still on (2) try less corrosive electrolyte
Unpolished spots (bullseyes)	gas bubbles	(1) increase agitation (2) decrease voltage
Phases in relief	insufficient polishing film	(1) increase voltage (2) better preparation (3) decrease time
Pitting	(1) too long polishing (2) too high voltage	(1) better preparation (2) decrease voltage (3) decrease time (4) try different electrolyte

**TABLE 2** *Continued*

Class	Use	Formula	Cell Voltage	Time	Remarks	
I-6	Al, Al-Si alloys	ethanol (95 %) diethyl ether perchloric acid (30 %)	760 mL 190 mL 50 mL	35 to 60	15 to 60 s	particularly good with Al-Si alloys
I-7	Mo, Ti, Zr, U-Zr alloy	methanol (absolute) 2-butoxy ethanol perchloric acid (60 %)	600 mL 370 mL 30 mL	60 to 150	5 to 30 s	
I-8	Al-Si alloys	methanol (absolute) glycerin perchloric acid (65 %)	840 mL 125 mL 35 mL	50 to 100	5 to 60 s	
I-9	vanadium	methanol (absolute) 2-butoxy ethanol perchloric acid (65 %)	590 mL 350 mL 60 mL	30	3 s	three-second cycles repeated at least seven times to prevent heating
	germanium			25 to 35	30 to 60 s	
	titanium			58 to 66	45 s	polish only
	zirconium			70 to 75	15 s	polish and etch simultaneously
I-10	aluminum	methanol (absolute) nitric acid perchloric acid (60 %)	950 mL 15 mL 50 mL	30 to 60	15 to 60 s	
I-11	steels—carbon, alloy, stainless Ti, high-temperature alloys, Pb, Mo	methanol (absolute) butylcellosolve perchloric acid	600 mL 360 mL 60 mL	30–40	5–60 s	good all purpose electropolish
I-12	Al and Al alloys	ethanol (95 %) perchloric acid	1000 mL 200 mL	10	2 min	not good for Al-Cu and Al-Si alloys. Black film forms. Peel off after 1–1.5 min and polish 1 min more.
I-13	steel, Al, Ni, Sn, Ti, Be stainless steel Al <sub>3</sub> Ni	ethanol (95 %) butylcellosolve water perchloric acid	700 mL 100 mL 137 mL 62 mL	20	20 s	Mix ethanol and water, add perchloric acid carefully. Then, add butylcellosolve before use.
I-14	Ni, Ag or Cu alloys Cd	ethanol (95 %) butylcellosolve perchloric acid	700 mL 100 mL 200 mL	70–80	15 s	
I-15	Mo and Mo alloys	methanol (absolute) water butylcellosolve perchloric acid	600 mL 13 mL 360 mL 47 mL		20 s	Mix methanol and water, add perchloric acid carefully. Add butylcellosolve before use.
Group II (Electrolytes Composed of Perchloric Acid and Glacial Acetic Acid in Varying Proportions)						
II-1	Cr, Ti, Zr, U Fe, steel—carbon, alloy, stainless	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid (60 %)	940 mL 60 mL	20 to 60	1 to 5 min	good general-purpose electrolyte
II-2	Zr, Ti, U, steel—carbon and alloy	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid (60 %)	900 mL 100 mL	12 to 70	0.5 to 2 min	
II-3	U, Zr, Ti, Al, steel—carbon and alloy	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid (60 %)	800 mL 200 mL	40 to 100	1 to 15 min	
II-4	Ni, Pb, Pb-Sb alloys	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid (60 %)	700 mL 300 mL	40 to 100	1 to 5 min	
II-5	3 percent Si-Fe	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid (60 %)	650 mL 350 mL	...	5 min	0.06 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
II-6	Cr	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid	1000 mL 5 mL	30–50	2–3 min	can lower voltage to 25 V by adding 5–15 % water.
II-7	Hf, steel—carbon and alloy	acetic acid (glacial) perchloric acid	1000 mL 50 mL	...	...	Used to polish Hf wires.

