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## Preparation of $^{57}\text{Co}$ sources for Mössbauer Spectroscopy

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The method of preparation of  $^{57}\text{Co}$  source applied in Mössbauer Spectroscopy was developed. This method comprised electrodeposition of carrier-free  $^{57}\text{Co}$  on rhodium foil followed by thermal diffusion of  $^{57}\text{Co}$  into rhodium matrix. A series of experiments were performed in order to determine the optimal conditions for electrodeposition of cobalt on rhodium foils 6  $\mu\text{m}$  thick. Electrochemical cell consisting of platinum anode and rhodium disc as the cathode was chosen. The electrolyte was an aqueous solution of ammonia citrate 25g/l, hydrazine hydrate 25/l and carrier-free  $^{57}\text{Co}$  in the form of  $^{57}\text{Co}(\text{II})$  in 0,1M HCl. The diffusion of  $^{57}\text{Co}$  into rhodium lattice was carried out by annealing the foil at temperature of 1100°C at high vacuum, in quartz tube. The  $^{57}\text{Co}$  active cores were encapsulated in cylindrical Ti capsules with Be windows. The Mössbauer spectra were measured to verify the quality and efficiency of the testing sources. The experiments performed allow making an optimum choice of the electrodeposition parameters of carrier-free  $^{57}\text{Co}$  on rhodium foil. The highest efficiency approaching 100% and the best rate of deposition were obtained using current density 50mA/cm<sup>2</sup> and electrolyte volume –5ml. The best results of diffusion of electrodeposition cobalt-57 onto rhodium matrix was obtained in an annealing process at 1100°C in vacuum over 10-6 hPa. The main spectra parameters of the prepared sources are fairly acceptable with respect to the typical obtainable values for  $\alpha$ -Fe absorbers in Mössbauer spectroscopy. The results obtained confirm that the deposited layer diffused almost completely into rhodium matrix without substantial loss of the activity deposited.

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