Industrial Application Of Electrolysis

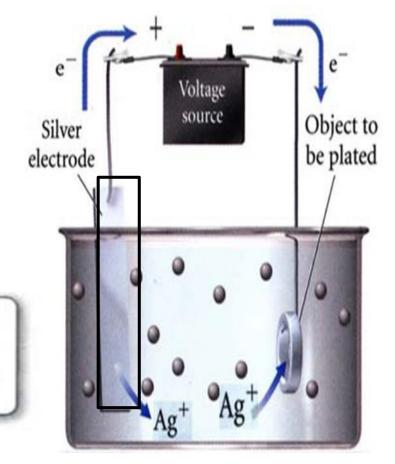
1. Electroplating

- Electroplating is a process in which a thin coat of metal is applied to an object.
- The process involves placing the object in a solution containing the metal ions and passing an electric current through the system, causing the metal to be deposited on the object.
- The object to be coated is used as the cathode whereas metal which will be used to coat the object is anode.

A CELL USED FOR ELECTROPLATING SILVER

Anode

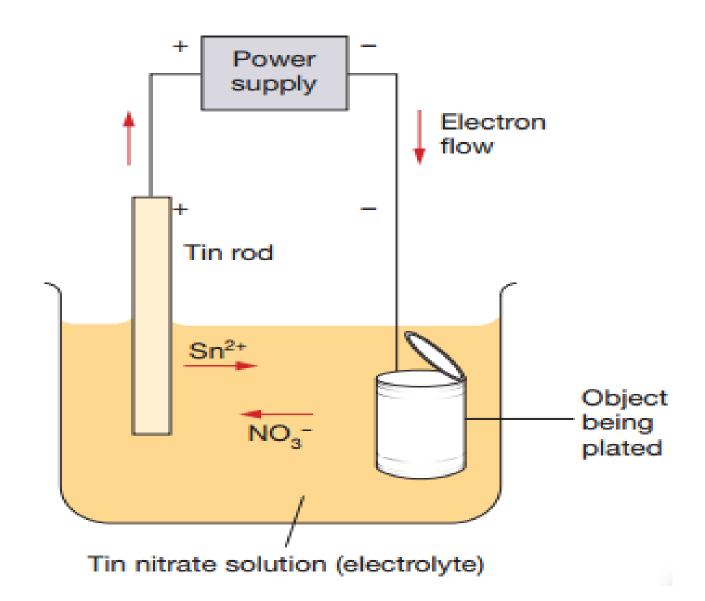
 $Ag^+(aq) + e^-$

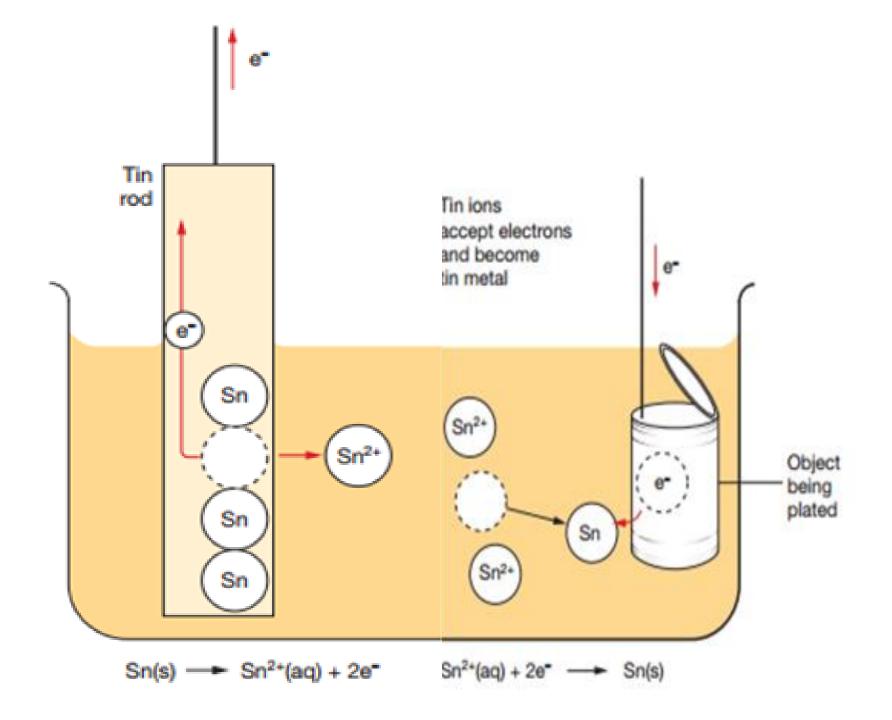


 $\begin{array}{c}
\text{Cathode} \\
\text{Ag}^+(aq) + e^- \\
\longrightarrow \text{Ag}(s)
\end{array}$

