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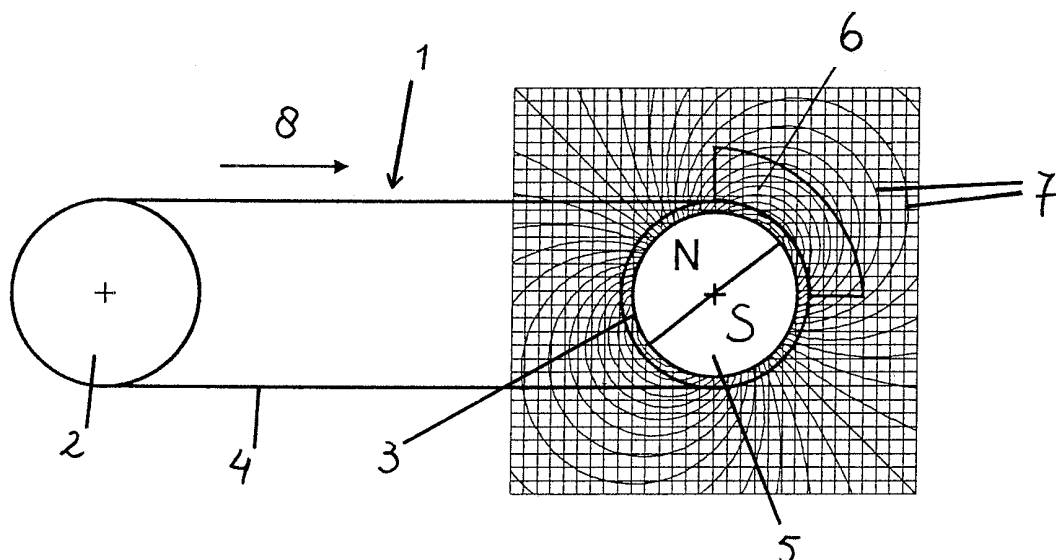
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(54) **Process and device for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by means of a static magnet**

(57) The invention relates to a process and device for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by means of a static magnet, wherein a mixture of said liberated ferrous and not liberated ferrous fragments is fed onto a

continuous conveyor belt which is driven around drums and wherein said magnet is fixed in the drum distant from the feeding point, wherein a magnet is used which is preferably a dipole magnet having magnetic field lines in the separation zone predominantly parallel to the belt surface.



FIGURE

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a process and device for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by means of a static magnet.

[0002] Basically, the present invention relates to the dramatic reduction of the copper content in liberated ferrous scrap in particular in steel scrap.

[0003] Steel scrap is produced, among others, from end-of-life consumer products, such as cars as well as electric and electronic appliances at car shredders and waste from energy plants.

[0004] When these products are shredded in order to recycle the steel, scrap particles are passed through a magnetic separator to recover the liberated ferrous or steel particles. The term liberated scrap means fragments which essentially do not contain materials other than iron and steel. The term not liberated ferrous scrap refers to fragments containing other materials in particular copper. Furthermore, ferrous scrap obtained from shredders contain both liberated and not liberated scrap. This "shredder steel scrap", obtained according to the prior art separation methods, is sold to steel manufacturers to be re-melted and processed into new steel products.

[0005] To date, steelmakers require the copper content of steel scrap be less than 0.2 wt-%, preferably less than 0.1 wt-%. However, shredder ferrous or steel scrap as currently produced by the magnetic separation at shredder yards often contains more copper, up to 2 wt-%. This is because end-of-life consumer products contain an increasing amount of copper containing parts, in which copper and steel are intimately integrated, and therefore not liberated, such as electric motor armatures and transformers. The average copper content of such parts is about 20 wt-%. Hence, there is a need to dramatically reduce the copper content of such liberated ferrous or steel scrap prior to re-melting.

[0006] During the last decade, the threshold value of copper in steel scrap set by steelmakers has gone down from 0.25 wt-% to 0.2 wt-%. In the same period, the amount of copper containing parts in steel scrap has substantially risen, up to about 20 wt-%, as a result of design changes of durable consumer goods and passenger vehicles.

[0007] The removal of copper from steel scrap can be achieved metallurgically, by hand sorting or by physical separation. The metallurgical method is very costly. On the other hand, despite its obvious disadvantages, hand sorting is a widely applied method today. However, the costs of hand sorting rise sharply with both throughput and copper content.

[0008] To date, two proposed methods to reduce the copper content of liberated ferrous material or steel scrap by physical separation means are known. One method is to further fragmentize the scrap so that the copper is liberated from the steel and can be separated by conventional magnetic separation devices. At current prices, this route costs approx. 20 euro/ton scrap and is very energy-intensive.

[0009] A second method, which eliminates the need of an additional shredding step, was described by Peace in GB 1.602.279.

