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[Thomson Healthcare's Micromedex Healthcare Series](#). (Restricted to current NTC healthcare related students and staff. Please contact the NTC library or a current NTC instructor for logon and password information.)

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Topics

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Advanced Search

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When to machine and when to mold

Steve Hulteng, Nathaniel Nienhuis. *Medical Design News*. Cleveland: Mar 2007. Vol. 7, Iss. 2; pg. 18, 1 pgs

Abstract (Summary)

In contrast, high temperature materials, such as PEEK, will deform an aluminum mold. Also, a complex design involving compound angles and curves is not practical for prototype molding. In such cases it is usually better to CNC machine prototypes out of the same plastic that will be used in production. This "machine-beforemolding" approach allows design changes with relatively inexpensive adjustments to **machine tooling**.

>> [Jump to indexing \(document details\)](#)

Full Text (377 words)

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It's often a good idea to invest in prototype parts to confirm that a design meets its function. Committing to steel molds for production plastics. That's because permanent tooling is difficult to develop and manufacture, and once the tooling has been completed only limited modification techniques for making prototype parts are molding and machining. A few guidelines for the method.

Molded prototypes make sense when lower temperature materials are involved. These are mold materials like aluminum. Such molds work well for short runs (100 to 1,000 parts).

679-8718 or visit www.idexmedical.com.

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Indexing (document details)

Subjects: [Prototypes](#), [Machine tools](#), [Medical equipment](#), [Molds & molding](#), [Design specifications](#)

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