

⑫ **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

⑰ Application number: **78200123.4**

⑸ Int. Cl³: **H 01 G 9/04,**
C 22 C 21/00, C 22 C 21/12

⑱ Date of filing: **31.07.78**

⑤④ **Cathode foil for electrolytic capacitors**

③⑩ Priority: **22.08.77 NL 7709231**

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④③ Date of publication of application:
07.03.79 Bulletin 79/05

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④⑤ Publication of the grant of the European patent:
03.09.80 Bulletin 80/18

⑧④ Designated Contracting States:
BE CH DE FR GB NL

⑤⑥ References cited:
GB - A - 945 700
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EP 0 000 965 B1

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Cathode foil for electrolytic capacitors

The invention relates to aluminium foil for electrolytic capacitors and to cathode foil in particular and to electrolytic capacitor manufactured with this foil.

An electrolytic aluminium foil capacitor consists of an anode foil of aluminium provided with a dielectric aluminium oxide skin obtained by anodic oxidation and an etched cathode foil of aluminium which are rolled together with a so-called separator of an insulating material to form a wound body. The wound body is impregnated with an electrolyte liquid and encapsulated.

It is important that the desired capacitance is concentrated on as small a surface area as possible, which means that the metal surface area to be oxidized (forming) must be as large as possible. To this end the surface of the aluminium foil obtained by rolling is subjected to an etching operation. Etching is usually performed electrolytically. To obtain a high capacitance per unit of surface area it is important that the surface area of the cathode foil, which is encapsulated in normal capacitors in a non-formed state, is also enlarged and that in the order of magnitude of the anode foil.

Aluminium of a very high purity, namely Al 99.99% is usually used for the anode foil.

According to US Specification 3,899,723 cathode foil consisting of an aluminium-manganese alloy having a manganese content of 0.2 to 2 weight % is used in an advantageous manner. Besides the fact that this foil has a high capacitance value after etching, so that after assembly with a formed anode foil it furnishes a capacitor having a high CV value, it has, prior to etching, a high impact strength and so the foil suffers less damage when handled prior to, during and after the etching operation compared to foil to which no manganese is added. The specification of this type of alloy having 0.9-1.4% Mn in accordance with the DIN standard 1725, page 1, stipulates the following maximum values for contaminations:

	Si	0.5	Cr	0.05	other contaminations
25	Fe	0.6	Zn	0.2	each 0.05 to a total
	Cu	0.1	Ti	0.1	of 0.15.

However, the effects aimed at did not appear to be quite optimal and it was therefore an object of the invention to obtain a further increase in the capacitance value and a still higher impact strength of the foil after etching.

The cathode foil according to the invention is therefore characterized in that it has next to a manganese content of between 0.2 and 2 weight % a copper content of between 0.15 and 5.3 weight %.

In accordance with a further elaboration of the invention an increase in the impact strength in particular is obtained if furthermore the titanium content of the cathode foil is between 0.03 and 0.5 weight %.

Preferably the Mn is between 0.5 and 1.5%, Cu between 0.15 and 0.5 and Ti between 0.05 and 0.25 weight %.

Compared to the foil in accordance with the above-mentioned US Patent Specification 3,899,723 the foil according to the invention has a 20 to 30% higher capacitance after etching with a given number of Coulombs/cm² and, furthermore, an impact strength after etching with a given number of Coulombs/cm² which is approximately a factor of 2 higher.

The latter fact enables an increased through-etching of the foil so that an additional increase of the capacitance is possible, or the choice of a thinner foil as a starting material.

Example 1

By way of non-limitative example there now follows a comparison between foil in accordance with the above-mentioned DIN specification (1) and foil according to the invention (2). The relevant compositions in % by weight are:

	(1)	Mn	1.0%	(2)	Mn	1.0%
55		Cu	0.10%		Cu	0.20%
		Ti	0.02%		Ti	0.08%
		Fe	0.6%		Fe	0.6%
60		Si	0.3%		Si	0.3%
		Zn	0.1%		Zn	0.1%

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Mg	0.2%	Mg	0.2%
Cr	0.04%	Cr	0.04%

5 other contaminants each ≤ 0.05
together ≤ 0.15

10 Al remainder Al remainder

Both foils, having a thickness of 60 μm were electrolytically etched in an aqueous solution of 250 g/l NaCl at different numbers of Coulombs/cm².

The capacitance values were measured in a liquid consisting of a 5% solution of ammonium-pentaborate in water (resistivity 100 $\Omega\cdot\text{cm}$) versus a silver-plated counter electrode. The impact strength after etching was determined.

15 In Figure 1 of the accompanying drawing the capacitance measured (C in $\mu\text{F}/\text{cm}^2$) and the impact strength σ measured (in mJ/15 mm foil width) of the two foils (1) and (2) are plotted versus the number of etching Coulombs Q per cm².

