

The Cleaning of Aluminum Frame Assembly Units

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THE CLEANING OF ALUMINUM FRAME ASSEMBLY UNITS

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ABSTRACT

The Brulin immersion and the precision cleaning experiments have shown that neither the Brulin solution nor the precision cleaning in AstroPak causes the smut formation on aluminum surfaces. The acid-bath cleaning in GTC is the primary source of the smut formation. The current GTC acid formulation etches the aluminum matrix quite aggressively, but does not appear to appreciably attack the Si particles. Therefore, this acid-bath cleaning will leave the cast-aluminum part surfaces with many protruded Si particles, which could potentially cause smut problems in the cleaning process down-stream. To ensure the removal of all loose Si particles from the cast-aluminum parts, it is necessary to physically hand-wipe and vigorously wash the acid-bath cleaned surfaces. Furthermore, the casting porosity in alloy A356 could be another source in causing high swipe readings in the FAU parts.

INTRODUCTION

In January 2001, the frame assembly units (FAUs) for the NIF Amplifier Buses appeared to develop "smut" following the precision cleaning at AstroPak. As shown in **Appendix A-1**¹, the swipe readings taken from the FAUs #7490, #7578, #8083, #8084 and #8086 had a cleanliness level[§] ranging from 85 to 153, which far exceeded the acceptable cleanliness level of 83. It was not clear at the time what was the cause of this smut formation on the supposedly precision-cleaned FAUs. Several possibilities were postulated as the source of the smut which include:

- contamination during the transportation and storage of the precision-cleaned FAUs,
- the precision cleaning process at AstroPak,
- the manufacturing process at General Tool Corp.(GTC),
- a combination of various cleaning processes and the material itself.

§ The cleanliness level is defined by the MIL-STD-1246C specification.

A task force, led by Doug Larson and Ernie More, was put together in early February to address the amplifier cleanliness issue. This report summarizes the results of several experiments conducted between February to April, 2001 to understand the smut formation mechanism in the cleaning of aluminum FAUs.

Nature of the smut Figure 1 shows the configuration of a FAU for the NIF amplifier. The top and bottom are made of cast aluminum alloy A356 and the sides and posts are fabricated from extruded aluminum alloy 6061-T651. Table I lists the nominal compositions of these two aluminum alloys.

Table I Nominal chemical compositions of alloys A356 and 6061.

wt %	Si	Mg	Cu	Cr	Ti	Fe	Mn	Zn	Al
A356	6.7-7.5	0.25-0.45	0.2*		0.2*	0.2*	0.1*	0.1*	balance
6061	0.4-0.8	0.8-1.2	0.15-0.4	.04-.35	0.15*	0.7*	0.15*	0.25*	balance

*Maximum allowable limit as impurity.

Figure 2 shows the typical microstructures of these two alloys. The $Al_{13}(Fe,Cr)_3Si$ (often referred to as the α -eutectic) are the typical second phase particles in all aluminum alloys formed by impurity elements such as Fe, Mn, Cr, Si, etc. In addition to the α -eutectic particles, the cast A356 alloy also contains a larger amount of pure Si particles and some cast porosity.

Generally speaking, the cast A356 parts have higher swipe readings compared with that of the extruded 6061 parts. The particles from the swipe have been analyzed by Ed Lindsey using the energy dispersive x-ray spectrometry (EDXS) in a scanning electron microscope (SEM)².

Figure 3 shows a typical EDXS result of the particles in the swipe obtained from the A356 and 6061 parts. A detailed listing of these results compiled by Phil Miller is provided in the Appendix A-2. A swipe sample to gather a large amount of smut from an A356 part was also analyzed by Cheng Saw using x-ray diffraction(XRD). The results of the SEM/EDXS and XRD analyses are summarized as follows:

- 1) More than half of the particles analyzed in the A356 swipe are Si particles and the rest of the particles contain Ca, O and Cl.
- 2) The XRD result³ confirmed the EDXS/SEM analysis that the Si peaks in the EDXS are indeed caused by the elemental silicon.
- 3) The majority of the particles taken from alloy 6061 swipe contain very little Si, but rather other elements such as Fe, Cr, Ti, Al and Mg.

All these results are consistent with our understanding of the difference between these two alloys in the second phase particles as shown in Figure 2. Furthermore, these results do not match the signature of the common "dirt", which is heavily composed of calcium-aluminosilicates⁴. Hence we concluded early in the investigation that the "dirt" that might have penetrated the wrappings was not the cause of the problem. Since the majority of the smut came from the aluminum alloy itself and not from the contamination during the transportation and storage of the precision-

cleaned FAUs, this suggests that some aspect of the cleaning process generated the smut in the FAUs.

The Cleaning of a FAU The FAUs are manufactured by GTC in Cincinnati and precision-cleaned by AstroPak in Livermore. The cleaning process of a FAU involves several steps as follows:

- 1) Each FAU component is high pressure sprayed with 3% Brulin 1990GD at 130°F followed by a high pressure water rinse.
- 2) The cleaned part is immediately immersed in an acid-bath containing 10 vol% HNO₃ + 0.2 g/l K₂Cr₂O₇ + 0.5 vol% HF (referred to as the GTC acid from now on) for 10 minutes, followed by a high pressure Brulin spray/water rinse.
- 3) The acid-bath cleaned parts are assembled, packaged and sent to AstroPak for the precision cleaning.
- 4) The precision cleaning of the FAU in AstroPak uses 3% Brulin 1990GD at 110 to 130°F with pressure in the range of 1000 to 2500 psi. The cleaning cycle uses three high pressure Brulin spray/DI water rinse cycles followed by three high pressure Zonyl/DI water rinse cycles (referred to as the AstroPak **Revision C** procedure). The FAU is then dried with nitrogen.

A 3% to 5% Brulin solution has a typical pH value of 10. It was not clear whether the Brulin solution by itself will etch the surface of the aluminum parts. A series of experiments^{5,6,7,8} were conducted to identify the source of the smut formation in the cleaning process. This report documents the results.

Experimental Procedures

Brulin Immersion Experiment The objective of this experiment is to determine whether the Brulin solution causes smut formation. The experimental procedures are as follows:

1. Obtained three panels each of aluminum alloys A356 and 6061-T6 each 11" square.
2. Machined panel surfaces to a finish typical of a FAU.
3. Solvent-wiped clean to remove any gross dirt.
4. Immersed the three panels in Brulin solutions of 3%, 5% and 8%, respectively, at 160°F for 20 minutes.
5. Rinsed panels twice in 130 - 150°F 18MΩ DI water.
6. Air dried.
7. Swipe readings were taken after 24 hours by AstroPak.

To better detect the etching of aluminum surfaces, two mirror-polished samples were also included in the 8% Brulin immersion experiment.

Precision Cleaning Experiment The objective of this experiment is to determine the combined effect of the Brulin solution and high pressure spray on the smut formation. The experimental procedures used at AstroPak are as follows:

1. Obtained three 11" × 11" machined-panels each of aluminum alloys A356 and 6061-T6.
2. Solvent-wiped the surfaces to remove any gross dirt.
3. Reserved one panel each as a control.
4. Cleaned with 3% and 5% Brulin solutions, respectively, at 130°F. The simulated clean/rinse cycle is as follows:

Clean/rinse cycle:	a. Brulin clean	2500 psi / 30 sec.
	b. rinse with DI water	2500 psi / 30 sec.
	c. Brulin clean	2500 psi / 30 sec.
	d. rinse with DI water	2500 psi / 30 sec.

5. Dried with nitrogen and waited for 24 hours before taking swipe reading (including the control samples).

Several mirror-polished samples were also included in the 5% Brulin clean/rinse experiment to better detect the etching if it occurs.

Acid-bath Cleaning Experiment The objective of this experiment is to determine the effect of acid-bath cleaning on the smut formation of aluminum parts. This experiment was designed to generate a surface similar to that of the FAU manufactured by GTC and study the progressive change in the surface morphology of alloys A356 and 6061 throughout the whole cleaning process. The experimental procedures are as follows:

1. Prepared two 1" × 1" coupons of A356 alloy with one surface in as-machined condition and the other surface in mirror-polished condition.
2. Documented both surfaces in a known location with metallography and SEM.
3. Dipped samples in either **Acid A** (GTC acid) or **Acid B** as follows:

Acid A (GTC acid)		Acid B	
HNO ₃	10 vol%	HNO ₃	10 vol%
K ₂ Cr ₂ O ₇	0.2 g/liter		
HF	0.5 vol%		
@ 130°F for 10 minutes		@ 130°F for 10 minutes	

The purpose of using **Acid B** was to simulate the condition when the dichromate and HF concentration exhausted in GTC acid after cleaning too many aluminum parts.

4. Documented the acid-cleaned surfaces on the known location with SEM.
5. Samples were precision-cleaned in AstroPak using the procedure outlined in the previous section.

6. Documented the precision-cleaned surfaces on the known location with SEM.
7. Samples were swiped with filter paper to simulate the swipe reading process.
8. Documented both surfaces on the known location with SEM.

Two 11" x 11" panels each of alloys A356 and 6061 with as-machined surfaces were also subjected to the acid-bath cleaning experiments using the procedures outlined above except that the bath temperature was reduced to 86°F. The swipe readings were taken after the acid-bath cleaning and the precision cleaning. These four panels were also subjected to the aerosol testing.

RESULTS

Brulin Immersion Experiment Table II lists the swipe readings of the panels subjected to the Brulin immersion test.

Table II Cleanliness level of swipe readings after Brulin immersion.

	A356	6061-T6
Control	82	77
3% Brulin	81	96
5% Brulin	110	101
8% Brulin	91	95

These results are inconclusive as to whether the Brulin caused the etching of aluminum surfaces. The increase in swipe readings in Brulin-cleaned samples was likely caused by the Brulin residue left on the surfaces due to insufficient rinse and contamination during the bagging and transportation of the test panels for swipe reading in AstroPak.

The more definitive test is to examine the surfaces with metallography or SEM. **Figure 4** shows the SEM study of A356 samples immersed in 3%, 5% and 8% Brulin solutions at 160°F for 20 minutes. There were no signs of etching of sample surfaces by the Brulin solution. **Figure 5** shows the mirror-polished samples (A356 & 6061-T6) immersed in 8% Brulin solution at 160°F for 20 minutes. Again, Brulin did not show any signs of etching of the sample surfaces.

Precision Cleaning Experiment Table III lists the swipe readings on the six test panels following the precision cleaning at AstroPak.

Table III Cleanliness level of swipe readings after the precision cleaning in AstroPak.

	A356	6061-T6
Control	119	156
3% Brulin	88	87
5% Brulin	76	73

These results suggested that the precision cleaning removed the surface contaminants quite effectively. **Figure 6** shows a mirror-polished A356 sample that was precision-cleaned with 3% Brulin. Precision cleaning didn't show any signs of etching on the sample surface. However, the precision cleaning could create extra deposits if the cleaning/rinse steps were not applied properly. **Figure 7** shows the extra deposits on a precision cleaned surface on a mirror-polished A356 sample. These surface deposits were analyzed by EDXS in SEM. **Figure 8** shows that these deposits, **Particles A, B and F**, contain O, Na, P, S and K. Although the formulation of the Brulin is not available, these deposits are likely to be the residual Brulin detergent. In discussing this result with AstroPak, their experience showed that if the Brulin solution was left dried before the DI water rinse, the Brulin would stay on the surface and could not be easily removed by the subsequent Brulin spray/DI water rinse process.

Acid-bath Cleaning **Figure 9** shows the effects of **Acid A** and precision cleaning on a mirror-polished surface of an A356 alloy. The **Acid A** substantially etched the aluminum matrix and the α -eutectic particles, and left the Si particles protruding out of the surface. This can be seen by comparing **Figures 9a to 9b**. The depth of the etching was estimated optically to be around 13 μm . By carefully comparing the same Si particles before and after the acid cleaning, no evidence suggests that the Si particles were attacked by the **Acid A**. The precision cleaning after the acid-bath cleaning removed some of the protruding Si particles as shown in **Figures 9c**. The filter paper swipe did not noticeably change the morphology of Si particles as shown in **Figure 9d**.

