5th Floor News

A periodic update on company happenings, new products and developments at NiCoForm, Inc.
72 Cascade Drive, Rochester, NY 14614
phone: 716/454-5530 fax: 716/454-5167

 # 3 Summer 2001

72 Cascade Dr. Rochester, NY 14614
716/454-5530 Fax 716/454-5167
E-mail platerb@nicoform.com

Taking the Stress out of Electroforming

In this issue: NiColoy™ at Work

NiColoy™ Featured in IMM Article

Injection Molding Magazine (www.immnet.com) published in its February 2001 issue Amie Chitwood's paper "New Chemistry for Mold Plating." The article covers NiColoy's history of


TOOLING

NEW CHEMISTRY FOR MOLD PLATING

ELECTROFORMING CHECKLIST

development, applications in injection molding and gives a comparison of plated deposits and welding used in mold repair. It includes a process overview, a guide to selecting the right process for various repair situations - a handy tool for the tool and die maker and a checklist for submitting your job for plating. You can find a link to the paper on our web site or call us to order a reprint.

Slide Shows on the Web

Continuing to expand our web site, www.nicoform.com, we added a new feature allowing users to download complete slide shows. They illustrate NiCoForm's technology and explain electroforming concepts. So, the talk given by NiCoForm's Berl Stein at the April 2001 electroforming symposium in Birmingham, England -

"Electroforming of Optical Tooling in High-Strength Ni-Co Alloy" and several other slide shows can now be downloaded to your PC. As in the past, you will find there links to a handy quotation form and a number of technical articles explaining mold repair and electroforming applications in various industries.
Visit www.nicoform.com and see how our technology can make your job easier! If you have suggestions on improving our web site, please e-mail them to webmaster@nicoform.com.

New Tip-Forming Dies with Integral Pins

A great variety of tipping dies can be electroformed in NiColoy™ opening up new possibilities for the catheter manufacturer. One such innovation is a stainless steel pin, sometimes called mandrel, embedded in the die. This element prevents tubing from collapsing during the forming operation. NiCoForm introduced the encapsulated pin concept to our customers last year. Since that time several variations of the feature have been implemented. The pin can be embedded

permanently or be removable to allow for cleaning, there is also the option of a vented pin. You can find the various electroformed tipping die configurations on our web site or request a flier by calling NiCoForm's sales desk.

Electroformed NiColoy Foils

Electroformed foils became an established landmark on the industrial scene since the middle of last century. Copper foils are used to produce printed circuit boards and electric shavers rely on electroformed screens for a close shave. More recently, inkjet

Electroformed foil being separated from the mandrel

printer nozzles, clear optical paths, slit apertures and SMT stencils were added to the growing list of electroformed foil products. The high strength of **NiColoy™** makes it an excellent material for electroforming foils allowing to produce an extremely thin but strong layer. NiColoy™ foils already demonstrated excellent properties as inkjet printer nozzles, SMT stencils and miniature springs used in MEMS (miniature electromechanical devices) applications.

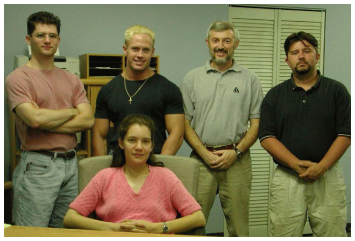
Adhesion Revisited

Some of you may recall our early trials and tribulations developing a strong bond of NiColoy™ to tool steels. But that was all in the past, wasn't it? Well, a few months ago I received a phone call from one of our regular customers - "your plating is peeling... and I think I know why". What could be causing it? The same cycle was used on several parts, but only one is peeling. It takes an experienced and insightful person to diagnose a situation like this. Fortunately, Steve Bartz possesses such qualities, so, he guessed right. Our cycle does not work on an EDM'd surface. Apparently, EDMíng leaves behind an extremely passive surface layer that does not respond to our treatment the same way as ground, milled or turned finishes do. To prove this, we took a piece of S 7 tool steel, EDM'd one section, ground the rest and plated it with NiColoy. The coating stuck to the ground surface but peeled off the EDM'd. Now we know:

Always sand an EDM'd surface before submitting for plating!

Expanding NiCoForm

This summer brought welcome change to our company. An ex-Navy electrician Mike Martin and a Monroe Community College Business Major Kerri Horton came on board - welcome! Mike's responsibilities will include electroforming and all matters electrical while Kerri will run our front office and accounting. Chris Przybyla, an RIT EE major, came back for his third co-op block. Our first employee, Yefim left for a new job out west and we wish him best of luck. His creativity and sense of humor will be missed. To make room for all of us, we expanded into additional space on the same floor and now



The Team

have a front office, machine shop, electroforming and engineering areas. Please stop by and see our new facility.

How to Reach Us

By mail:	***NiCoForm Inc.*** **72 Cascade Drive, Bldg. 2, Lev.5, Rochester, NY 14614**
By Phone:	**716-454-5530**
By Fax:	**716-454-5167**
By e-mail:	*platerb@nicoform.com*
Web site:	www.nicoform.com
On Foot:	**See map on the right**