The pronounced improvement achieved by the measure according to the invention, particularly in 20 the practically suitable range of etching charges between 10 and 50 Coulombs/cm² is very spectacular. When using the cathode foil according to the invention together with anode foil, a spacer and an electrolyte solution in a complete electrolytical capacitor the capacitance value per volume will be found to be correspondingly higher.

25 Example 2

Foils were produced which, starting from Al - 99.99%, contained 1% Mn and increasing quantities of Cu from 0 to 0.4%. Etching and capacitance measurement were performed as described in example 1. Figure 2 shows the values of the capacitance (C in $\mu\text{F}/\text{cm}^2$) versus the Cu-content (in weight %).

30 Claims

1. A cathode foil of aluminium for electrolytical capacitors consisting of an aluminium-manganese alloy having a Mn-content between 0.2 and 2 weight %, characterized in that furthermore the alloy has a copper content of between 0.15 and 5.3 weight %.

35 2. A cathode foil as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the titanium content thereof is between 0.03 and 0.5 weight %.

3. A cathode foil as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the copper content thereof is between 0.15 and 0.5 and the titanium content between 0.05 and 0.25 weight %.

4. An electrolytical foil capacitor in which the cathode consists of etched foil as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3.

40 Patentansprüche

1. Kathodenfolie aus Aluminium für Elektrolytkondensatoren, die aus einer Aluminium - Mangan - Legierung mit einem Mangan Gehalt zwischen 0,2 und 2 Gew.% besteht, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass die Legierung ausserdem einen Kupfergehalt zwischen 0,15 und 5,3 Gew.% aufweist.

45 2. Kathodenfolie nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Titangehalt derselben zwischen 0,03 und 0,5 Gew.% liegt.

3. Kathodenfolie nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass ihr Kupfergehalt zwischen 0,15 und 0,5 und ihr Titangehalt zwischen 0,05 und 0,25 Gew.% liegt.

50 4. Elektrolytischer Folienkondensator, in dem die Kathode aus gebeizter Folie nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3 besteht.

Revendications

1. Feuille cathodique en aluminium pour condensateurs électrolytiques, constituée par un alliage en aluminium-manganèse, présentant une teneur en manganèse comprise entre 0,2 et 2% en poids, caractérisée en ce que l'alliage contient en outre une teneur en cuivre comprise entre 0,15 et 5,3% en poids.

2. Feuille cathodique selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que la teneur en titane est comprise entre 0,03 et 0,5% en poids.

60 3. Feuille cathodique selon la revendication 2 caractérisée en ce que la teneur en cuivre est comprise entre 0,15 et 0,5 et la teneur en titane entre 0,05 et 0,25% en poids.

4. Condensateur à feuille électrolytique dont la cathode est constituée par une feuille décapée suivant la revendication 1, 2 ou 3.

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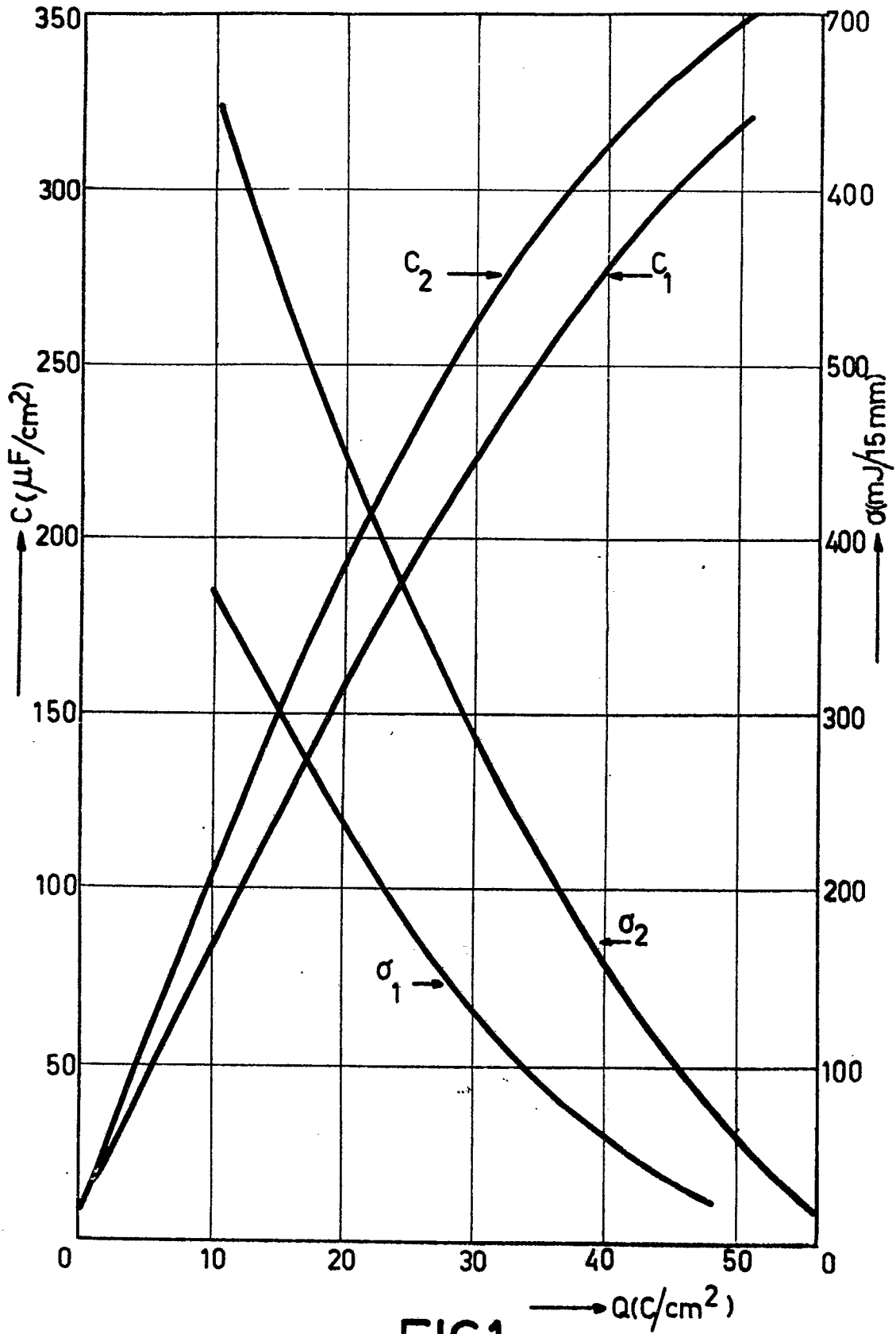