**TABLE 2** *Continued*

Class	Use	Formula		Cell Voltage	Time	Remarks
<b>Group III (Electrolytes Composed of Phosphoric Acid in Water or Organic Solvent)</b>						
III-1	cobalt	phosphoric acid (85 %)	1000 mL	1.2	3 to 5 min	
III-2	pure copper	distilled water	175 mL	1.0 to 1.6	10 to 40 min	copper cathode
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	825 mL			
III-3	stainless, brass, Cu and Cu alloys except Sn bronze	water	300 mL	1.5 to 1.8	5 to 15 min	copper cathode
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	700 mL			
III-4	alpha or alpha plus beta brass, Cu-Fe, Cu-Co, Co, Cd	water	600 mL	1 to 2	1 to 15 min	copper or stainless steel cathode
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	400 mL			
III-5	Cu, Cu-Zn	water	1000 mL	1 to 2	10 min	copper cathode
III-6	steel	pyrophosphoric acid	580 g			
		diethylene glycol monoethyl ether	500 mL	5 to 20	5 to 15 min	120°F
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	500 mL			
III-7	Al, Ag, Mg	water	200 mL	25 to 30	4 to 6 min	aluminum cathode, 100 to 110°F
		ethanol (95 %)	380 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	400 mL			
III-8	uranium	ethanol (absolute)	300 mL	...	...	
		glycerin (cp)	300 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	300 mL			
III-9	Mn, Mn-Cu alloys	ethanol (95 %)	500 mL	18	...	
		glycerin	250 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	250 mL			
III-10	Cu and Cu-base alloys	distilled water	500 mL	...	1 to 5 min	
		ethanol (95 %)	250 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	250 mL			
III-11	stainless steel	ethanol (absolute), to	1 L	...	10 min	good for all austenitic heat resistant alloys, 100°F plus
		pyrophosphoric acid	400 g			
III-12	Mg-Zn	ethanol (95 %)	625 mL	1.5 to 2.5	3 to 30 min	
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	375 mL			
III-13	uranium	ethanol (95 %)	445 mL	18 to 20	5 to 15 min	0.03 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		ethylene glycol	275 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	275 mL			
III-14	Al-Mg alloys	water	250 mL	50-60	2 min	
		ethanol (95 %)	380 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	400 mL			
III-15	Cu-Pb alloys	ethanol (95 %)	620 mL			good up to 30 % Pb
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	380 mL			
III-16	Neptunium	ethanol (95 %)	400 mL			after 600-grit SiC, use 6- $\mu$ m diamond on nylon before electropolishing.
		glycerol	400 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	800 mL			
<b>Group IV (Electrolytes Composed of Sulfuric Acid in Water or Organic Solvent)</b>						
IV-1	stainless steel	water	250 mL	1.5 to 6	1 to 2 min	
		sulfuric acid	750 mL			
IV-2	stainless steel, Fe, Ni	water	400 mL	1.5 to 6	2 to 6 min	
		sulfuric acid	600 mL			
IV-3	stainless steel, Fe, Ni, Mo	water	750 mL	1.5 to 6	2 to 10 min	particularly good for sintered Mo—32 to 80°F
		sulfuric acid	250 mL		0.3 to 1 min	
IV-4	molybdenum	water	900 mL	1.5 to 6	0.3 to 2 min	particularly good for sintered Mo—32 to 80°F
		sulfuric acid	100 mL			
IV-5	stainless steel	water	70 mL	1.5 to 6	0.5 to 5 min	
		glycerin	200 mL			
		sulfuric acid	720 mL			
IV-6	stainless steel, aluminum	water	220 mL	1.5 to 12	1 to 20 min	
		glycerin	200 mL			
		sulfuric acid	580 mL			
IV-7	molybdenum	methanol (absolute)	875 mL	6 to 18	0.5 to 1.5 min	32 to 80°F
		sulfuric acid	125 mL			
IV-8	Ni-base superalloys	methanol (absolute)	800 mL	30	20 s	for alloy 625
		sulfuric acid	200 mL			
<b>Group V (Electrolytes Composed of Chromic Acid in Water)</b>						
V-1	stainless steel	water	830 mL	1.5 to 9	2 to 10 min	
		chromic acid	620 g			
V-2	Zn, brass	water	830 mL	1.5 to 12	10 to 60 s	
		chromic acid	170 g			