The **Acid B**, on the other hand, showed only a minor etching of the aluminum surface as shown in **Figure 10**. However, the **Acid B** did aggressively attack the α -eutectic particles as shown in **Figure 11**.

Figure 12 shows the effects of **Acid A** and precision cleaning on an as-machined surface of an A356 alloy. These surfaces are more representative of the surfaces of the FAU parts after the acid-bath cleaning in GTC. The **Acid A** aggressively attacked the as-machined surfaces and left the morphology with no resemblance of the original surface as shown in **Figures 12a and 12b**. The precision cleaning seems to remove more Si particles compared to that of the mirror-polished sample. This was likely caused by the cracking of the Si particles during the machining of the A356 sample as shown in **Figure 13**. Again, **Figure 14** shows that the **Acid B** only slightly etched the as-machined surface of an A356 sample.

The swipe readings of the 11" \times 11" test panels cleaned by **Acid A** and **Acid B** followed by the precision cleaning are listed in **Table IV**.

Table IV The results of swipe readings after the acid-bath cleaning and precision cleaning.

	Acid A (GTC acid)		Acid B	
	A356	6061-T6	A356	6061-T6
After acid-bath cleaning	242	140	112	105

24 hours after the precision cleaning in AstroPak	81	83	85	108
4 days after the precision cleaning in AstroPak	92	104	91	85

The high swipe readings from the **Acid A** cleaned surfaces compared with the **Acid B** cleaned A356 and 6061 samples agree with the results of the topographical studies as shown from **Figures 9 through 14**. The **Acid A** left many Si particles either loosely attached to the surface or protruded out of the surface that were subjected to being easily broken off by the subsequent cleaning process. This is the primary source of the smut formation in A356 alloy. For alloy 6061, the amount of second phase particles is much less compared with that of the A356. Thus, the swipe readings are lower. The precision cleaning in this experiment effectively removed the loose particles from the parts surfaces. After four days of drying, the swipe readings elevated slightly as often observed in the FAUs.

Figure 15 shows the results of the aerosol testing. All four panels passed the specification of less than 100 particles($>0.5 \mu\text{m}$)/ft³ after 60 flash lamp shots. The A356 generated a higher level of aerosol compared to that of the 6061 alloy. After 55 shots, there was no significant difference in the aerosol level between the **Acid A** versus the **Acid B** cleaned panels. Although prior to that, it appears that the **Acid A** cleaned parts have a somewhat lower rate of aerosol formation.

DISCUSSIONS

Acid-bath Cleaning The Brulin immersion and the precision cleaning experiments have shown that neither the Brulin solution nor the precision cleaning in AstroPak can cause the smut formation on aluminum surfaces. Thus, the acid-bath cleaning in GTC is the likely source of the smut formation in the FAUs.

The acid-bath cleaning experiment has clearly demonstrated that the **Acid A** (GTC acid) aggressively attacked the aluminum surface and the **Acid B** (10 vol% HNO₃) showed only a minor etching effect. The 0.5% HF is known to attack the aluminum aggressively, and the addition of potassium dichromate was proposed to enhance the etching of Si^{9,10}. However, the current results indicate that the GTC acid formulation didn't noticeably attack the Si particles at least in the current experimental conditions of 130°F for 10 minutes. This suggests that the reaction kinetics of the HF with Al is much faster than that of the dichromate (Cr₂O₇⁻²) ion with Si. However, the dichromate did eventually react with the Si particles left in the acid-bath. The color of the acid-bath changed¹¹ from bright yellow (which is associated with Cr⁺⁶ ions¹⁰) right after the cleaning of the A356 panels to blue-green (which is associated with Cr⁺³ ions¹⁰) after 24 hours.

The purpose of using **Acid B** in this experiment was to simulate the condition when the **Acid A** was exhausted after cleaning too many aluminum parts. The result suggests that the **Acid B** is actually better than the **Acid A** in preventing the smut formation. After the GTC acid cleaning of

an A356 alloy, the surfaces were left behind with many protruded Si particles. These Si particles were very brittle and many of them have already shown signs of cracking as shown in **Figure 13**. It would be very easy to dislodge and/or break off these particles during the precision cleaning in AstroPak or during the filter swipe. This explains why the **Acid A** cleaned aluminum parts have very high swipe readings before the precision cleaning.

The AstroPak Revision D Procedure In an actual production unit, the FAU frame #8088 was cleaned in GTC right after the replacement of the acid on March 1, 2001. **Table V** lists the swipe readings reported by AstroPak after two attempts to precision-clean this FAU and after using the **Revision D** procedure.

Table V The swipe readings reported by AstroPak on frame #8088 after two attempts of precision cleanings and after the **Revision D** procedure.

	Swipe Location in the FAU	1 st Precision Clean (3/29/01)	2 nd Precision Clean (3/29/01)	Revision D Clean (3/30/01)
1	Top Casting - top surface	130	224	133
2	Top Casting - top surface	143	198	100
3	Top Casting - side	91	93	69
4	Top Casting - side	102	93	91
5	Top Casting - inside top	91	103	83
6	Top Casting - inside side	87	203	163
7	Side Wall - outside surface	79	65	68
8	Side Wall - inside surface	88	79	73
9	Bottom Casting - side	73	105	77
10	Bottom Casting - side	86	99	79
11	Bottom Casting - inside side	90	96	67
12	Bottom Casting - inside pocket	88	91	74
13	Bottom Casting - inside bottom	100	95	78
14	Bottom Casting - inside pocket	111	85	73
15	Top Casting - inside pocket	137	147	71
16	Top Casting - inside pocket	204	120	91
	Average	106	119	87

The **Locations 7** and **8** are parts made from the alloy 6061. The swipe readings are consistently lower in all three cleaning attempts. For the A356 parts, these data clearly show that the **GTC** acid can potentially cause high swipe readings if the subsequent precision cleaning process was not applied thoroughly. As demonstrated by the AstroPak **Revision D** procedure, it is necessary to

- 1) physically hand-wipe the surface with solvents,
- 2) perform two rigorous precision cleanings with the addition of Zonyl/rinse cycles before/after this solvent wipe,

to completely dislodge and/or break off all loose Si particles in order to reduce the smut reading to an acceptable level. A detailed description of the AstroPak **Revision D** procedure and the

additional supporting data are listed in **Appendix A-3**. Although these results are largely based on test conducted on the FAU made from cast A356 and extruded 6061 alloys, there is no obvious reason not to use the **Revision D** procedure on wrought 6061 alloy.

Acid Formulation In aluminum industry, the primary purpose¹² of acid cleaning is to remove smut (undissolved eutectic particles or dispersoids) from the surface after the aluminum parts are first cleaned by a caustic solution. In the current FAU manufacturing scheme in GTC, the aluminum parts are machined, acid-bath cleaned and followed by the final assembly. There was no caustic cleaning involved. The acid-bath cleaning, presumably, serves the purpose of removing organic contaminants and loose debris from part surfaces. Thus, it may not be necessary to add HF and dichromate in the HNO₃ because it will only leave the part surfaces with many protruded Si particles and cause potential smut problems in the down-stream cleaning process.

Previous NIF experiences¹³ suggest that the addition of dichromate may reduce the aerosol level during the frame testing. The current aerosol testing result, as shown in **Figure 15**, suggests that the acid without the addition of dichromate and HF can also achieve an acceptable aerosol level. However, the current GTC acid formulation has performed quite well from the aerosol point of view. The cost associated with the GTC acid formulation is relatively small compared to the potential negative effects of changing the acid bath to straight 10 vol% HNO₃. Thus, there is no pressing need to change the acid formulation in GTC as long as we can ensure a thorough precision cleaning in AstroPak using the **Revision D** procedure.

Cast Porosity By reviewing the EDXS results listed in **Appendix A-2**, some of the particles from A356 swipe contain Ca, O and Cl. This suggests that there is another source that may cause high swipe readings in A356 parts.

During the course of the investigation, six A356 2½" × 2½" coupons were mirror-polished in preparation for an experiment. **Figure 16** shows that the cast aluminum alloy A356 has extensive cast porosity in the microstructure. These cast porosities could not be seen easily in the as-machined condition but readily revealed in the mirror-polished condition as shown in **Figure 16**. The amount of porosity varies and depends upon the location in the plate. Based on measurement from a 25 in² area, the area density of the porosity is 185 ±15 per in² with an area ratio of 1.7%. The size of these porosities can be as large as 1 mm as shown in **Figures 16b** and **16c**. Some of these porosities are interconnected underneath the surface and extend all the way through the thickness of the sample (~ ¼").

After leaving these six mirror-polished coupons at room temperature for 24 hours, two out of the six coupons developed brownish stains as shown in **Figure 17**. The locations of these stains were associated with the areas where large (>1 mm) and deep porosities are located. The back-side (as-machined surface) of these two 2½" × 2½" coupons also contained many large and deep porosities. Again, stains also developed on the back-side but were less noticeable due to the rough machined surfaces. **Figure 18** shows the EDXS analysis of the stain around a cast porosity. The result suggested that aluminum hydroxides may have formed in **Areas 2** and **3** as water was seeping out from the porosity during the air-drying period.

It has been reported many times during the Amplifier Cleanliness Meeting that the swipe readings of a precision-cleaned FAU could deteriorate as time elapsed (within 24 hours). Several mechanisms that had been postulated include:

- dust/particle contamination after precision cleaning,
- growth of aluminum oxide on part surfaces,
- reduction in electrostatic forces to release surface-adhered particles.

The clean room experiment has ruled out the dust contamination as the cause. The very slow oxide growth rate² as shown in **Figure 19**, at relative humidity less than 85%, eliminated the oxide growth as a possibility. Thus far, the reduction in electrostatic forces has yet to be proven.

The observation of the stains, developed on a highly polished surface after a 24-hour drying period, offers another possibility that the cast porosity could be a source of the time dependent nature of high swipe readings. The large and deep porosities could potentially

- 1) trap acid, cleaner (Brulin) and rinse water during various cleaning cycles,
- 2) release these elements, during drying period, in relatively high concentration back to the surfaces,
- 3) cause the brownish stains which could be camouflaged by the rough and non-reflective machined surfaces.

This scenario might have occurred in the FAUs if the units were not properly rinsed and dried after the various cleaning processes. The stains might develop in the area of the part surface containing large cast porosity. To minimize the stain caused by the cast porosity, a cleaned surface should be dried with blowing hot air (< 160°F) to drive out all the moisture trapped inside the porosity.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The 3% Brulin solution at 110°F to 130°F did not etch the aluminum surface.
2. The precision cleaning with 3% Brulin at 130°F combined with the 2,500 psi spray did not etch the aluminum surface.
3. The current acid formulation (GTC acid) etched the aluminum matrix quite aggressively. However, this formulation did not appear to etch the Si particles. Thus, the GTC acid cleaning will leave the part surfaces with many protruding Si particles which could potentially cause smut problems in the down-stream cleaning process.
4. A combination of physical hand-wiping and aggressive washings of the acid-bath cleaned surfaces is necessary to ensure the removal of all loose Si particles particularly in the A356 parts. There is no obvious reason not to use the AstroPak **Revision D** procedure on acid-cleaned wrought 6061 alloy.
5. Cast porosity in A356 alloy may be responsible for the time dependent nature of the swipe readings.

