



# Electroforming Technology

G K Venkatagopal

Emerald Jewel Industry India Limited

29-July-2022



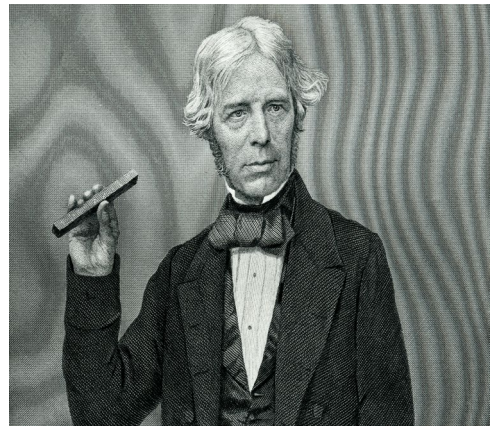


## Table of Contents:

- What is Electroforming?
- Process Flow of Electroforming
- Types of Electroforming Process in Emerald
- Benefits of Electroforming products
- General problems in Electroforming
- Challenges in Electroforming production

# What is electroforming?

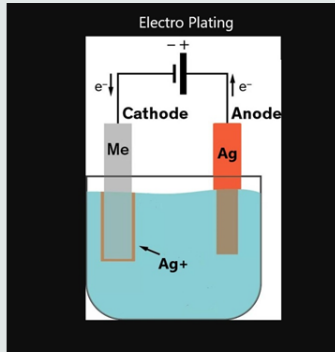
- Electroforming Technology arises from **Electrolysis**
- **Faraday law**.....1. “The mass of a substance deposited at any electrode is directly proportional to the amount of current passed.” &
- 2. “The mass of a substance deposited at any electrode on passing a certain amount of current is directly proportional to its chemical equivalent weight.”



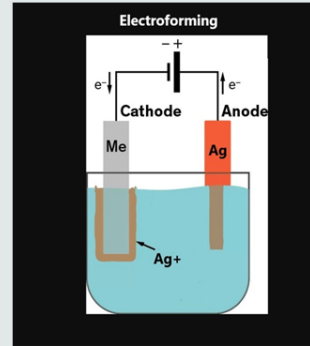
**Michael Faraday**

- By using Faraday law one can do Electroplating and Electroforming.

### Electroplating



### Electroforming



- In Electroplating thickness ranges from 0.10 - 10 microns
- In Electroforming thickness ranges from 150 - 600 microns

(Me refers mandrel)



EMERALD

- Electroplating is a topcoat for attaining surface strength or decorative colors and can deposit thickness ranges from 0.10 – 10 micron only.
- Whereas Electroforming is a far far superior process used to manufacture Jewellery parts with high precision.
- We shall deposit multi layers of metal or alloy over the Mandrel (core)
- Mandrels can be made by casting with low melting alloy which can be directly used in electroforming.
- Wax Mandrel also can be used by making the surface conductive with special ink.
- We can deposit higher thickness of gold or silver ranging 150 – 600 microns.

Mandrel Picture (metallic)



Mandrel Picture (non metal)





# Process Flow of Electroforming

- Jigging
- Cleaning Process :
  - 1.Ultrasonic cleaning
  - 2.Electrolytic Cleaning
  - 3.Acid Dip Cleaning
- Forming Process:
  - 1.Pre-plating Process
  - 2.Electroforming Process
- Mandrel Removing or Emptying process

## Jigging

- Polished mandrils are fixed over SS sticks to form a Jig.
- Jigs are highly conductive and hold many mandrels, which are taken to further process.



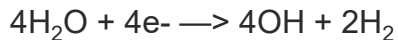
# Cleaning Process :

## 1. Ultrasonic cleaning :

Using soap cleaning solution with Ultrasonic Vibration is used to remove dust, dirt, fingerprint over the surface of mandrel.

## 2. Electrolytic Cleaning (Cathodic) :

Using suitable alkaline solution as electrolytic cleaning media, Jewellery parts (Mandrel) are connected to cathode and applying current, electrolysis of water takes place and evolves Hydrogen gas as bubbles and cleans the surface from scales, corrosion & oil etc.,



## 3. Acid Dip

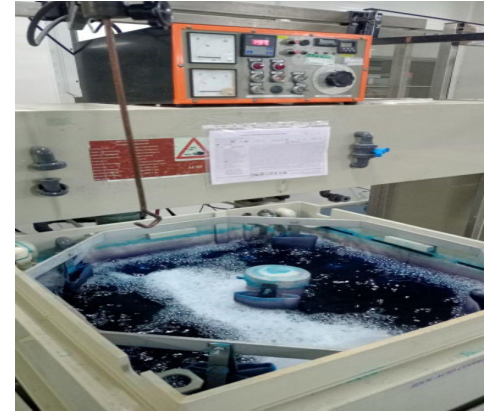
Acid dip neutralises alkaline nature of electro cleaned Mandrels and further activates the surface for good adhesion of gold or silver.





