

CONFORMING ANODES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Aerospace manufacturer comes to Bales for “one shot” coating

THE CHALLENGE

A manufacturer of parts for the aerospace industry, Precision Southwest Manufacturing (PSM) needed to find a plater that could meet the high standards for hard coating its molds.

PSM’s parts range in diameter from 5 to 35 inches, and their configuration results in many long, tight areas that are challenging to coat.

The issue was process. Every plater that PSM had tried relies on tank anodes during hard coating, which requires dipping parts in chrome several times over in order to ensure proper coverage.

“There would be multiple layers of chrome and lines in the plating,” says Lisa Andrade, Office and Finance Manager at PSM. The process was also inefficient — resulting in the part spending more time at the plater and less in production.

Then PSM found Bales. We approach hard coating differently and also offer an array of services other than coating, all under one roof. An added plus is that we have a facility in Texas to service customers in the Southwest. PSM is located in Tuscon, and previously had been shipping parts to vendors much further away — at considerable cost.

THE SOLUTION

When Andrade first called, she spoke to Jose Gonzalez, Vice President of Product Development for Bales’ Texas location. “She emphasized they wanted to get the molds plated in one shot,” he says. “They didn’t want to see two different layers of chrome.”

Gonzalez assured Andrade that Bales would do the job right. “I explained we use conforming anodes, which enable us to cover all areas at once, without needing to mask and reapply anywhere that didn’t get covered the first time.”

Since then, Bales has coated 21 molds of various sizes for PSM — some new, others needing to be stripped of their old coating. In certain cases, parts needed to be finished or even repaired. Fortunately, stripping, finishing and welding to repair molds are all services we offer on site, saving the customer time and money.

“They always let us know if there were issues once they received our parts,” says Andrade. “They’re great about communication. Rather than send it back, Bales troubleshoots with you.”

THE RESULT

Today, all of the molds are running well for PSM, and Andrade knows who she’ll call the next time they need maintenance.

“I will absolutely use Bales again,” she says. “They delivered as promised, had quick turnaround, and everyone I’ve worked with there has been very nice.”

No matter what challenge you face, Bales will deliver the right solution, on time, with the highest of standards. For more information about our finishing and coating solutions, visit BalesUSA.com



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- Lisa Andrade
Office and Finance Manager
Precision Southwest Manufacturing
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We Finish What Others Start

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