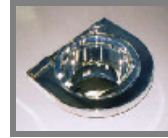
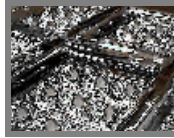


mirror technology

PREPARING MATERIALS FOR METALLIZING



Mirror Technology can apply a mirror finish to wide variety of plastic materials achieving a very high quality finish. This is created by evaporating a very thin coat of aluminium on to the material surface. However to achieve good consistent results it is essential to observe the following notes.

- The material must have a glass like finish
- The best result is achieved by coating cast acrylic immediately after removing the manufacturer's protective film. Polishing does not produce a satisfactory finish.
- On vacuum moulded products it is better to coat on the non contact side of the material. It is usually possible to leave the protective film in place during moulding.
- The aluminium coating is frail and the most robust result is obtained by coating the second surface of transparent plastic. It is then easy to apply a protective paint to the aluminium.
- If a first surface coat is required varnishes are available but the finish quality may be unpredictable.
- Unprotected coatings should not be touched. If handling is essential cotton gloves must be worn and care taken not to abrade the surface.
- Acrylic is a good material for coating. Polycarbonate can also be successfully coated but the high moisture content increases processing time and costs. Many other materials can be coated but tests will be required to establish the best approach

Absolute cleanliness is essential. Cotton gloves should be worn when handling the product prior to coating. Even light finger marks are likely to be visible on the metallized surface. Wiping the material with any solvent or water is not recommended. Any trace contaminants will be visible after coating.

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