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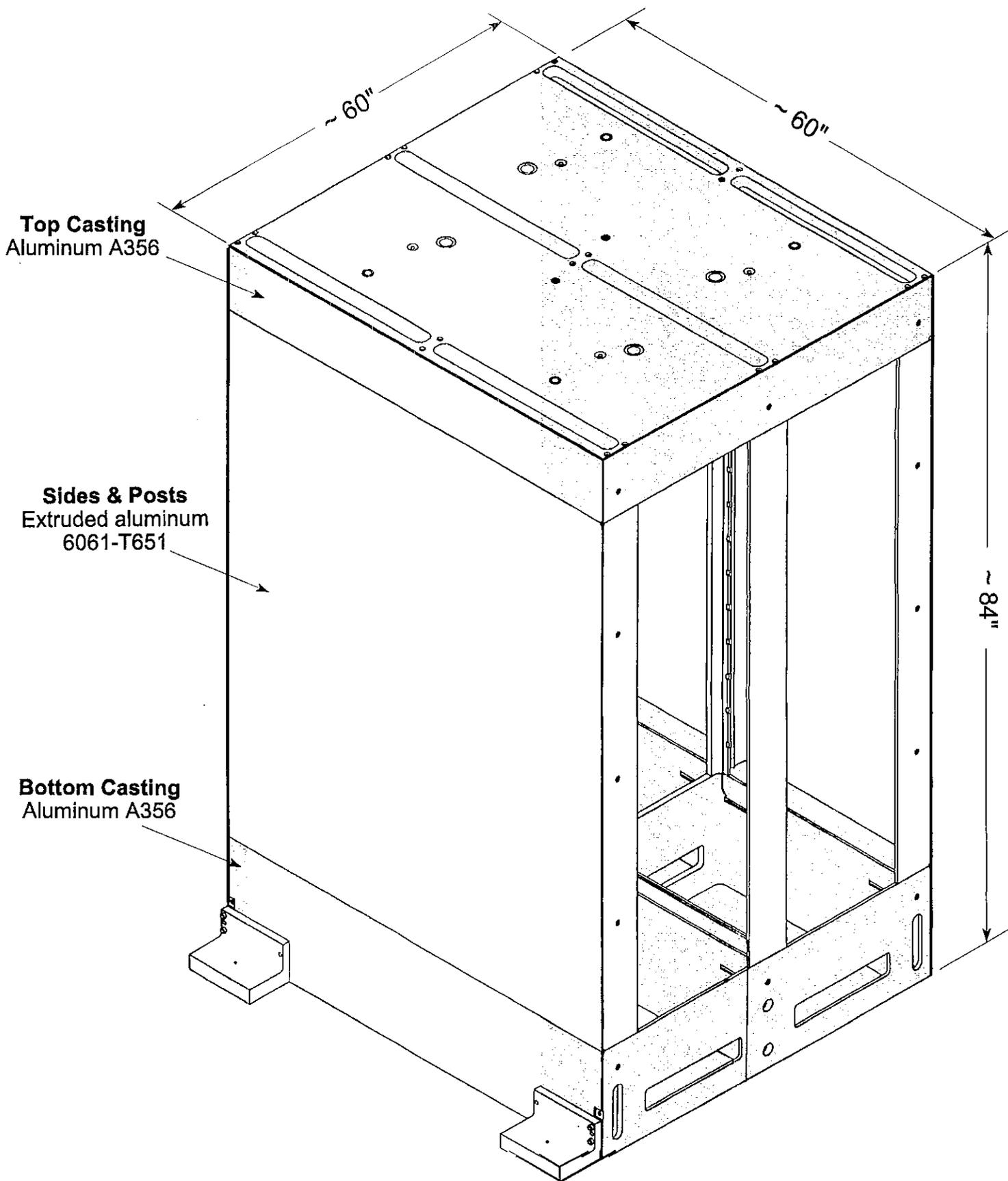
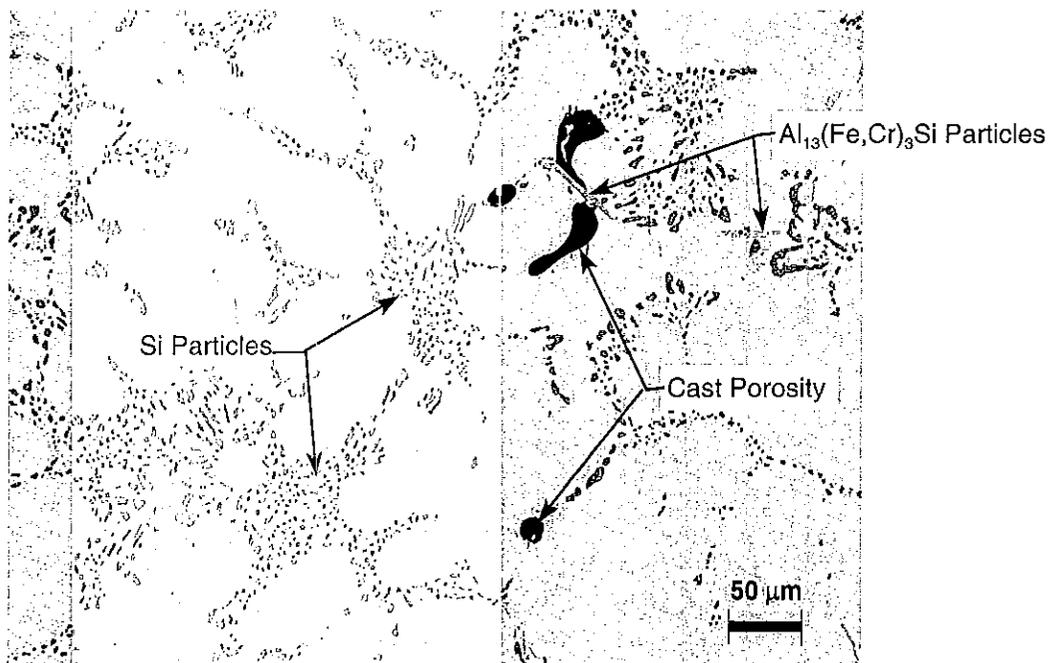


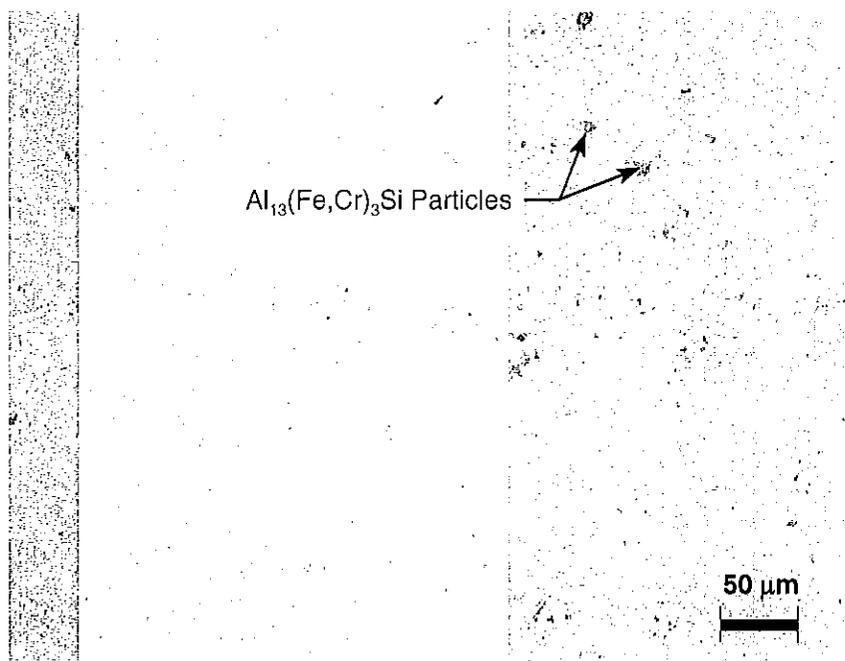
Figure 1 A frame assembly unit (FAU) in the NIF Amplifier Buses.

Casted Aluminum Alloy A356



As-polished

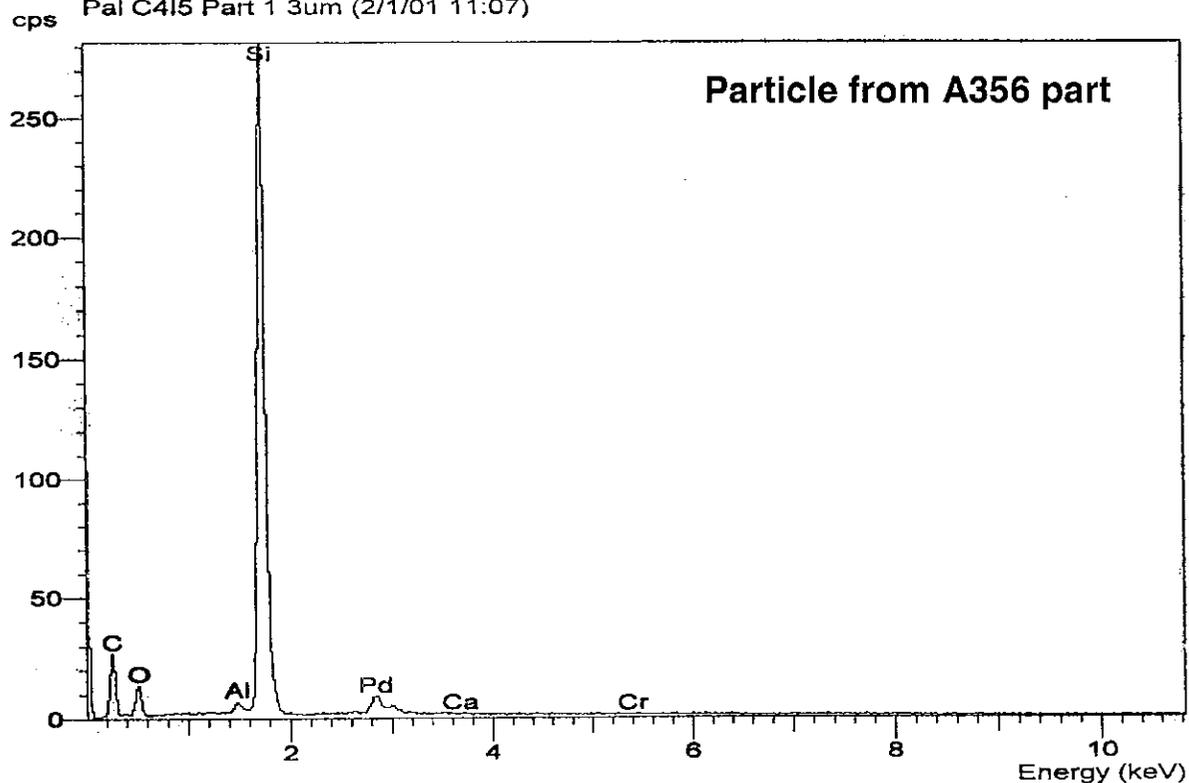
Extruded Aluminum Alloy 6061-T651



As-polished

Figure 2 Typical microstructures of aluminum alloys A356 and 6061.

Operator : E. Lindsey TAT
Client : C. Petty
Job : S5695 1-23-01 FAU Swipes
Pal C415 Part 1 3um (2/1/01 11:07)



Operator : E. Lindsey TAT
Client : C. Petty, D. Heggins
Job : S5697 sn 104 #1 & #4
s/n 104 #1 Part 2 1um (2/2/01 13:51)