# Pre Forming Process

- Pre-Forming process is important for metal mandrel to make the surface bright, level and smooth.
- Normal Pre Forming is done by Strike Bath.



## Electroforming Process:

- A unique feature of the electroforming process is that the gold alloy grows over Mandrel atom by atom and this process imparts absolute accuracy and high aspect ratio.
- In Electroforming thickness ranges from 150 micron to 600 Micron.
- The solution or bath contains the required gold & alloy metal in the form of Salts.
- The process continues until the required thickness is achieved by maintaining optimum level of bath contents & operating parameters.
- Operating the bath is not easy but needs continuous maintenance while forming.
- Maintenance of chemical parameter is essential to control purity, rejections and surface quality.
- Of course EFM machine must be high level of accuracy with micro processor control.

Silver Electroforming    Gold Electroforming



## **Mandrel Removing or Emptying process :-**

- Mandrel removing process is done by Two Steps
  1. Using High precision Mechanical machines.
  2. Chemical Treatment.



# Types of Electroforming in Emerald

## Gold

- 18Kt Gold Electroforming
  1. Yellow Gold Jewellery
  2. Pink Gold Jewellery
- 22Kt Gold Electroforming
  1. Yellow Gold Jewellery
- 24Kt Gold Electroforming
  1. Idols Forming 99.99
  2. Feather light Idol 99.90
  3. Jewellery 99.90 (New)
- 14kt Electroforming (New)
- 10kt Electroforming (New)



## Silver

- We produce following products.....
  1. Idol
  2. Mural
  3. Garland
  4. Diya
  5. Gift Items
  6. Jewellery (New)
- Purity is always 99.90



