

Title (en)  
Electrolytic cell and method.

Title (de)  
Elektrolytische Zelle und Verfahren.

Title (fr)  
Cellule électrolytique et procédé.

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Application  
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Abstract (en)  
Disclosed are electrolytic cell and method in which first and second electrodes (18), (21) are adapted to pass a current through an inter-electrode zone of specified dimension for containing electrolyte, wherein the first electrode is held free from support by internal cell surfaces, and one electrode is provided with electrical connection (28) to a liquid pad, e.g., of molten metal product (11), having a higher electrical conductivity than cell electrolyte. A preferred embodiment includes channeling gas from the anode, facilitating run-off of product liquid from the cathode, and incorporating bipolar electrode assemblies (26). The cell and method of the present invention are suitable for the production of a metal, for example, aluminum, from a compound of the metal, e.g., alumina, dissolved in an electrolyte, e.g., cryolite.

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