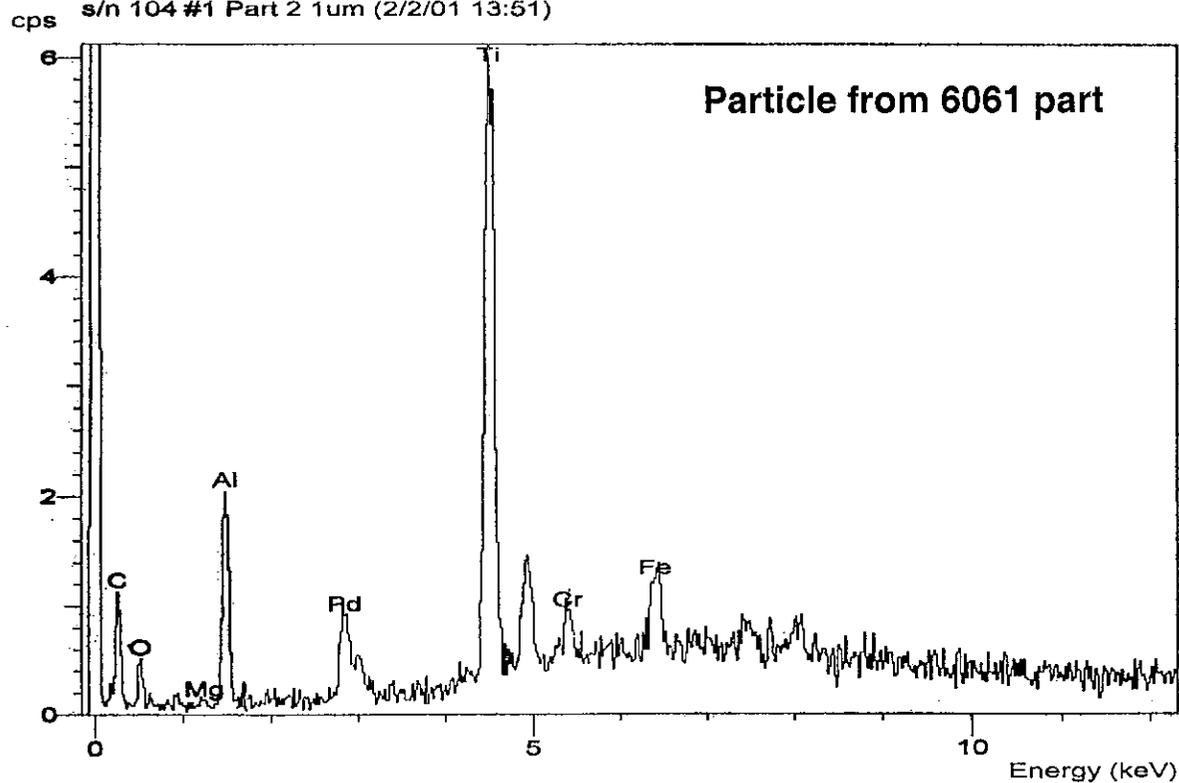
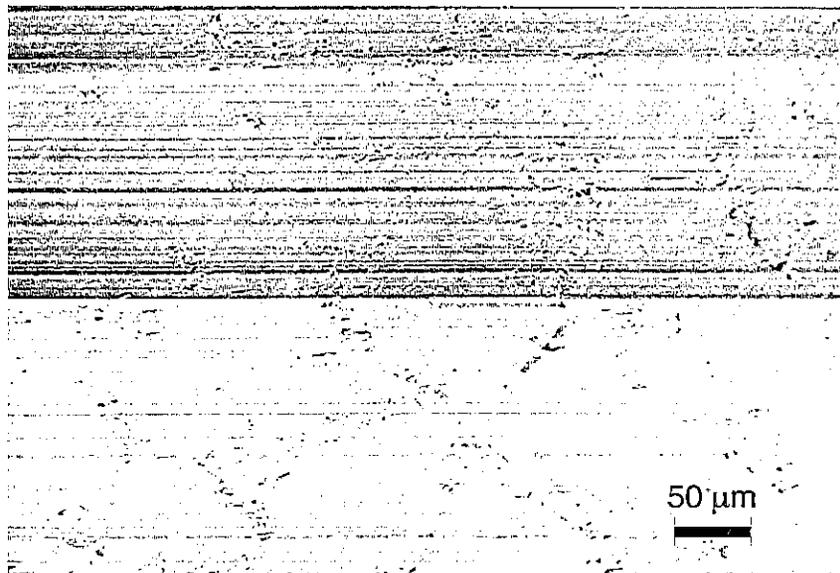
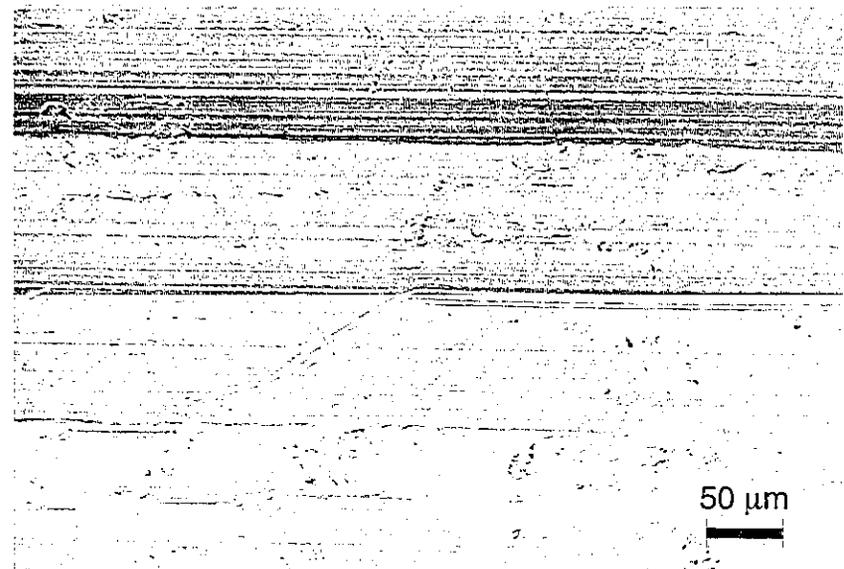


Figure 3 Typical SEM-EDXS of particles in the swipe paper obtained from A356 and 6061 parts.



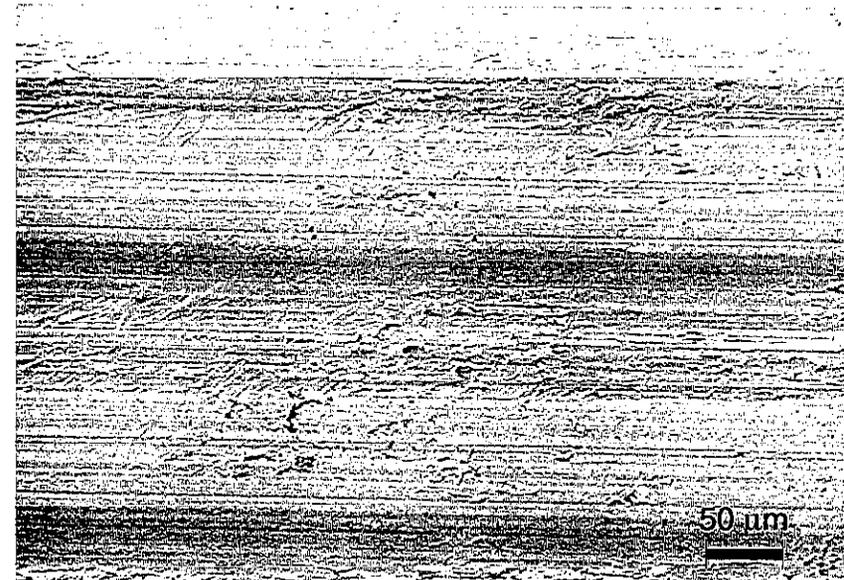
As-machined



5% Brulin at 160°F/20 min



3% Brulin at 160°F/20 min



8% Brulin at 160°F/20 min

Figure 4 The SEM Images of A356 samples show no signs of etching after the immersion in 3%, 5% and 8% Brulin solutions at 160°F for 20 minutes.

Alloy A356

Alloy 6061-T6

As-polished

20 μm

20 μm

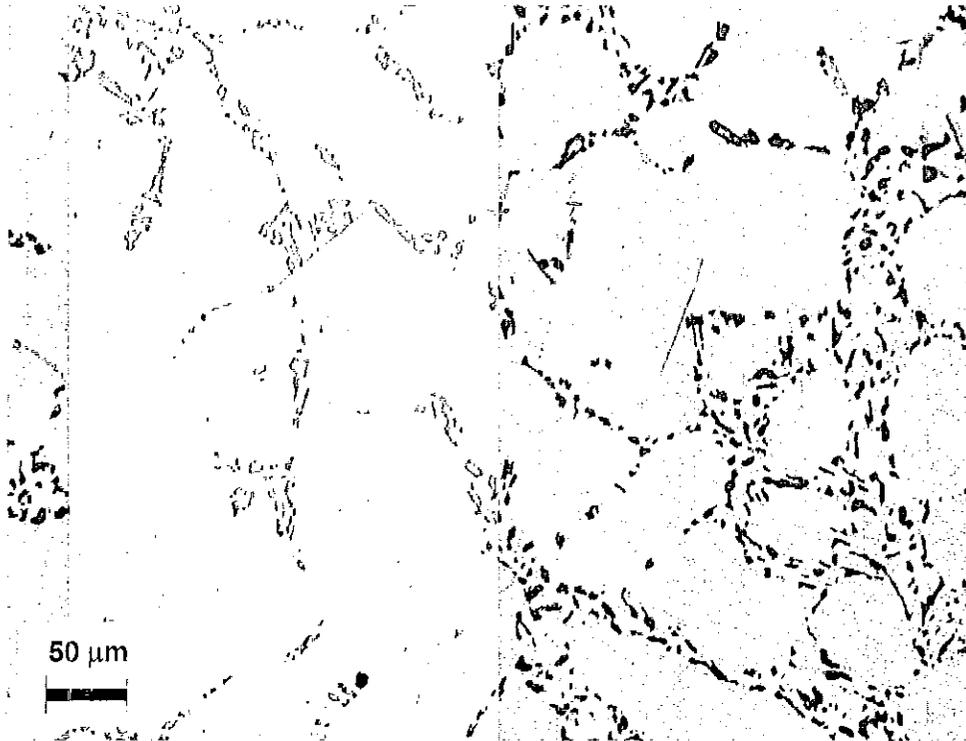
**8% Brulin @
160°F / 20min**

20 μm

20 μm

Figure 5 The mirror-polished samples of A356 and 6061-T6 show no signs of etching after the immersion in 8% Brulin at 160°F for 20 minutes.

Mirror-polished Surface of an A356 alloy



After AstroPak Precision Cleaning

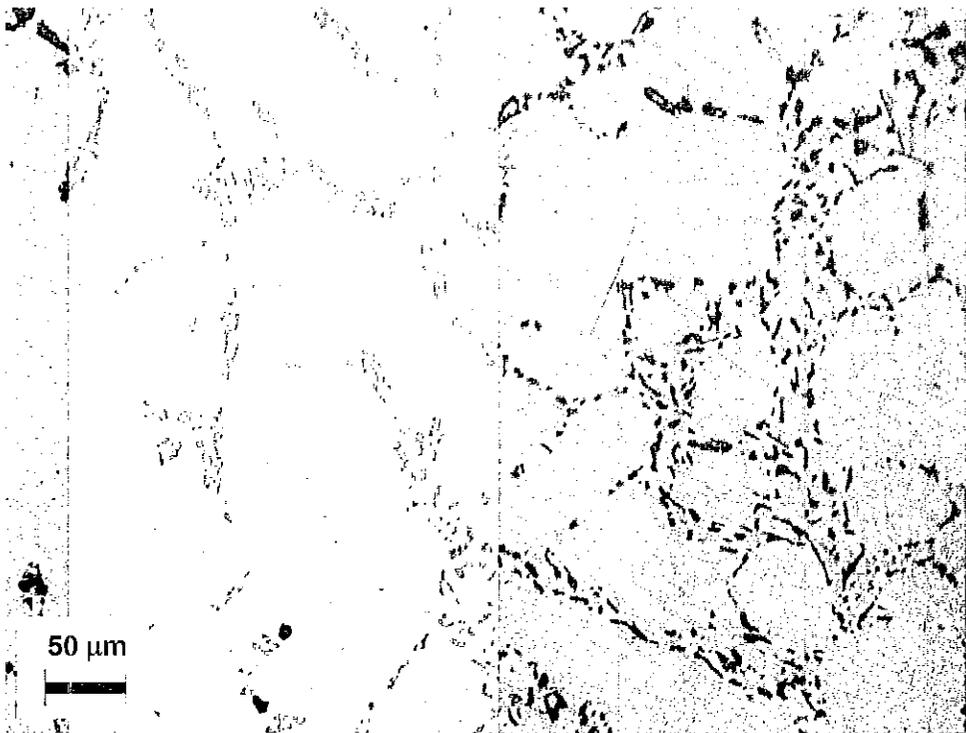
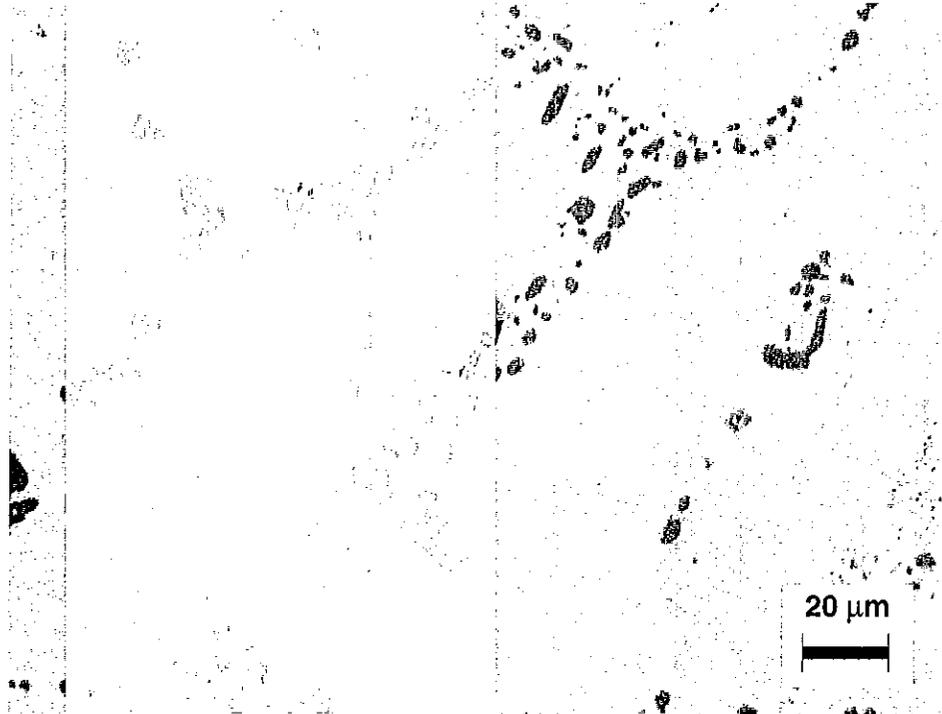


Figure 6 The combination of 3% Brulin at 130°F and the 2,500 psi high pressure spray in the precision cleaning procedure does not etch or attack the surface of an A356 alloy.

