UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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METHOD OR PROCESS OF REMOVING ENAMEL FROM ENAMELED METAL ARTICLES.

1,416,865. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 23, 1922.

No Drawing. Application filed July 28, 1921. Serial No. 488,228.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. PATCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Method or Process of Removing Enamel from Enameled Metal Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a certain new and useful method or process of removing enamel from enameled metal articles, such as, for instance, enameled automobile fenders and similar parts.

In enameling metal articles of the kind stated, the coating of enamel is permanently set by baking, such baking being usually carried out in a suitable oven and at a temperature of approximately 400° F.

According also to present practice, so far as I am aware, when it is desired to remove the enamel from enameled articles, such as automobile fenders, hoods, and other such parts, the particular article is placed in a vat or other container and subjected for a period of from three to twenty-four hours, depending upon the quality and kind of enamel, to a bath of caustic soda or other alkaline chemicals. Such removal process or method which gradually "eats" off the enamel coating, is exceedingly slow and tedious, quite expensive, largely dangerous, often causing serious personal injury, owing to the chemicals used, to the workmen, and frequently rusts or otherwise injuriously affects the metal of the article.

The object of my present invention is to do away with such present most objectionable method and to provide a most simple method or process of de-enameling, as I may say, enameled metal articles, which may be practiced with safety, economy, speed, and efficiency.

To such end, my new de-enameling process consists in, and I have discovered that by, placing the enameled article in a closed oven and subjecting the same to a temperature above the original baking temperature—to a temperature of, say, from 750° to 800° F. for a period approximately of from twenty to thirty minutes, the coating of enamel will be completely and thoroughly burned off without affecting the metal of the article and leaving the metal, if iron or steel, with an attractive so-called "blue-steel" finish which will readily take and hold a new or second enamel coating.

My discovery, as has been found from actual use and experience, furnishes a most efficient de-enameling method for metal articles which may be practiced and carried out with safety to the workmen and with a great saving or economy in time, labor, and expense.

It is to be understood that various alterations may be made in the details of my new method without departing from the nature and spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is,

1. The method of de-enameling enameled metal articles which consists in subjecting the article in a closed oven to a temperature above the original baking temperature.

2. The method of de-enameling enameled metal articles which consists in subjecting the article in a closed oven to a temperature of from 750° to 800° F.

3. The method of de-enameling enameled metal articles which consists in subjecting the article in a closed oven to a temperature of from 750° to 800° F. for a period of from twenty to thirty minutes.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

WILLIAM E. PATCH.