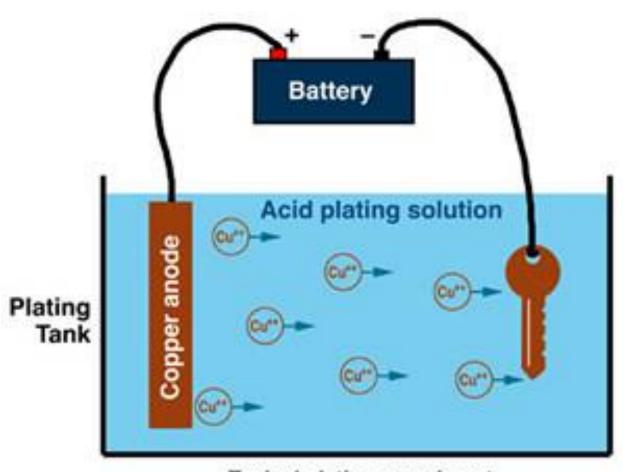
Silver can be plated from a solution of silver ions onto a metallic object such as ring in an electrolytic cell.

A CELL USED FOR ELECTROPLATING TIN





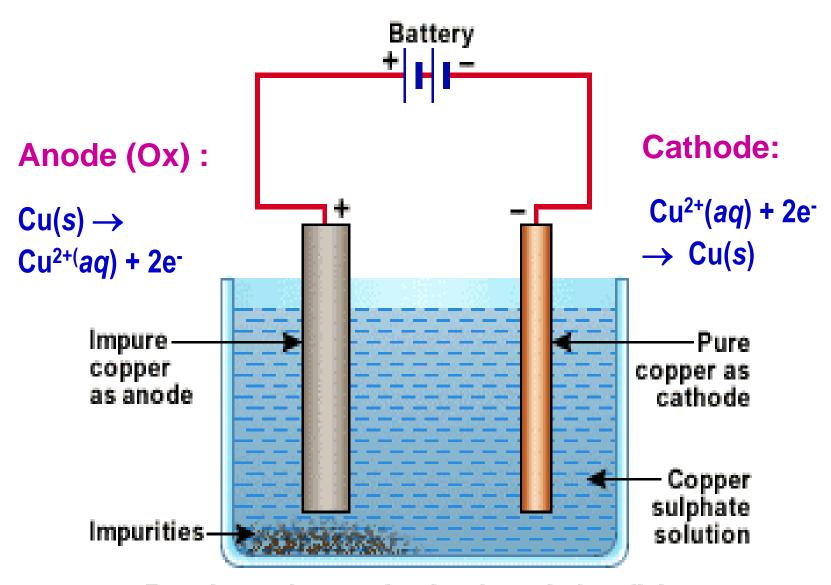
ELECTROPLATING A KEY



Typical plating experiment

2. PURIFICATION OF COPPER

- Copper is extracted from copper ore by reduction of carbon.
- However, the copper produced is not pure enough for use as a conductor, so it is purified using electrolysis.
- The anode is made of the impure copper which is to be purified.
- The cathode is a bar of pure copper.
- The two electrodes are placed in a solution containing Cu²⁺ ion.
 e.g. copper (II) sulphate.



Experimental set up for the electrolytic refining of copper.