A mirror-polished Surface of an A356 alloy



After AstroPak Precision Cleaning

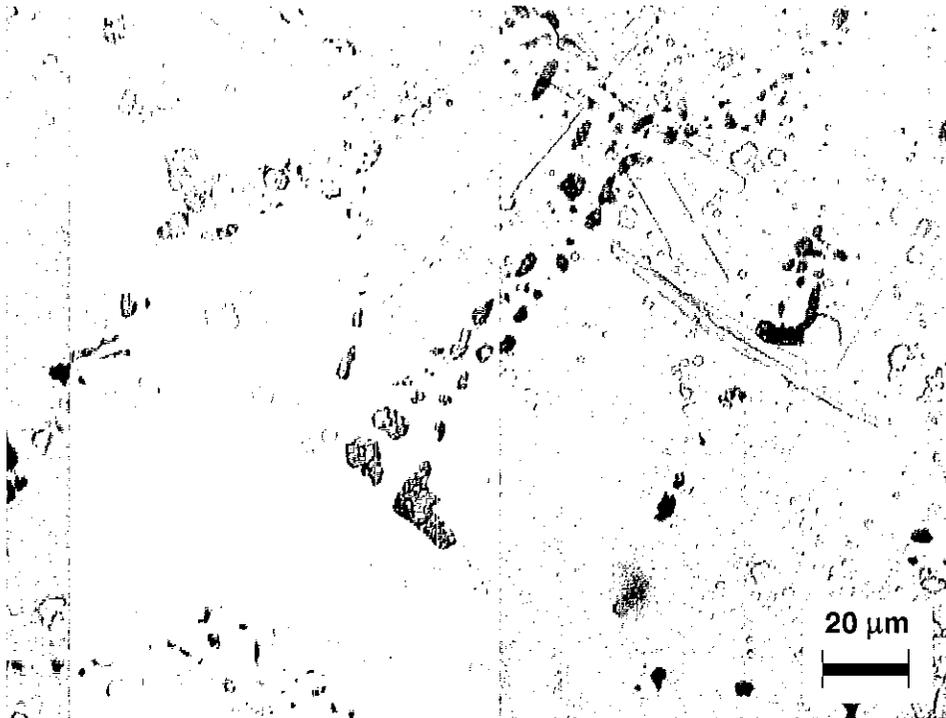
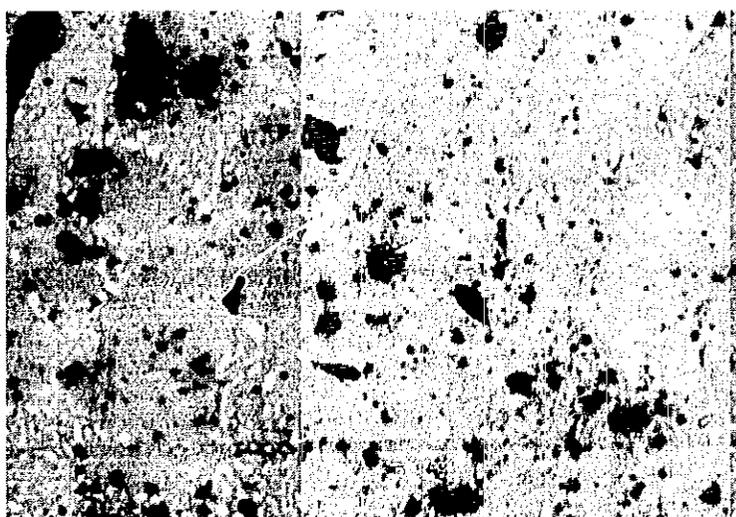
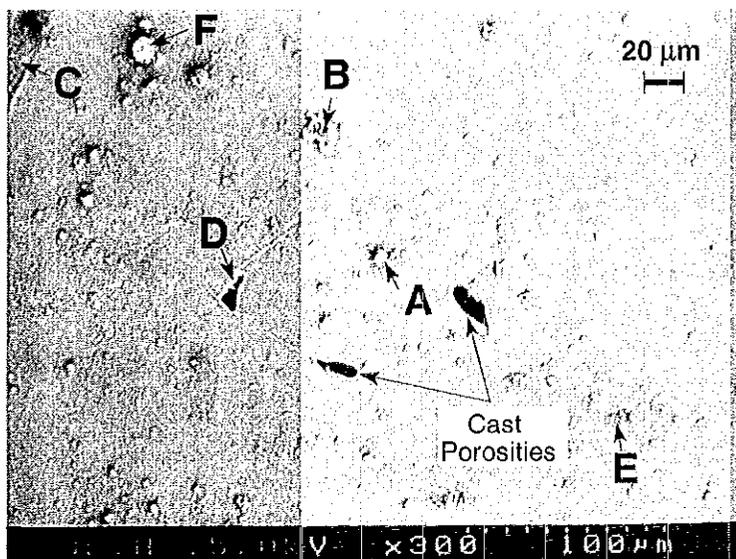


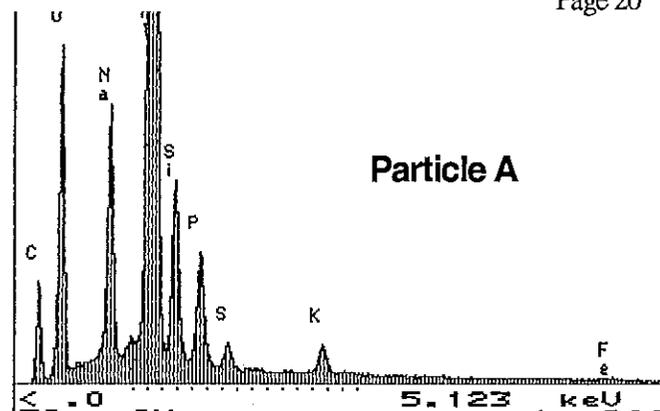
Figure 7 Extra deposits can be created by the precision cleaning process if the Bruin clean/rinse steps are not applied properly.



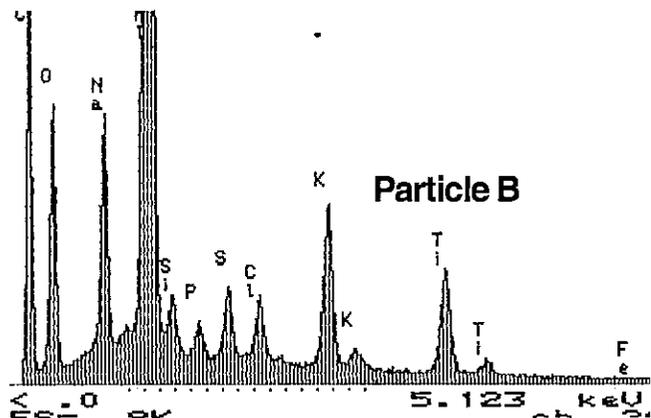
Low Voltage (2 KV) Secondary Electron Image



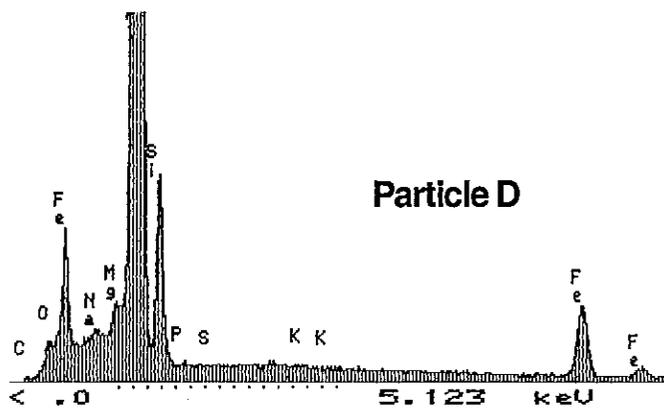
Back-scattering Electron Image



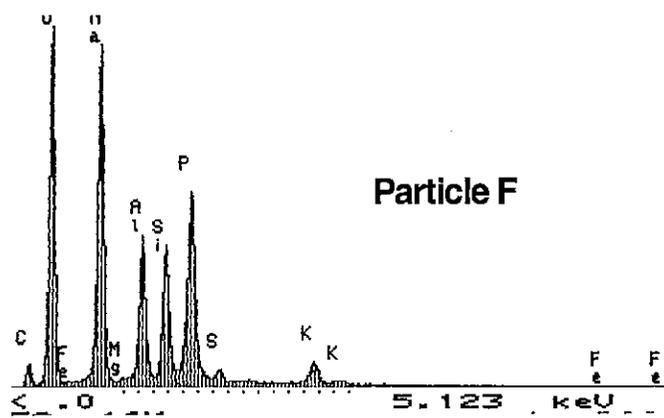
Particle A



Particle B



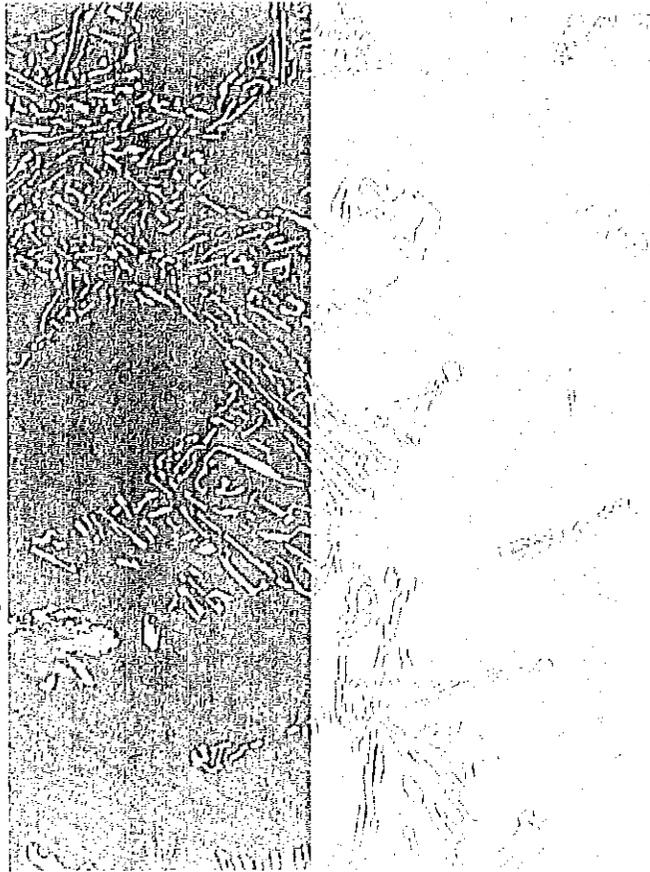
Particle D



Particle F

Figure 8 SEM/EDXS analyses of the debris left on the surface after the precision cleaning.

