

CLASSIC COMPONENTS

CHROME PLATING

Story by Buck Lovell – Photos Courtesy of Classic Components

Chrome won't get you home...but it looks good, even when your bike is sitting on the side of the road.

I was first attracted to motorcycles and motorcycle riding when I first saw a custom Chopper with damn near chrome everything. This was way back when there were no chrome parts sitting on the shelf at the local custom parts store, as there were no custom parts stores. One had to actually remove an existing part, clean it up, and take it to the local bumper re-chroming facility. That's what was done here. A set of grimy Twin Cam rocker covers were removed and sent to Classic Components in Santa Ana, CA for reflective rejuvenation.

Now days, chrome plating facilities must adhere to strict environmental controls. They are much more efficient and conservation conscious than chrome plating shops were 40 years ago. A properly prepped and chromed component looks absolutely delicious when installed. If you're a chrome fan like me, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Chrome plating is a somewhat labor-intensive process that happens in the following sequence: first, any existing paint and/or anodize is stripped off of the component. It is then machine polished, followed by a hand polish using a hand grinder in the detailed areas. The component is then subjected to various rinses. After rinsing, nickel plating takes place. The nickel fills in any small imperfections in the part's surface. Copper plating is next, followed by a thorough copper polishing or buffing. Again, it's very labor intensive. More rinsing takes place, followed by additional nickel plating. The final plating process is the chrome. The chrome plating layer is very thin, but very hard and durable when the process is performed properly as done by Classic Components. Final processing involves a thorough cleaning, a quality inspection and shipping back to the customer.



1 Parts are received, engraved, photographed and logged into the computer system.



2 Parts are stripped of their paint or anodize.



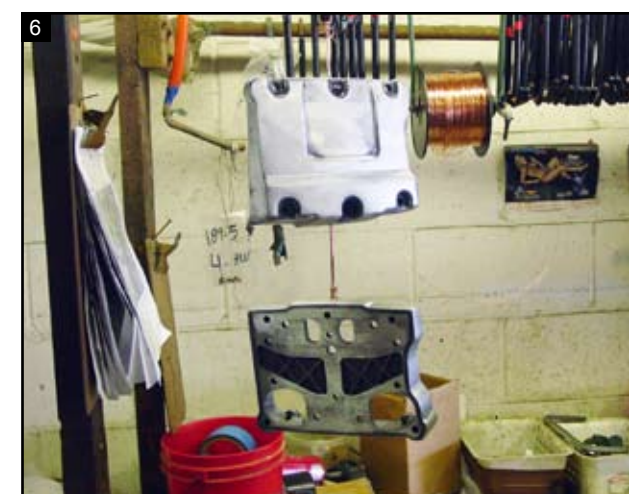
3 Initial polishing stage: parts are machine-belt sanded.



4 Parts are polished, rinsed and ready for copper strike.



5 Parts are racked for initial copper strike (plating).



6 Parts are pre-rinsed and ready for plating.



7 Parts are removed from the electro cleaner and ready for nickel plating.



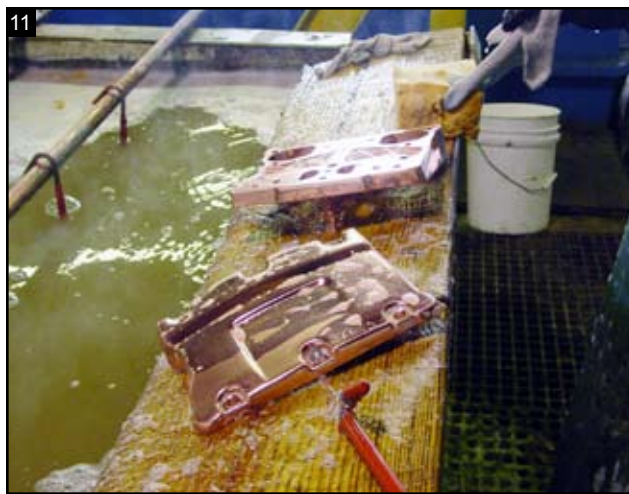
8 Parts are retrieved from the nickel bath.



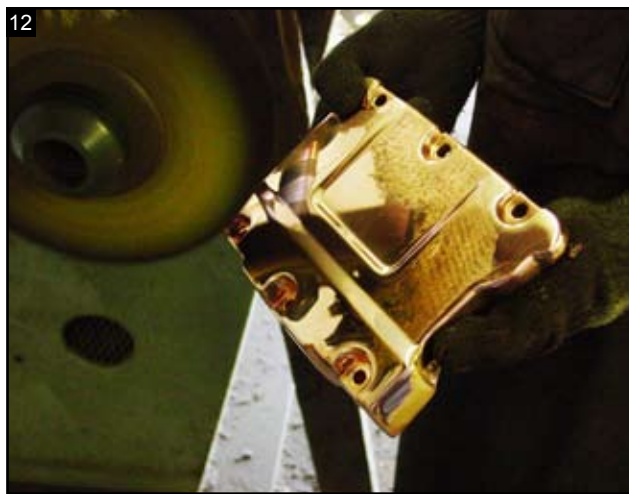
Now they go into the acid copper bath.



Parts after the acid copper bath.



They are now rinsed after copper plating.



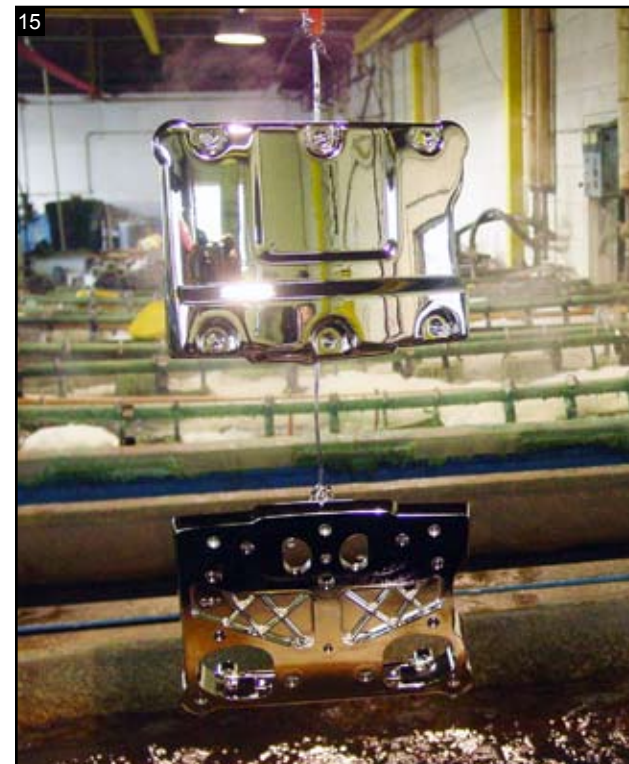
Parts are now copper plated and receive a copper buff.



They're now ready for a final nickel layer and a chrome bath.



Parts going into nickel bath.



Parts coming out of nickel bath.



And lastly, the parts receive a chrome-plating bath.



That completes the process. The parts are now checked for quality, cleaned, and returned to the customer.



The shiny chrome rocker covers are back where they belong.

AFTER
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Chrome Plating
888.327.4189
www.classiccomponents.com