**AS-CAST SURFACE:** The RMS (Root Means Square) grading system is used here. RMS is a numeric value derived from a mathematical formula. As-cast finishes in Permanent Mold are typically in the 200-420 RMS range.

LA Aluminum, however, with the mold preparation and mold coatings we use, regularly provides castings in the 150-250 RMS range. Imagine a computer keyboard surface as a 60 RMS and an orange peel being a 420 RMS.

**MACHINED SURFACE:** On machined surfaces, the surface roughness is measured in microinches. Very smooth finishes in the 16µ to 32µ range are available, but there may be cost savings if a less smooth surface is specified. For reference, a white marker board is about a 16µ A 32µ may be likened to the surface of a laminated desktop.

**ALODINE:** Alodine is a chemical conversion process used to provide protection from corrosion. Primarily used in aircraft components and marine applications. When applied on a fully machined surface, this not only provides corrosion protection, it imparts a "golden appearance."

**BRIGHT DIP:** This process brightens the aluminum finish for cosmetic purposes. The difference in the appearance could be like comparing a 60 and 100-watt light bulb.

**SAND/BEAD BLASTED:** Parts can be blasted to prepare the cast surface for additional coatings. Some customers specify this process for the cosmetic appearance. Sand/Bead Blasting will also help blend some of the sanding or other finishing marks typical in the removal of the metal.

**POWDER COATED:** The powder coating process allows the part to be colored and textured to fit the customer’s specifications. Powder coating provides a cosmetically desired finish protecting the part from environmental factors.

**ANODIZING:** Anodize is a protective coating that hardens the aluminum part, protecting it from harsh conditions. The process allows the part to be dyed any color desired.

**LETTERING/TRADEMARKS:** When a customer wants a Trademark or lettering, it's simply a matter of getting the information. Tell us your requirements and we take it from there.