Protolabs Introduces Accelerated Anodizing and Chromate Plating for Machined Parts

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Expanded CNC Machining Capabilities Let Product Developers and Production Buyers Get Custom Plated Parts in as Fast as 4 days

MINNEAPOLIS--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul. 17, 2023-- Digital manufacturing leader Protolabs (NYSE: PRLB) has again expanded its CNC machining capabilities to allow for accelerated anodizing and chromate plating on aluminum components. From time of quote to manufacturing to shipping, customers can now get custom machined parts with plating in as fast as four days.

“While traditional finishing processes like anodizing have been around for a while, never have manufacturers been able to consistently produce parts as fast at scale as we have at Protolabs,” said Greg Thompson, global product director of CNC machining. “An engineer can have fully anodized or plated parts on their desk within a few days of placing an order.”

Anodizing and plating help prevent corrosion, strengthen parts, and improve cosmetic appearance. All plating options for machining are now live and available to customers when they upload a 3D CAD model at protolabs.com.

Eligible materials include aluminum 6061/6082 and 7075. For anodizing, three specific types are offered: Type II (Class 1, Class 2) and hard-coat Type III (Class 1); for chromate plating, Type II is available.

The addition of quick-turn plating builds on the digital manufacturer’s current options for CNC machining, which include advanced anodizing and chromate plating capabilities with flexible lead times. Customers with AS9100 and ITAR needs can access Protolabs’ precision machining capabilities and those with more complex, high-requirement parts can tap into the company’s digital network of manufacturers at Hubs.

“We’ve promised our customers more capabilities across all our service lines this year, and our machining service is leading the way. Through our unique manufacturing model that pairs a network of global manufacturers with our digital factories, we can comprehensively serve the prototyping and production needs of our customers,” explained President and CEO of Protolabs, Rob Bodor.

About Us

Protolabs is the fastest and most comprehensive digital manufacturing service in the world. Our digital factories produce low-volume parts in days while our digital network of manufacturing partners powered by Hubs unlocks advanced capabilities and volume pricing at higher quantities. The result? One manufacturing source—from prototyping to production—for produc developers, engineers, and supply chain teams across the globe. See what's next at protolabs.com.

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