Die Selection Guide

**Etched Magnesium**
Photo-etched magnesium dies are commonly used for hot stamping on plastic, leather, cardboard, paper and wood. Magnesium is relatively soft and the best choice for short runs and low cost.

<table>
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<th>Magnesium Thickness</th>
<th>Etching Relief</th>
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<td>¼ (.250&quot;)</td>
<td>.080&quot; - .090&quot;</td>
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**Etched Copper**
¼" (.250") thick, photo-etched .025" - .035" deep and machine routed .070" deep in background area. Copper wears better than magnesium, but are not etched as deeply. Good for hot stamping, embossing and branding plastic, wood and leather with fine detail. Can be mounted onto a riser block if required.

**Etched Brass**
¼" (.250") thick, photo-etched .250" - .030" deep and machine relieved .090" deep in background areas. Brass wears better than copper or magnesium, but does not etch as deeply as either one. Good for hot stamping flat surfaces.

**Engraved Brass**
We can make the blank any thickness. ¼", ½", ¾" and 1" thick materials are standard. Engraved brass offers durability and the engraving depth can be controlled to suit the application. Excellent for hot stamping fine detail on plastic. Deeply engraved brass is a good choice for branding wood and leather. Can be shaped to fit contoured substrates.

**Engraved Steel**
Like engraved brass, we make engraved steel dies in any configuration. Hardened tool steel is the most durable material and is a good choice for long production runs.

**Silicone Rubber**
The best material for many hot stamping applications. Rubber can conform itself to slight surface sinks or irregularities and reduces rejections.

**Contoured Dies**
Send us your part and we will make a die to fit it perfectly in brass, steel or silicone rubber.