Mirror-polished Surface of an A356 alloy



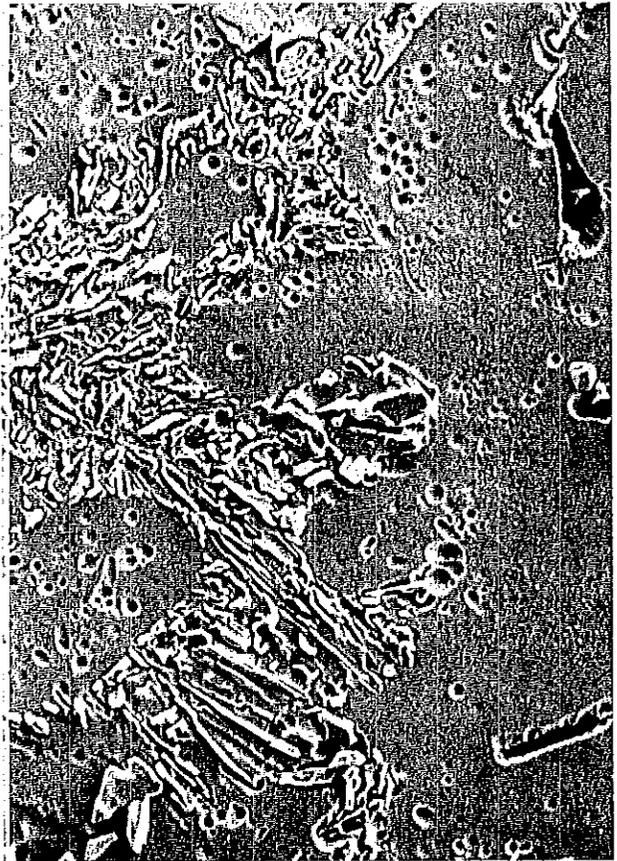
9a

After GTC Acid-bath Cleaning
($\text{HNO}_3\text{-K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7\text{-HF}$ @ 130°F/10 min.)



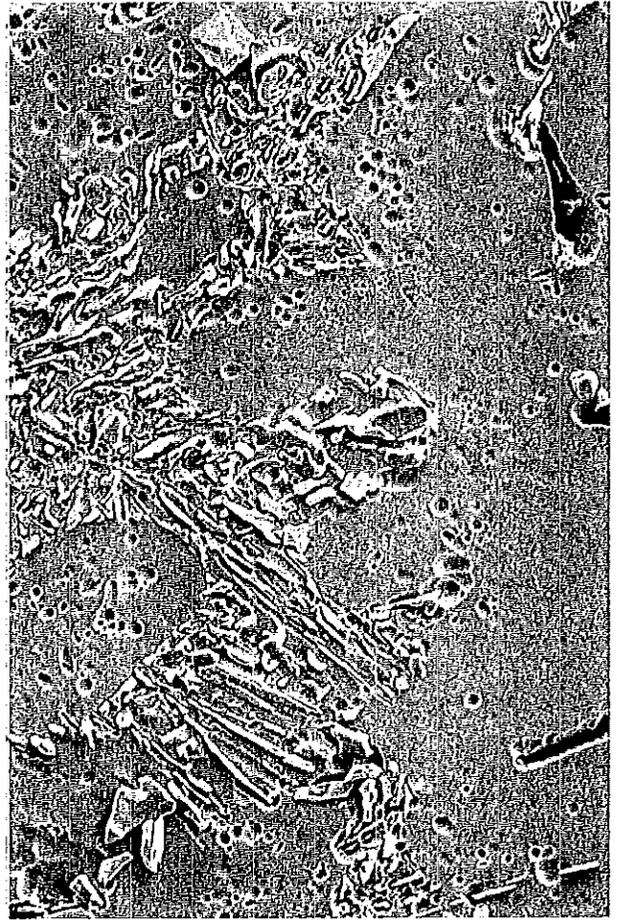
50 μm

9b



After Taking Swipe Reading

9d



After AstroPak Precision Cleaning

9c



Figure 9 Effects of various cleaning steps on the morphology of a mirror-polished surface of a cast aluminum alloy A356.

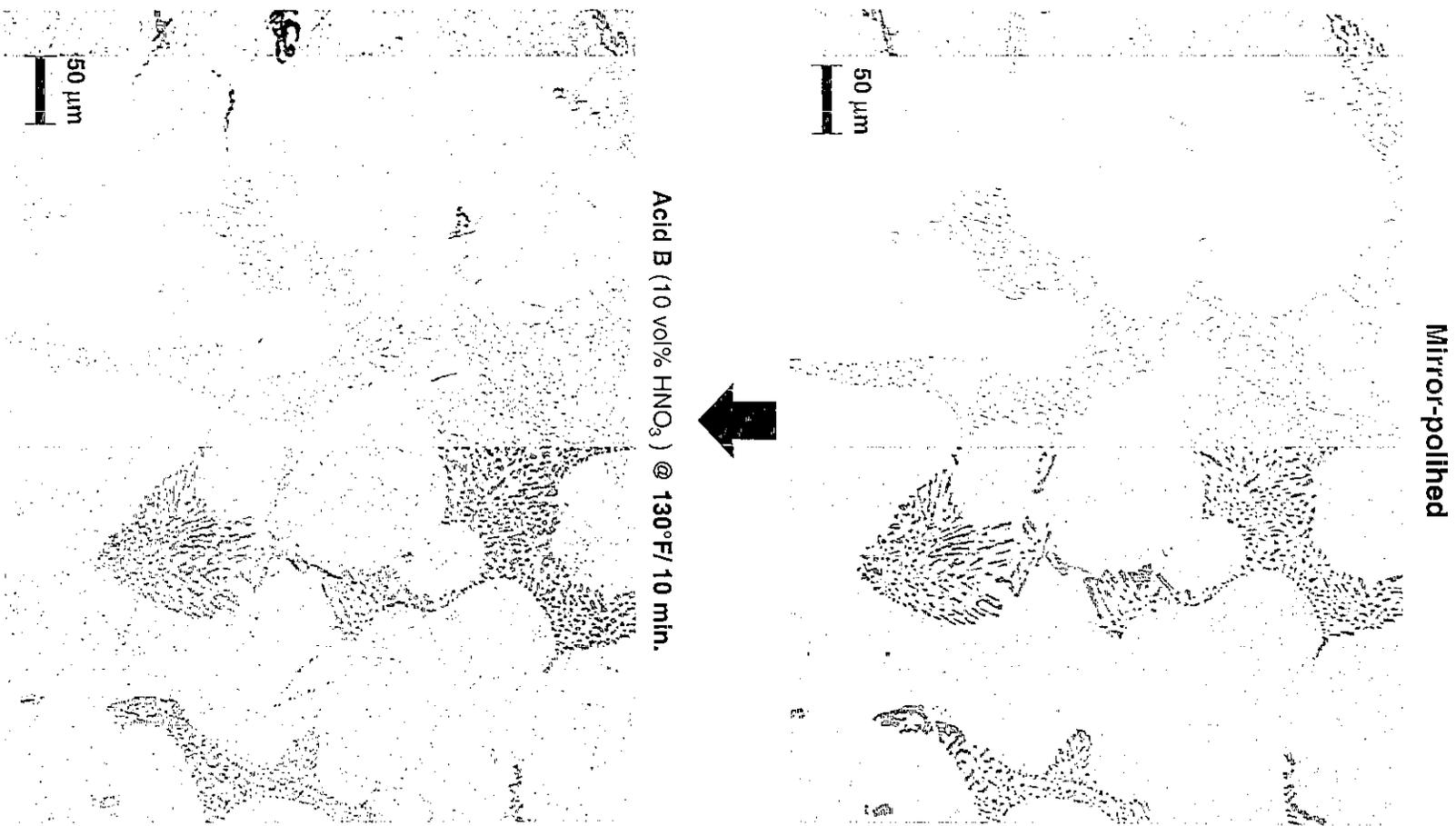


Figure 10 The Acid B showed only a mirror etching of a mirror-polished surface of an A356 alloy.

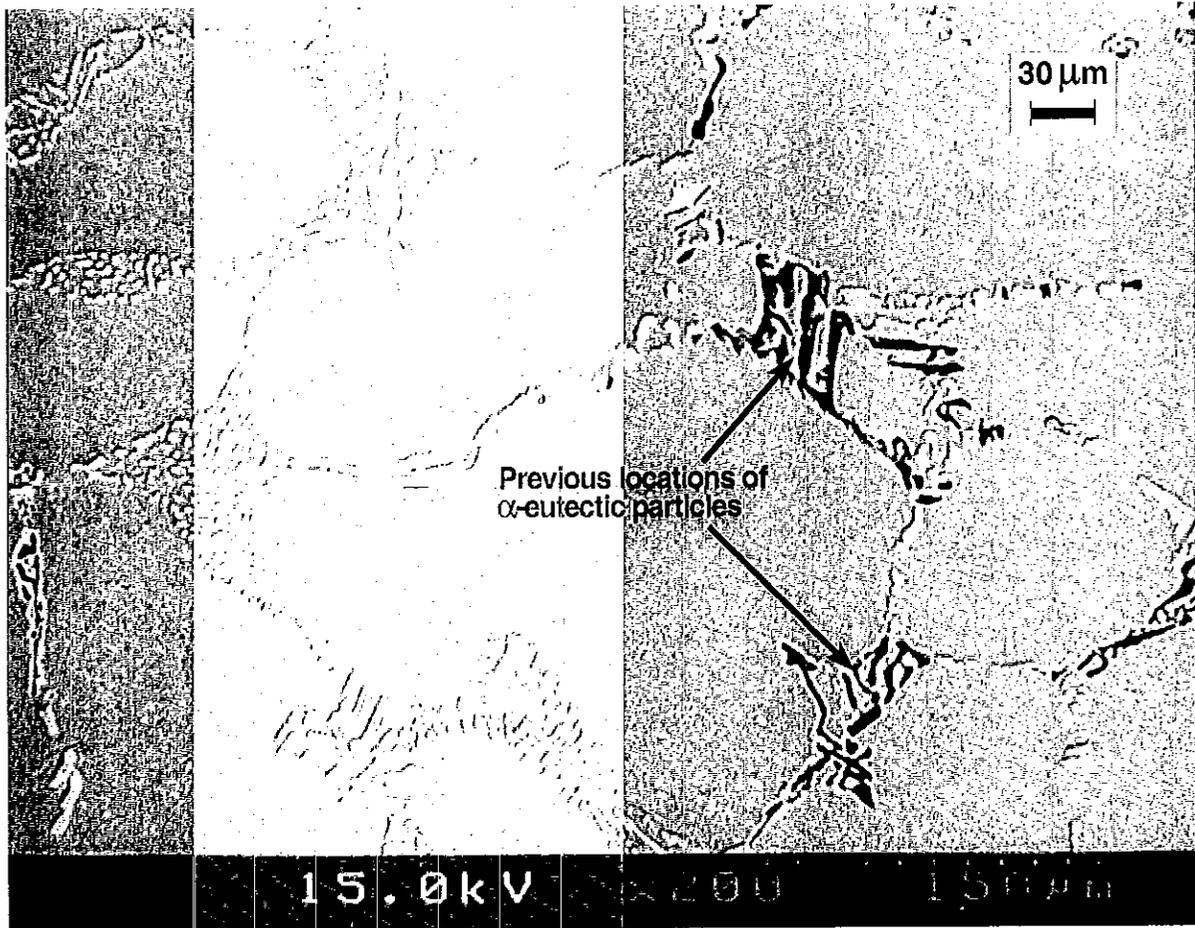
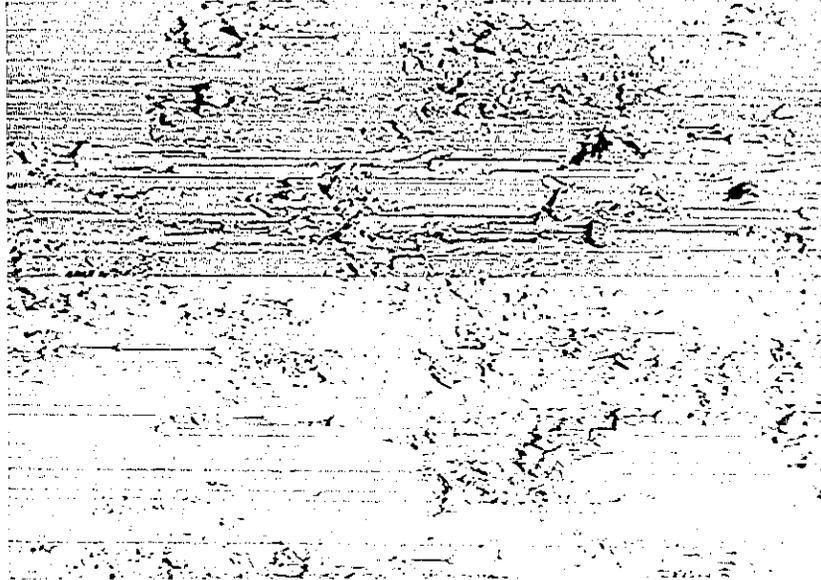