# Gold Electroforming - Products



***Electro Forming Stone Rings***



WT\_6.87g



WT\_2.63g



WT\_3.25g



WT\_4.89g



WT\_3.67g



WT\_6.33g



WT\_4.28g



WT\_3.90g



WT\_3.94g



WT\_4.42g



WT\_5.26g



WT\_3.04g



WT\_4.22g



EMERALD



***Electro Forming Plain Rings***



WT\_2.65g



WT\_3.52g



WT\_3.08g



WT\_2.81g



WT\_4.35g



WT\_4.03g



WT\_2.75g



WT\_5.72g



WT\_7.76g



WT\_3.94g



WT\_3.07g



WT\_4.97g



WT\_3.63g

***Electro Forming Plain Pendant Set***



WT\_7.93g



WT\_9.18g



WT\_11.21g



WT\_8.23g



WT\_8.95g



WT\_14.26g



***Electro Forming Stone Pendant Set***



***Electro Forming Stone Charms***



WT\_8.30g



WT\_5.84g



WT\_3.80g



WT\_2.04g



WT\_5.42g



WT\_1.74g



WT\_7.22g



WT\_3.72g



WT\_5.74g



WT\_4.86g

***Electro Forming Plain Charms***



WT\_4.76g



WT\_3.47g



WT\_3.77g



WT\_3.23g



WT\_4.39g



WT\_6.59g



WT\_2.82g



WT\_5.28g



WT\_3.94g



WT\_4.14g

***Electro Forming Stone Bangle***





***Electro Forming Plain Bangle***

WT\_17.68g



WT\_29.85g



WT\_14.48g



WT\_23.89g



WT\_13.72g



WT\_7.89g



WT\_34.62g



WT\_12.78g

***Electro Forming Stone Halfset***



***Electro Forming Stone Chainset***



***Electro Forming Plain Chainset***





***Electro Forming Plain Neck Chains***



***Electro Forming Gold Idol***



WT\_28.85g



WT\_14.25g



WT\_37.90g



WT\_23.29g



WT\_49.23g

***Electro Forming Stone Neck Chains***



***Electro Forming Plain Bracelet***



WT\_24.24g



WT\_28.11g



WT\_14.61g



WT\_24.15g



Side View

WT\_22.82g



### ***Electro Forming Stone Bracelet***



WT\_20.52g



WT\_27.21g



WT\_33.05g



WT\_25.15g



WT\_23.80g



WT\_29.33g

Side View



EMERALD

***Electro Forming Plain Stud***



WT\_10.78g

Side View



WT\_8.37g



WT\_3.00g



Side view



WT\_7.31g



WT\_4.53g



Side view



WT\_5.00g

Side View



WT\_5.23g



WT\_12.42g



Side View



EMERALD

***Electro Forming Stone Stud***



WT\_4.36g



WT\_3.74g



WT\_6.01g



WT\_4.28g



WT\_4.57g



WT\_4.92g



WT\_5.07g



WT\_3.06g



EMERALD

***Electro Forming Plain Stud drops***



WT\_6.39g



WT\_9.77g



WT\_10.30g



WT\_5.88g



WT\_7.91g



WT\_6.03g



WT\_4.27g



WT\_7.40g



EMERALD



***Electro Forming Stone Stud drops***



WT\_6.18g



WT\_6.76g



WT\_10.75g



WT\_10.13g

Side View



Side View

WT\_11.58g



WT\_14.10g



WT\_2.42g



EMERALD

***Electro Forming Mugappu***



WT\_32.75g



WT\_24.98g



WT\_32.04g

***Electro Forming Pink Gold***



Side View

## Gold Electroforming – Products – Pure Idols



*Lakshmi*

***Electro Forming Feather Light Idol***



WT\_1.10g



WT\_1.10g



WT\_2.00g



WT\_2.00g



WT\_3.00g



WT\_1.10g



WT\_3.00g



## ***Electro Forming Idol***

Ganesh



WT\_20.00g

Ganesh



WT\_47.10g

Elephant



WT\_15.00g

Panjamukhi Hanuman



WT\_42.00g

Komatha



WT\_215.00g

***Electro Forming Mural***



WT\_510.00g



WT\_30.00g



WT\_65.00g



WT\_21.00g



WT\_11.00g

# Silver Electroforming – Products – Garland





## Silver Electroforming – Products – DIYA



# Silver Electroforming – Products – Gift Items





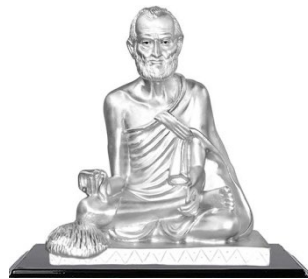
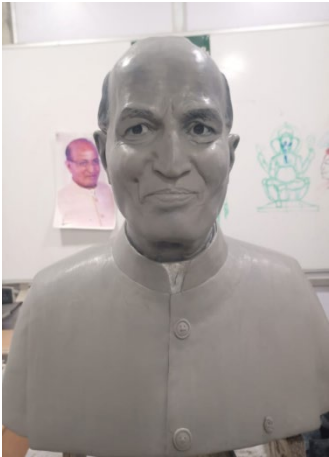
## Benefits Of Electroforming Products

- We can able to produce jewellery/idols which are big in size and weighs low.
- Three dimensional(3D) complex shaped articles shall be made using this technology with high dimensional accuracy.
- Hard and durable jewellery product with 0.15 mm (150 micron) thickness.
- Out of our 15 years of nonstop experience we can produce any thickness with absolute accuracy.
- EFM products has high shine with good strength.



# Customised Products in Electroforming

- We can able produce customised products in electroforming



- Weight Comparison of Silver Idols



- In Solid Idol Weight – 1170 gms
- In Electroforming idol Weight – 70 gms



- In Solid Idol Weight – 102 gms
- In Electroforming idol Weight – 10 gms



## Weight Comparison of Gold Items



Side View



- In Casting weight – 17 gms
- In Electroforming weight – 6 gms



- In Casting weight – 4 gms
- In Electroforming weight – 1.5 gms



Side View

- In Casting weight – 16.5 gms
- In Electroforming weight – 6 gms



- In Casting weight – 7 gms
- In Electroforming weight – 2.5 gms



- In Casting weight – 4 gms
- In Electroforming weight – 1.5 gms



- In Casting weight – 17 gms
- In Electroforming weight – 8 gms



# Challenges in Electroforming production

In gold electroforming majorly faced problems are.....

1. Blister/Bubble issues.
2. Roughness/Nodular deposition.
3. Purity Control.
4. Dullness.
5. Soldering property.

We are overcoming all these problems for past 15 years and attain International Product Quality.





**We are striving for continuous improvement & our journey of learning is still going on.....**