[0010] According to this document, the liberated ferrous scrap fragments are separated from the not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by means of a static magnet wherein a mixture of said liberated ferrous and not liberated ferrous fragments is fed to a continuous conveyor belt which is driven around drums and wherein said magnetic is fixed in the drum distant from the feeding point.

[0011] Said magnet is attracting liberated ferromagnetic material towards the belt as it passes around the drum, which device comprising a plurality of magnet poles extending around the interior of the drum for substantially 180°, wherein the uppermost pole being positioned at an angle of at least 15° to the vertical through the axis of the drum in the direction of belt travel.

[0012] The speed of the conveyor belt may not exceed 500 feet per minute.

[0013] WO 88/05696 discloses a process for separating magnetic ore particles from non-magnetic particles using a short belt magnetic separator having a pulley head with axial pole permanent magnets located within said pulley head, said magnets being mounted in a fixed position within said pulley head during operation of said separator.

[0014] Said axial pole magnets within the pulley head are positioned so that said magnets extend along an arc beginning at a location spaced at least one degree beyond the point of tangency T of an upper surface of the belt with the pulley head.

[0015] Now, the present invention relates to a process and device for the separation of liberated ferrous scrap fragments from not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by using a single dipole magnet rather than a plurality of magnets from the above disclosed prior art.

[0016] It appeared surprisingly that the magnetic field geometry in the separation zone is important for the separation process.

[0017] Accordingly, the present invention relates to a process for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by means of a static magnet, wherein a mixture of said liberated ferrous and not liberated ferrous fragments is fed onto a continuous conveyor belt which is driven around drums and wherein said magnet is fixed in the drum distant from the feeding point, which magnet is a single magnet, preferably a dipole magnet, having magnetic field lines in the separation zone which are predominantly parallel to the belt surface.

[0018] It is surprising that when the orientation of the magnetic field lines is predominantly parallel to the belt surface in a separation zone, a substantial better separation is obtained compared to any other field line orientation.

[0019] Furthermore, satisfactory results are obtained by the use of a cylindrical dipole magnet.

[0020] The invention also relates to a device for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap in a separation zone by means of a fixed magnet in the drum distant from the feeding point which device is provided with a first drum and a second drum and a continuous belt for the transportation of a mixture of liberated and not liberated scrap wherein said magnet is a dipole magnet.

[0021] Said magnet, preferably a dipole magnet, is cylindrical and furthermore the position of said magnet in the drum is such that the magnetic field lines are predominantly parallel to the surface of said belt.

[0022] Reference is made to the table below wherein examples are given from magnetic field line orientation to belt surface. In the table, mention is made of a low-copper fraction and a copper-rich fraction.

[0023] It is noted that the copper content of the feed is 1.5 wt-%.

TABLE

magnetic field	low-copper fraction		copper-rich fraction	
line orientation	copper content	steel recovery	copper content	steel recovery
to belt surface	[wt-%]	[wt-%]	[wt-%]	[wt-%]
parallel	0.18	82.9	8.0	17.1
perpendicular	0.40	85.0	8.1	15.0
intermediate	0.55	77.6	5.0	22.4

[0024] It appears from the above table that there are used three magnetic field line orientations, i.e. parallel, perpendicular and intermediate.

[0025] As it can be seen from the table, the parallel orientation of the magnetic field line gives the best result relating to a copper content of the recovered steel fraction, i.e. only about 0,18 wt-% copper versus iron recovery of about 82.9 wt-%.

[0026] The copper content of the copper-rich fraction obtained by the centrifugal forces is about 8.0 wt-% versus about 17.1 wt-% iron recovery in the parallel orientation of the magnetic field lines.

[0027] From the table it can be seen that the perpendicular and intermediate magnetic field line orientation do result in a copper content in the low-copper fraction of 0.40 and 0.55 wt-% respectively.

[0028] From the above table it clearly follows that the parallel magnetic field line orientation is preferred.

[0029] Furthermore, the present invention will be illustrated by the enclosed Figure.

[0030] The Figure shows the preferred embodiment of the device 1 of the invention for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap.

[0031] The liberated and not liberated scrap mixture is fed to the continuous conveyor belt 4 at drum 2 for the transportation of said scrap mixture with a belt speed of 2 to 5 m/s, preferably 3 to 4 m/s, and most preferably 3.5 m/s to the separation zone 6. By means of centrifugal forces the copper-rich fraction will be separated from the liberated ferrous scrap fraction, whereas the liberated ferromagnetic fragments carried around the drum 3 will leave the conveyor belt at a later stage.

[0032] In order to obtain a more satisfactory separation according to the invention the magnetic field strength should be in balance with the speed of the conveyor belt. Usually the magnetic field strength is 0.10-0.15 Tesla at the belt surface at a belt speed of 3.5 m/s. At a lower belt speed the optimum magnetic field strength will be lower whereas at a higher speed the magnetic field strength should be higher than 0.10-0.15 Tesla. Generally the magnetic field strength is proportional to the belt speed.

