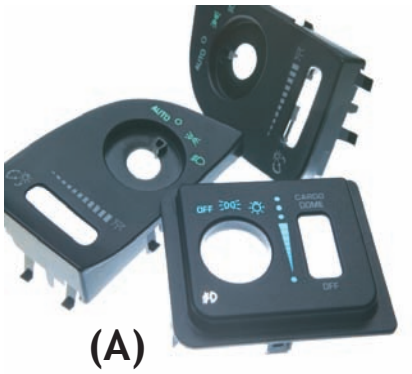
elite plastics
a division of GM Nameplate

PLASTIC DECORATING

Elite Plastics offers a wide selection of plastic and elastomer molding and associated services. From pad printing and insert-in-mold decorating to hot stamping, spray painting, screen printing and laser etching, we are proud to provide our comprehensive component decorating services for your plastic decorating needs.


(A)

Insert In-mold Decorating (A)

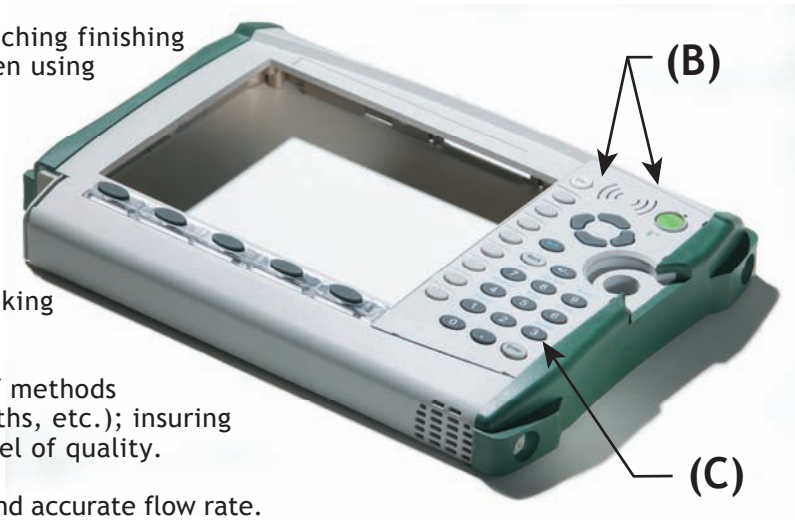
As one of the most significant recent advances in plastic molding and decorating, insert in-mold decorating (IMD) offers previously unmatched durability, design flexibility and allows complex 3-D parts to be decorated with unprecedented ease.

IMD is best suited for high-wear applications. We print on the back of the overlay, so the overlay material protects the ink from wear. This makes IMD an excellent process for parts subjected to severe environmental conditions. Applications requiring unique design or decoration-including selective backlighting and forming smooth complex surfaces are also ideal candidates for the IMD process.

First, an overlay is printed with your logo, text or graphic, and then we form and fabricate the overlay into the exact three-dimensional shape of the part. Finally, the insert is mounted in a mold and plastic is injected behind the film, completing the component.

5-Axis Spray Paint Robots and Booths (B)

Reducing costs and improving control of the laser etching finishing process are just two of the benefits you receive when using our 5-axis spray paint robots and booths.



Automated painting systems, tunnel conveyors and tunnel ovens, carry (and then cure) painted parts. Our equipment paints both plastic and elastomer molded parts. By using both precision mixing and painting controls we are able to consistently apply metallic paints with an even coat, eliminating streaking and enabling the laser etching of crisp lettering.

We establish and monitor ink color using a variety of methods (spectrophotometer, Pantone color meter, light booths, etc.); insuring our processes achieve and maintain a repeatable level of quality.

This entire automated painting system ensures speed and accurate flow rate.

Laser Etching (C)

Our laser etching capabilities are used to mark a variety of materials that otherwise would be difficult, if not impossible, to mark mechanically. Laser etching is ideal for near finished products needing identification, barcode, serializing, text or image backlighting or intricate decorative work.

