



	Photo Etching	Laser Cutting	Stamping	Electro Discharge Machining	Water Jet Cutting	Photo Electro Forming
Tolerance as a % of the metal thickness	+/- 10%	+/- 5%	+/- 10%	+/- 10%	+/- 15%	+/- 5%
Metals	Nearly all metals	Nearly all metals	Nearly all metals	Carbon Steel and most metal alloys	Except for very thin metals, nearly all metals	Predominantly nickel. Other metals: copper, silver and gold
Hardness	No restriction	No restriction	Problems with very soft, hard or brittle materials	Hardness is a consideration	Hardness is a consideration	Generally 200 – 670 HV
Stress	No stress	Thermal stress on the cutting edge	Stress at the cutting edge and close to it	Deformation, tempering and structural changes may occur in the material	Limited stress on the cutting edge	Low stress
Burrs	No burring	Micro burring	Partial burring	Micro burring	Micro burring	No burring
Samples	Low cost, independent of complexity	Low cost	High cost	Low cost	Low cost	Medium cost
Design changes	Quick, easy, cost-effective	Quick, easy, cost-effective	Very costly and time consuming	Quick, easy, cost-effective	Quick, easy, cost-effective	Quick, easy, cost-effective
Mass production	Medium cost	High cost	Low cost	High cost	High cost	Medium cost