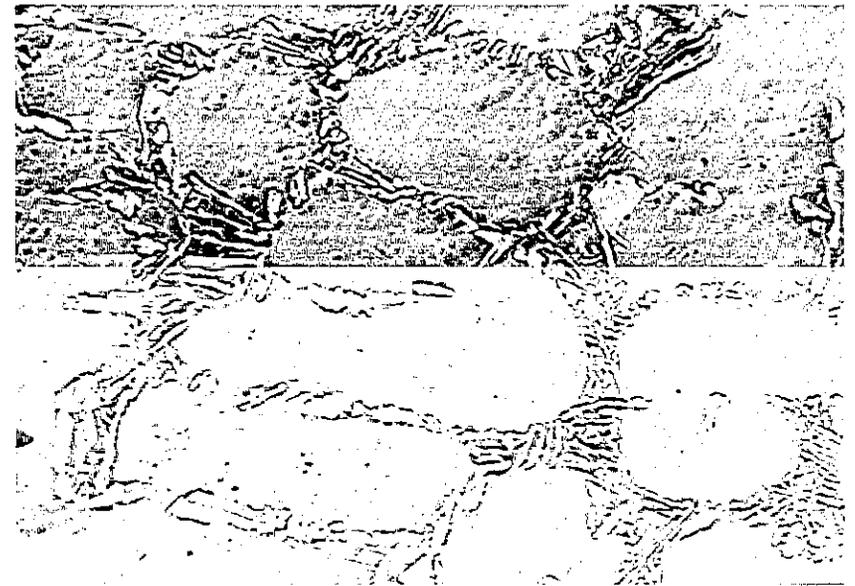
Figure 11 The Acid B etched the α -eutectic particles and left behind deep pits.

As-machined Surface of an A356 alloy



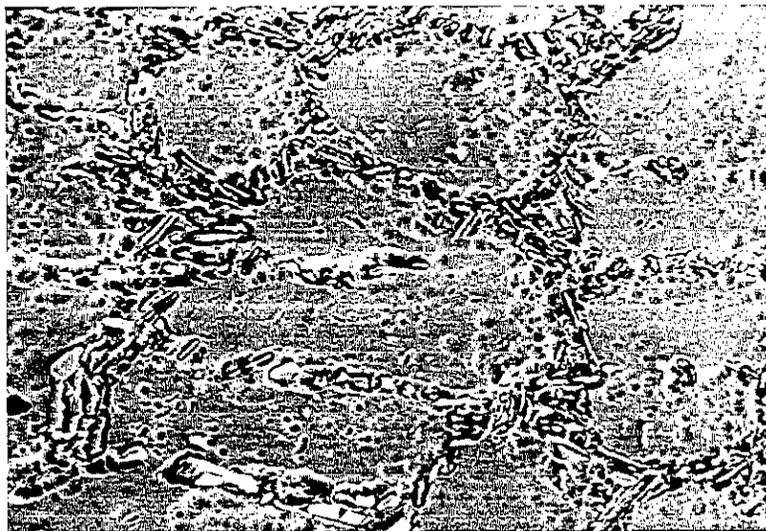
12a

After GTC Acid-bath Cleaning
($\text{HNO}_3 + \text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7 + \text{HF}$ @ 130°F/10 min.)

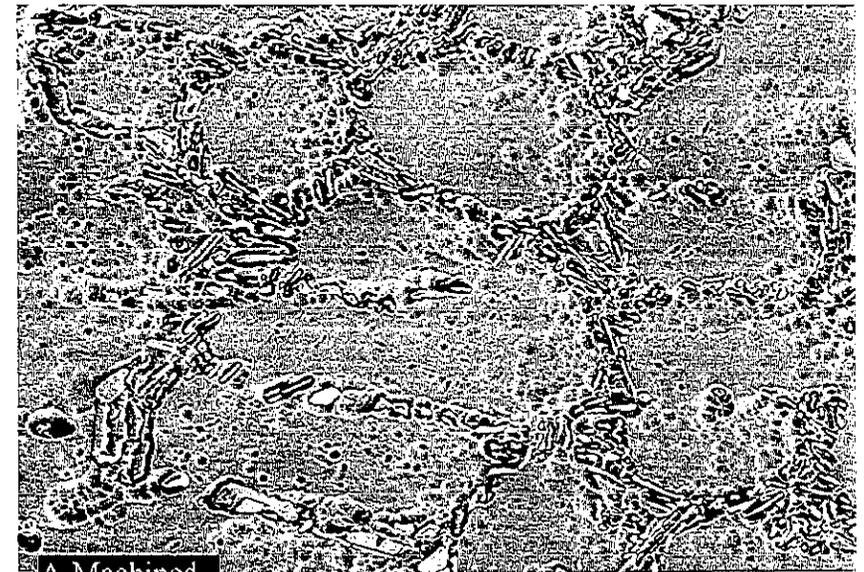


50 μm

12b



After Taking Swipe Reading 12d



After Astro Pak Precision Cleaning 12c

Figure 12 Effects of various cleaning steps on the morphology of an as-machined surface of a cast aluminum alloy A356.

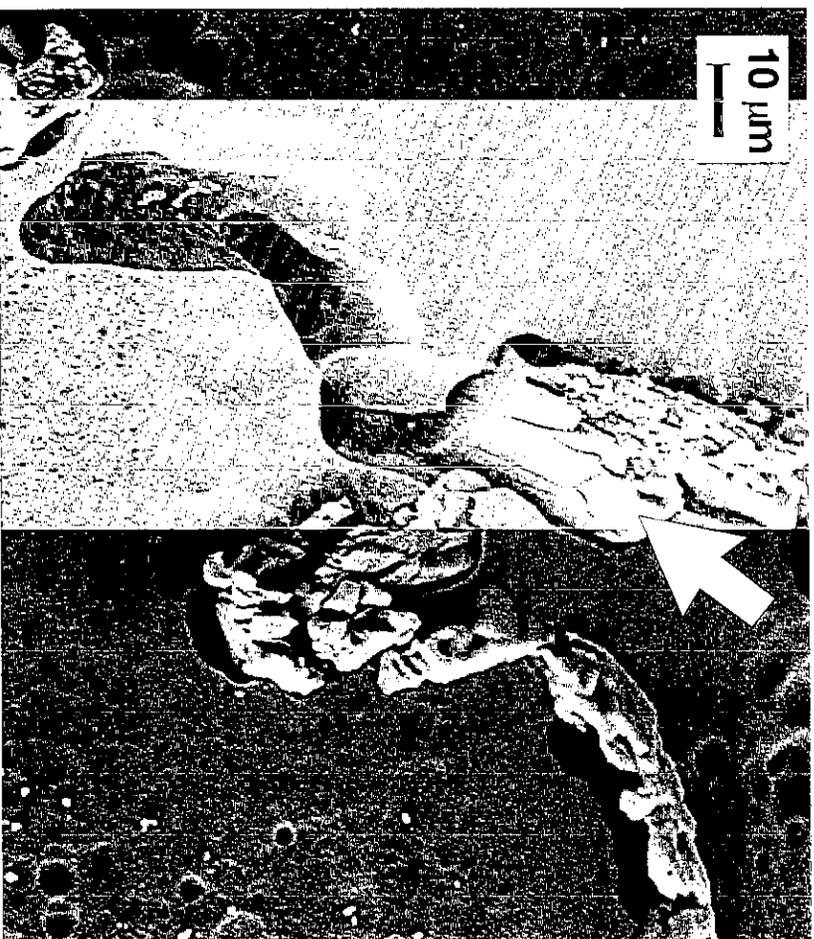


Figure 13 After the **Acid A** cleaning of an as-machined surface, the Si particle protruding out of the surface showed sign of cracking.

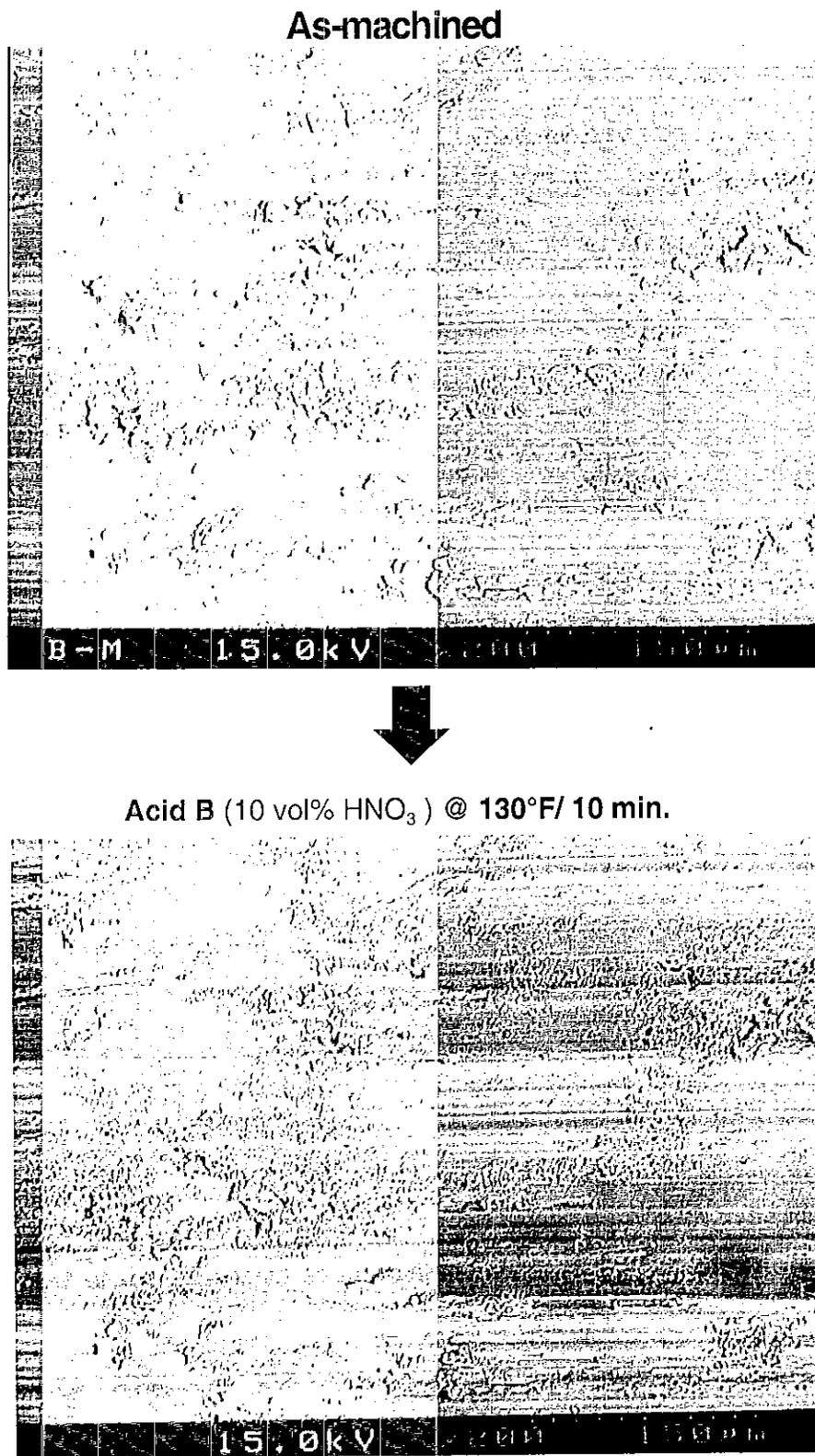


Figure 14 The Acid B showed only a minor etching of the as-machined surface of an A356 alloy.

