



Comparison of Integral and Electrolytic Coloring of Anodic Coatings

Two primary methods of coloring architectural anodized coatings in bronze shades have been used commercially since the 1970s.

Integral coloring was the first coloring process to gain widespread acceptance. This method imparts color simultaneously while building the anodic coating. Integral coloring is also called A42, a reference to its Aluminum Association Designation System code.

Electrolytic coloring was introduced to the market in the mid 1970s, and has since become the primary method of architectural anodize coloring. This process imparts color in a secondary bath following the anodizing step. Electrolytic coloring is also called A44, also a reference to its AA code. AaCron offers exclusively A44-type finishes for champagne, bronze and black shades.

The following table compares various attributes of the integral and electrolytic coloring processes:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>A32 & A42</u>	<u>A34 & A44</u>
Generic Names	Integral, One Step, Architectural Hardcoat	Electrolytic Coloring, Two Step
Representative Trade Names	Duranodic, Kalcolor, Permanodic	Anolok, Sandocolor, Colormax
Colors	Champagnes, Bronzes, Black, Grays	Champagnes, Bronzes, Black, Copper, Burgundies
Exterior Durability	Excellent	Excellent
Color Match	Good	Excellent
Color Reproducibility	Good	Excellent
Alloy Sensitivity	High	Low
Cost to Produce	Moderate	Low
Energy Required to Produce	High	Low
Availability - Batch Processing	Limited	High
Availability - Coil Processing	Unavailable	High

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