**TABLE 2** *Continued*

Class	Use	Formula	Cell Voltage	Time	Remarks	
Group VI (Mixed Acids or Salts in Water or Organic Solvent)						
VI-1	stainless steel	phosphoric acid (85 %)	600 mL	...	...	
		sulfuric acid	400 mL			
VI-2	stainless steel	water	150 mL	...	2 min	0.3 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	300 mL			
		sulfuric acid	550 mL			
VI-3	stainless and alloy steel	water	240 mL	...	2 to 10 min	0.1 to 0.2 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	420 mL			
		sulfuric acid	340 mL			
VI-4	stainless steel	water	330 mL	...	1 min	0.05 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	550 mL			
		sulfuric acid	120 mL			
VI-5	bronze (to 9 % Sn)	water	450 mL	...	1 to 5 min	0.1 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	390 mL			
		sulfuric acid	160 mL			
VI-6	bronze (to 6 % Sn)	water	330 mL	...	1 to 5 min	0.1 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	580 mL			
		sulfuric acid	90 mL			
VI-7	steel	water	140 mL	...	1 to 5 min	1 to 5 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 100°F plus
		glycerin	100 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	430 mL			
		sulfuric acid	330 mL			
VI-8	stainless steel	water	200 mL	...	5 min	1 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 80 to 120°F
		glycerin	590 mL			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	100 mL			
		sulfuric acid	110 mL			
VI-9	stainless steel	water	260 mL	...	30 min	0.6 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 80 to 120°F
		chromic acid	175 g			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	175 mL			
		sulfuric acid	580 mL			
VI-10	stainless steel	water	175 mL	...	60 min	0.5 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 80 to 120°F
		chromic acid	105 g			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	460 mL			
		sulfuric acid	390 mL			
VI-11	stainless and alloy steel	water	240 mL	...	5 to 60 min	0.5 to A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 100 to 130°F
		chromic acid	80 g			
		phosphoric acid (85 %)	650 mL			
		sulfuric acid	130 mL			
VI-12	tantalum	hydrofluoric acid	100 mL	...	9 min	graphite cathode, 0.1 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 90 to 100°F
		sulfuric acid	900 mL			
VI-13	stainless steel	water	210 mL	...	5 min	0.5 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 70 to 120°F
		hydrofluoric acid	180 mL			
		sulfuric acid	610 mL			
VI-14	zinc	water	800 mL	...	...	0.002 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 70 to 100°F
		chromic acid	100 g			
		sulfuric acid	46 mL			
		sodium dichromate	310 g			
		acetic acid (glacial)	96 mL			
VI-15	stainless steel	hydrogen peroxide (30 %)	260 mL	...	5 min	0.5 A/cm <sup>2</sup> ( <b>Caution</b> ) <b>Dangerous</b>
		( <b>Caution</b> ) hydrofluoric acid	240 mL			
		sulfuric acid	500 mL			
VI-16	stainless steel	water	520 mL	...	½ to 4 min	0.08 to 0.3 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
		hydrofluoric acid	80 mL			
		sulfuric acid	400 mL			
VI-17	stainless steel	water	600 mL	...	...	
		chromic acid	180 g			
		nitric acid	60 mL			
		hydrochloric acid	3 mL			
		sulfuric acid	240 mL			
VI-18	bismuth	glycerin	750 mL	12	1 to 5 min	0.5 ± A/cm <sup>2</sup> ( <b>Caution</b> ) This mixture will decompose vigorously after a short time. Do not try to keep.
		acetic acid (glacial)	125 mL			
		nitric acid	125 mL			
VI-19	magnesium	ethylene-glycol-monoethyl ether	900 mL	50 to 60	10 to 30 s	Bath should be stirred. Cool cracked ice below 35°F
		hydrochloric acid	100 mL			
VI-20	molybdenum, sintered and cast	methanol (absolute)	685 mL	19 to 35	20 to 35 s	Mix slowly. Heat is developed. Avoid contamination with water. Below 35°F.
		hydrochloric acid	225 mL			
		sulfuric acid	90 mL			