FIG.1

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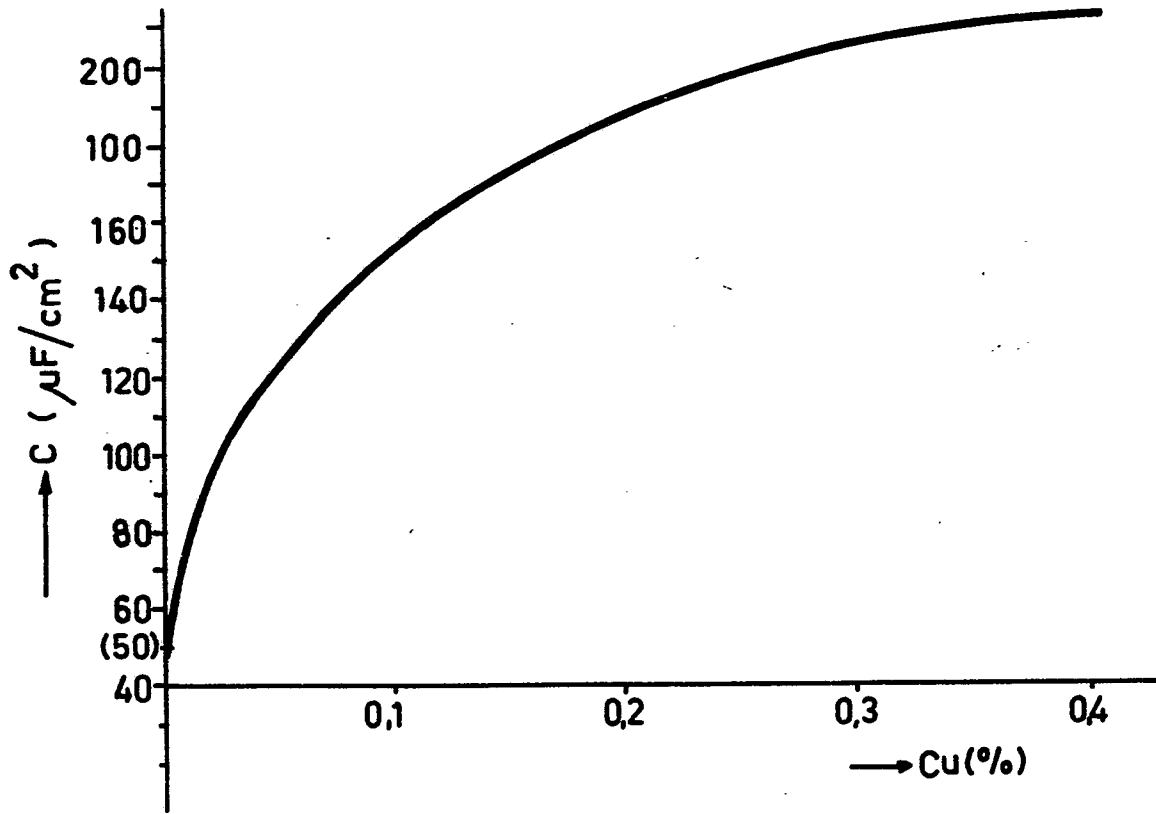


FIG.2