[0033] The Figure further shows the separation zone 6 and some of the magnetic field lines 7. The arrow 8 shows the belt travel direction.

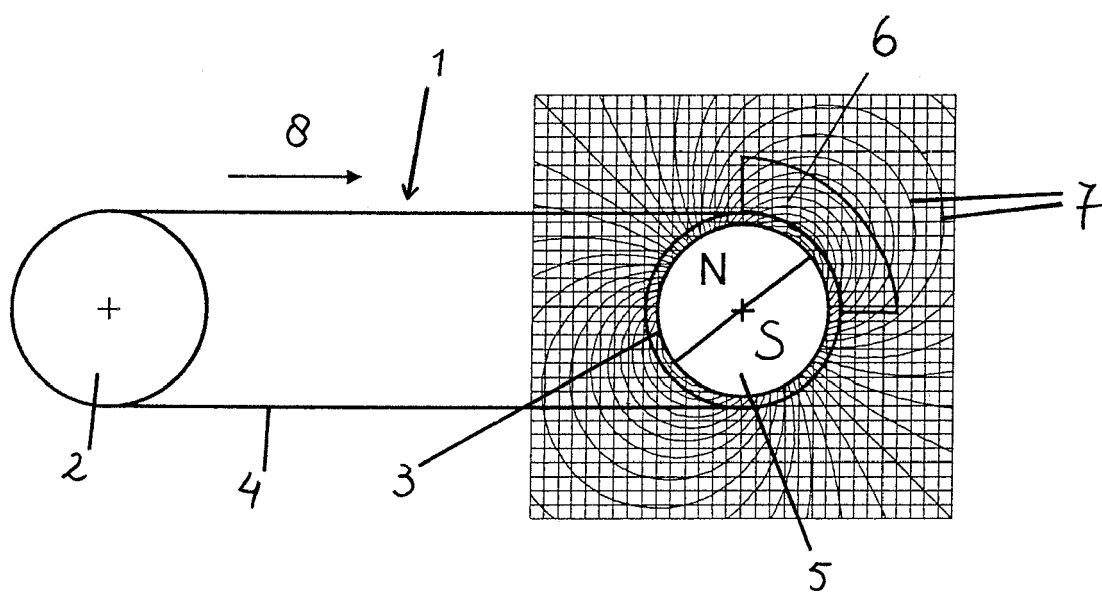
[0034] The magnet, preferably a dipole magnet, which is furthermore preferably a cylindrical magnet, 5 is fixed in the drum 3. The capital letters N and S refer to north and south of the dipole magnet. For an appropriate working the north and south of the dipole magnet may be interchanged, so that N is in the down and S is in the upper section, provided that the magnetic field lines are predominantly parallel to the surface of said belt.

[0035] It should be readily appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art relative to this invention that numerous variations and permutations are possible while keeping within the intent of this invention, and that only the language of

the following claims, including equivalents thereto, should be used to gauge the scope of the invention and the rights and title to the inventor therefore.

5 **Claims**

1. A process for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap fragments by means of a static magnet, wherein a mixture of said liberated ferrous and not liberated ferrous fragments is fed onto a continuous conveyor belt which is driven around drums and wherein said magnet is fixed in the drum distant from the feeding point, **characterized in that** a single magnet is used having magnetic field lines in the separation zone predominantly parallel to the belt surface.
2. The process according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said magnet is a dipole magnet.
3. The process according to claim 2, **characterized in that** said dipole magnet is a cylindrical dipole magnet.
4. The process according to claims 1-3, **characterized in that** the belt speed is 2 to 5 m/s, preferably 3 to 4 m/s, most preferably 3.5 m/s.
5. The process of claims 1-4, **characterized in that** said dipole magnet has a magnetic field strength of about 0.10 - 0.15 Tesla at the belt surface at a belt speed of about 3.5 m/s.
6. A device (1) for the separation of fragments of liberated ferrous scrap from not liberated ferrous scrap in a separation zone (6) by means of a fixed magnet (5) in the drum (3) distant from the feeding point which device is provided with a first drum (2) and a second drum (3) and a continuous belt (4) for the transportation of the scrap mixture, **characterized in that** said magnet (5) is a magnet having magnetic field lines (7) in the separation zone (6) which are predominantly parallel to the surface of said belt (4).
7. Device (1) according to claim 6, **characterized in that** the magnet is a dipole magnet.
8. The device according to claim 7, **characterized in that** said dipole magnet (5) is cylindrical and has a magnetic field strength of 0.10 - 0.15 Tesla at the belt surface at a belt speed of about 3.5 m/s.



FIGURE



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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D,A	WO 88/05696 A (USS ENG & CONSULT [US]) 11 August 1988 (1988-08-11) * abstract *	1-8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 5 December 2006	Examiner Demol, Stefan
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 06 11 7130

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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05-12-2006

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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