**TABLE 2** *Continued*

Class	Use	Formula	Cell Voltage	Time	Remarks	
Group VI (Mixed Acids or Salts in Water or Organic Solvent)— <i>Continued</i>						
VI-21	titanium	ethanol (95 %) <i>n</i> -butyl alcohol aluminum chloride (anhydrous) (add very slowly) <b>(Caution)</b> zinc chloride (anhydrous)	900 mL 100 mL 60 g	30 to 60	1 to 6 min	<b>(Caution)</b> Anhydrous aluminum chloride is extremely dangerous to handle.
VI-22	uranium	acetic acid (glacial) distilled water chromic acid	750 mL 210 mL 180 g	80	5 to 30 min	The chromic acid is dissolved in the water before adding to the acetic acid. Below 35°F.
VI-23	pure zinc	ethanol (95 %) aluminum chloride (anhydrous) <b>(Caution)</b> zinc chloride (anhydrous) distilled water <i>n</i> -butyl alcohol	720 mL 50 g 225 g 160 mL 80 mL	25 to 40	0.5 to 3 min	<b>(Caution)</b> Anhydrous aluminum chloride is extremely dangerous to handle. Below 60°F.
VI-24	zirconium. Polish and etch simultaneously	glycerin <b>(Caution)</b> hydrofluoric acid nitric acid	870 mL 43 mL 87 mL	9 to 12	1 to 10 min	<b>(Caution)</b> will decompose on standing, dangerous if kept too long
VI-25	bismuth	saturated solution KI in distilled water hydrochloric acid	980 mL 20 mL	7	30 s	polish 30 s but allow to remain in electrolyte until brown film is dissolved
VI-26	Sb	methanol (absolute) sulfuric acid	300 mL 50 mL	6–10	2–4 min	pure Sb. Use Pt cathode and anode lead wires. Agitate bath. Do not touch polished surface with cotton.
VI-27	Sb	hydrochloric acid ethanol (95 %) glycerol phosphoric acid sulfuric acid	30 mL 30 mL 30 mL 100 mL 30 mL			good for polarized light work
VI-28	Bi	water phosphoric acid sulfuric acid	200 mL 100 mL 200 mL			good for polarized light work
VI-29	Cr	water phosphoric acid sulfuric acid	210 mL 640 mL 150 mL	18		stir bath or specimen
VI-30	Ge	methanol (absolute) hydrochloric acid	1000 mL 10 mL			
VI-31	Nb	water sulfuric acid hydrofluoric acid	300 mL 100 mL 100 mL	40		polish to $\alpha$ -alumina before electropolishing
VI-32	Nb	methanol (absolute) sulfuric acid hydrofluoric acid	940 mL 50 mL 15 mL	50–60	10 s	
VI-33	Ni-base superalloy	methanol (absolute) hydrochloric acid	170 mL 30 mL	30	20 s	for Waspaloy and IN-100 mod. Etch at 5 V for 4 s.
Group VII (Alkaline Electrolytes)						
VII-1	gold	water to potassium cyanide potassium carbonate gold chloride	1000 mL 80 g 40 g 50 g	7.5	2 to 4 min	graphite cathode
VII-2	silver	water to sodium cyanide potassium ferrocyanide	1000 mL 100 g 100 g	2.5	To 1 min	graphite cathode
VII-3	silver	water to potassium cyanide silver cyanide potassium dichromate	1000 mL 400 g 280 g 280 g	...	To 9 min	graphite cathode, 0.003 to 0.009 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
VII-4	tungsten	water to trisodium phosphate	1000 mL 160 g	...	10 min	graphite cathode, 0.09 A/cm <sup>2</sup> , 100 to 120 F
VII-5	tungsten, lead	water to sodium hydroxide	1000 mL 100 g	...	8 to 10 min	graphite cathode, 0.03 to 0.06 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
VII-6	zinc, tin	water to potassium hydroxide	1000 mL 200 g	2 to 6	15 min	copper cathode, 0.1 to 0.2 A/cm <sup>2</sup>
VII-7	W	water sodium hydroxide	1000 mL 20 g		5 min	
Group VIII (Mixture of Methyl Alcohol and Nitric Acid)						
VIII-1	Ni, Cu, Zn, Monel, brass, Ni-chrome, stainless steel	methanol (absolute) nitric acid	660 mL 330 mL	40 to 70	10 to 60 s	very useful but dangerous