

# 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/ Repochrome	Anodize Aluminum	Zinc Copy Cad	Black Krome	Bronze / Brass	Tin
<b>Aluminum</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	Deox-Desmut	Zincate Then Flash Copper	Over Zincate	Over Zincate	Over Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	See Anodizing Section	Over Zincate	Nickel or Copper	Over Copper	Over Zincate
<b>Iron Steel</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	#4 As Required	Nickel or Flash Copper	Direct	Nickel or Flash Copper	Direct	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Nickel or Copper	Direct	Direct
<b>Stainless Steel</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	#4 As Required	Flash Copper	Direct	Flash Copper	Flash Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Flash Copper	Nickel or Copper	Nickel or Copper	Over Copper
<b>Pot Metal / Zin Die Cast</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	#4 As Required	Flash Copper	Direct	Flash Copper	Flash Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Nickel or Copper	Nickel or Copper	Flash Copper
<b>Brass, Copper, Bronze</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	#4 As Required	None	Direct	Direct	Direct	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Nickel or Copper	Direct	Direct
<b>Nickel</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	#4 As Required	Nickel Activator	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct	X	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct
<b>Chrome</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	X	Chrome Stripper Then Refer To Nickel Above	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Plastic</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	X	Conductive Paint + Tinning Solution or Silvering Kit	X	Over Paint or Silvering	Over Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Over Copper	Nickel or Copper	Over Copper	Over Copper
<b>Lead / Pewter</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	#4 As Required	Flash Copper	Direct	Flash Copper	Over Copper	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Over Copper	Nickel or Copper	Over Copper	Over Copper
<b>Precious Metals (Gold ect)</b>	Until Pass Waterbreak	X	X	Direct	Direct	Direct	Over Nickel	Over Nickel	X	Direct	Direct	Direct	Direct