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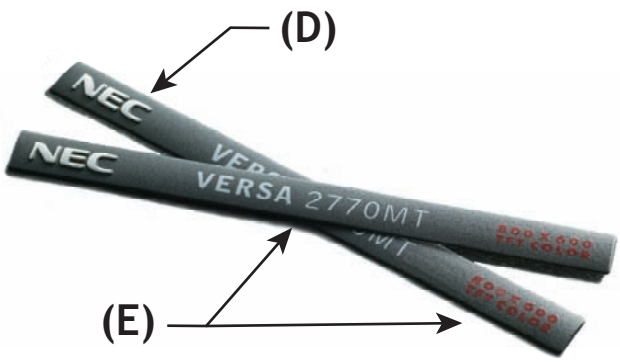


Hot Stamping (D)

This dry printing process transfers color pigment or metallic material from a continuous film carrier sheet to a component. The heat and pressure of hot stamping permanently transfers the image to the plastic or metal surface of your part.

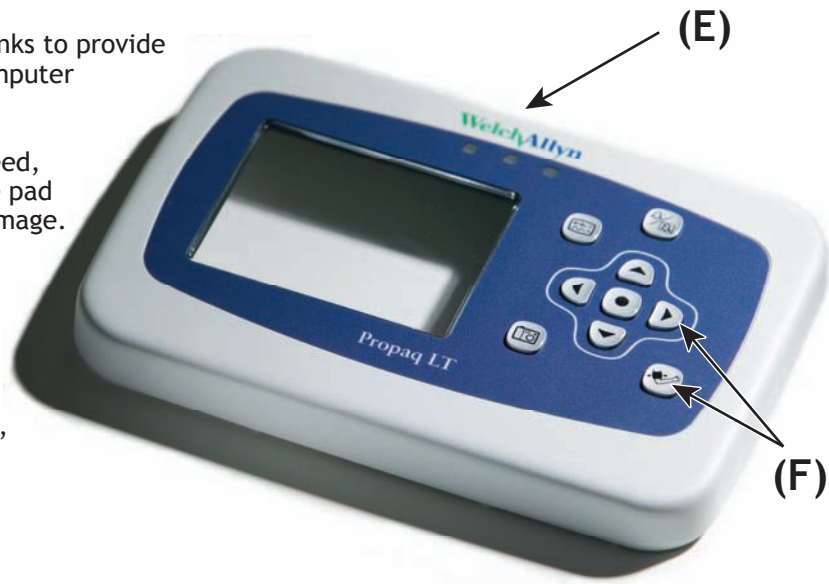
A silicone rubber die conforms to fit the slightly uneven surfaces often found in molded parts, and allows for excellent resolution and repeatability. The process is clean, dry, fast and free from the manufacturing limitations commonly associated with wet ink printing. It is often used in series with pad printing.

Pad Printing (E)

Pad transfer printing uses vinyl epoxy or diffusion inks to provide a high touch-life image for components such as computer keyboards and ATM keycaps.

An engraved plate is coated with ink, then squeegeed, leaving wet ink in the engraved pattern. A silicone pad is pressed onto the plate and rises with the inked image. The inked pad descends onto the component and imprints the image. Because the pad is pliable, it can form around irregular and curved surfaces.

This process may be used on surfaces including paper, urethane, metal-plated or painted glass, polycarbonate, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, styrene, vinyl and polyester.



Screen Printing (F)

A wide variety of substrates, ink systems and textures may be used to create a look and feel unique to your product, making screen printing one of the most versatile plastic decorating options available.

Plastic overlays, large identification pieces and complete front panels can be screen printed on any one of our many presses.

Elite Plastics offers accurate and consistent computerized color matching with our spectrophotometer or through a pre-set value from an approved color system such as Munsell Color.

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Decorated plastic components are just some of the many custom products offered by GM Nameplate and Elite Plastics. From product identification components and electronic input devices to injection and compression molding and large format digitally printed graphics, we have been providing custom manufacturing solutions for more than 50 years. For samples, more information or a visit from our sales team, please call Customer Service at 1-800-366-7668.