

Metals Chart

The following chart gives you an overall concept of which metals can be plated with each kit, and the steps required.

To read the chart, pick your base metal type (or current plating type) on the left, then pick the type of plating you want to do from along the top.

For example, if you start with a piece of stainless steel, and want to chrome plate it with Copy Chrome, the steps are:

1. Degreaser until it passes the waterbreak test
2. Use Pickle #4 to etch
3. Strike Coat with Flash Copper
4. Nickel Plate (The Copy Chrome Column says "Over Nickel")
5. Copy Chrome Plate

Some Notes:

- Gold Plating (not shown) should only go over a nickel or tin plate.
- Silver Plating (not shown) should only go over a copper, nickel or tin plate.
- Hard Chrome Plating (not shown) is usually plated directly over steel parts, or zincated aluminum
- This chart can also be used to assist with brush plating, however you cannot brush plate over zincated aluminum or conductive painted materials. You should tank plate these materials with copper first, then you can brush plate over the copper.

Base Metal	SP Degreaser	Etch (Pickle)	Strike Coat	Flash Copper	Bright Acid Copper	Nickel	Copy Chrome	Chrome/Reprochrome	Anodize Aluminum	Zinc/Copy Cad	Black Krome	Brass/Bronze	Tin
Aluminum	Until Pass Water-break	Deox-Desmut	Zincate Then Flash Copper	Over Zincate	Over Zincate	Over Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	See Anodizing Section	Over Zincate, But Unusual	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Copper	Over Zincate
Iron Steel	Until Pass Water-break	#4 As Required	Nickel Or Flash Copper	Direct	Over Nickel Or Flash Copper	Direct	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Over Copper Or Nickel	Direct	Direct
Stainless Steel	Until Pass Water-break	#4 As Required	Flash Copper	Direct	Over Flash Copper	Over Flash Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Over Flash Copper, But Unusual	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Copper
Pot Metal/Zinc Die Cast	Until Pass Water-break	#4 As Required	Flash Copper	Direct	Over Flash Copper	Over Flash Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Flash Copper
Brass Copper Bronze	Until Pass Water-break	#4 As Required	None	Direct	Direct	Direct	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Over Copper Or Nickel	Direct	Direct
Nickel	until pass water-break	#4 As Required	Nickel Activator	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	X	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct
Chrome	until pass water-break	X	Chrome Stripper Then Refer To Nickel Above	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Plastic	until pass water-break	X	Conductive Paint + Timing Solution or Silvering Kit	X	Over Paint or Silvering	Over Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Over Copper	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Copper	Over Copper
Lead/Pewter	until pass water-break	#4 As Required	Flash Copper	Direct	Over Flash Copper	Over Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Over Copper	Over Copper Or Nickel	Over Copper	Over Copper
Precious Metals (Gold etc)	until pass water-break	X	X	Direct	Direct	Direct	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct