

New Process allows KI Industries to apply Stainless Steel Finish to Products for High Temperature applications

KI Industries, the company that pioneered using the electroplating process to apply a brushed stainless steel finish on thermoplastic materials for Appliance applications has now added the capability to apply this finish to high temperature thermoplastic material (PBT) as well as thermoset materials.

A long standing issue in the appliance industry has been finding a cost effective way to outfit a cooking range with knobs and bezels that can also withstand high temperature requirements. As the leading component supplier to cooking appliance manufacturers, KI stands ready to be the single most qualified resource to allow design engineers the ability to look at all their control interface options.

To address these issues, KI has developed a PVD (physical vapor disposition) process on thermoset material to simulate the look of bright chrome and brushed stainless steel finishes. Unlike platable grades of thermo plastics (ABS and PC/ABS), which begin to soften at about 200 degrees Fahrenheit, thermoset material has a much higher heat rating. Initial tests show that thermoset knobs with PVD can withstand up to 300 degrees Fahrenheit without any negative effects on appearance. This same process can be applied to other common thermoplastic materials such as PBT for those applications that do not require the performance characteristics of thermoset materials.

The PVD process is more environmentally friendly than electroplating enabling design engineers to achieve the aesthetic and performance characteristics required for their applications while also satisfying the consumer's demands for greener products.

KI has successfully launched several major programs using this technology and is working on new ones that will incorporate these benefits to the consumer. KI continues to strive to be the best source for high performance decorative components to both the appliance and the automotive industries - please call your account manager or email us at sales@kiindustries.com for further information.

When you are looking for high value added decorative components KI is your one stop option from design to production.

Sincerely,

KI Industries, Inc