Aerosol Data Comparison
Al Plates: TZC-4, TZC-5, TZW-4, TZW-5
Climet data vs. Shot number

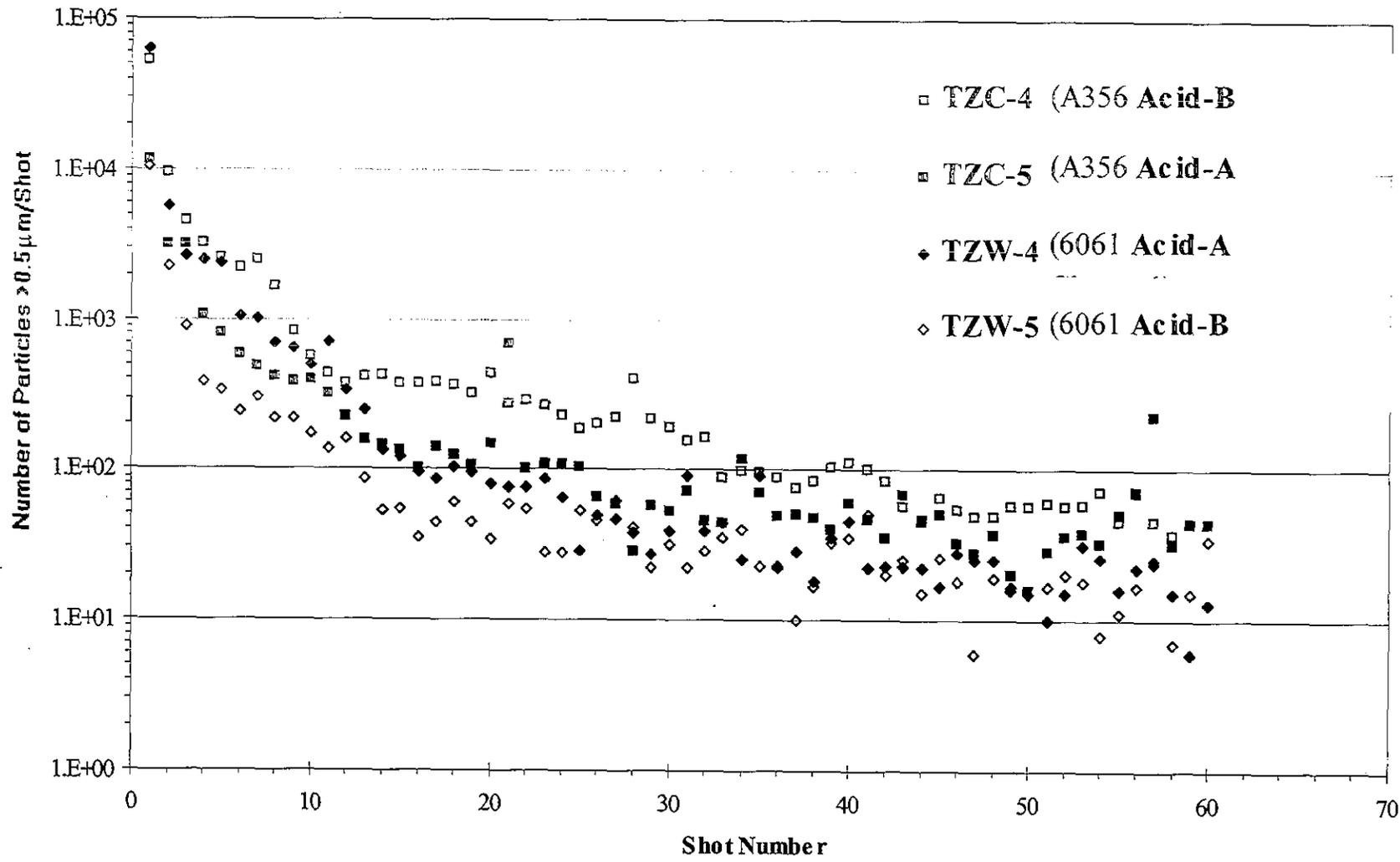
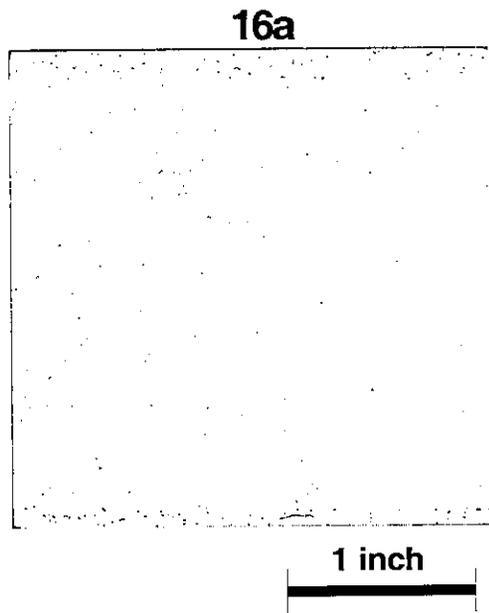


Figure 15 The results of aerosol testing of Acid-A and Acid-B cleaned A356 and 6061 alloys.



Area Density of Porosity
= 186 per in²

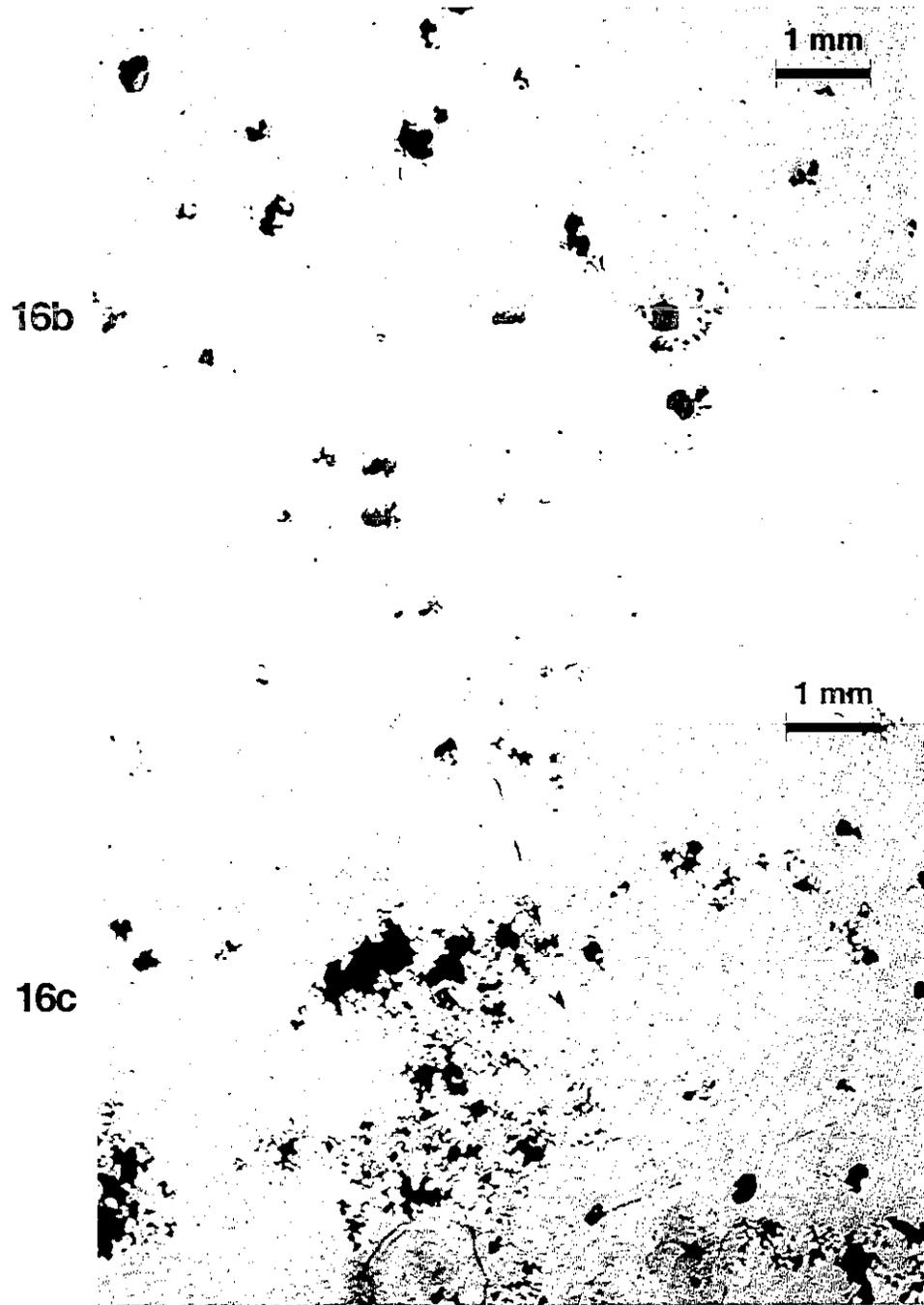
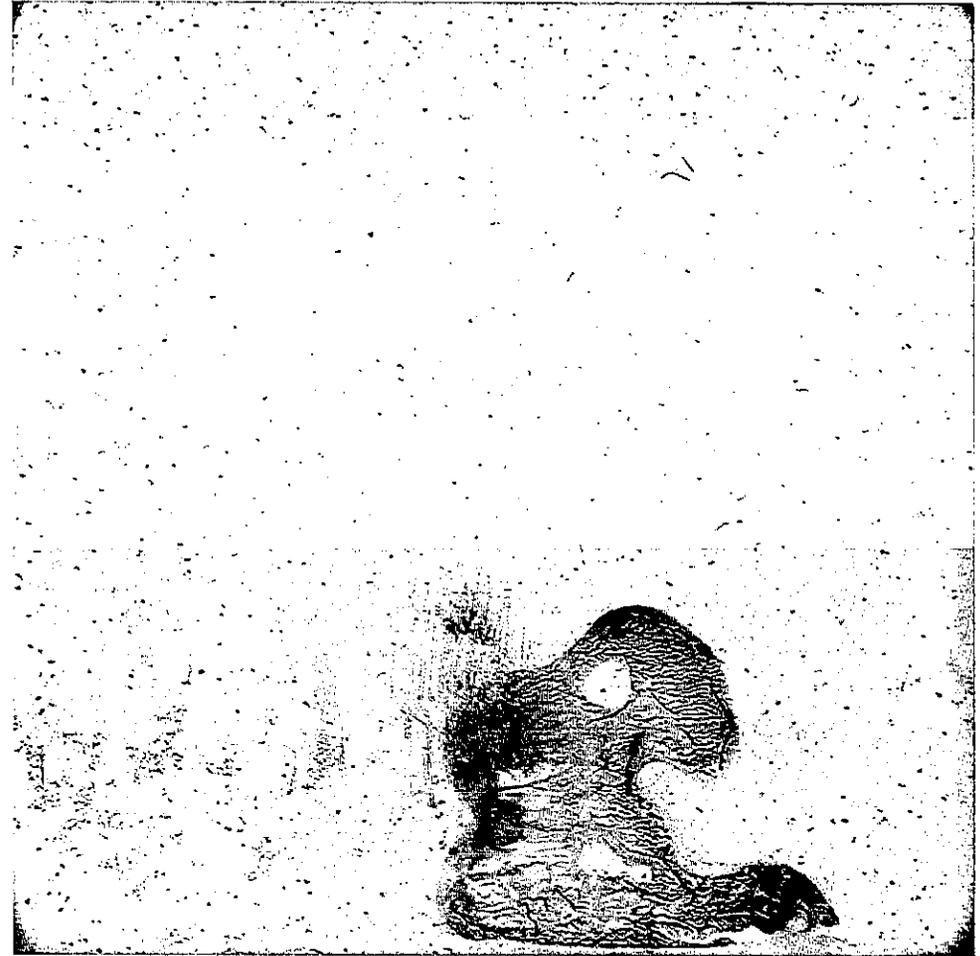
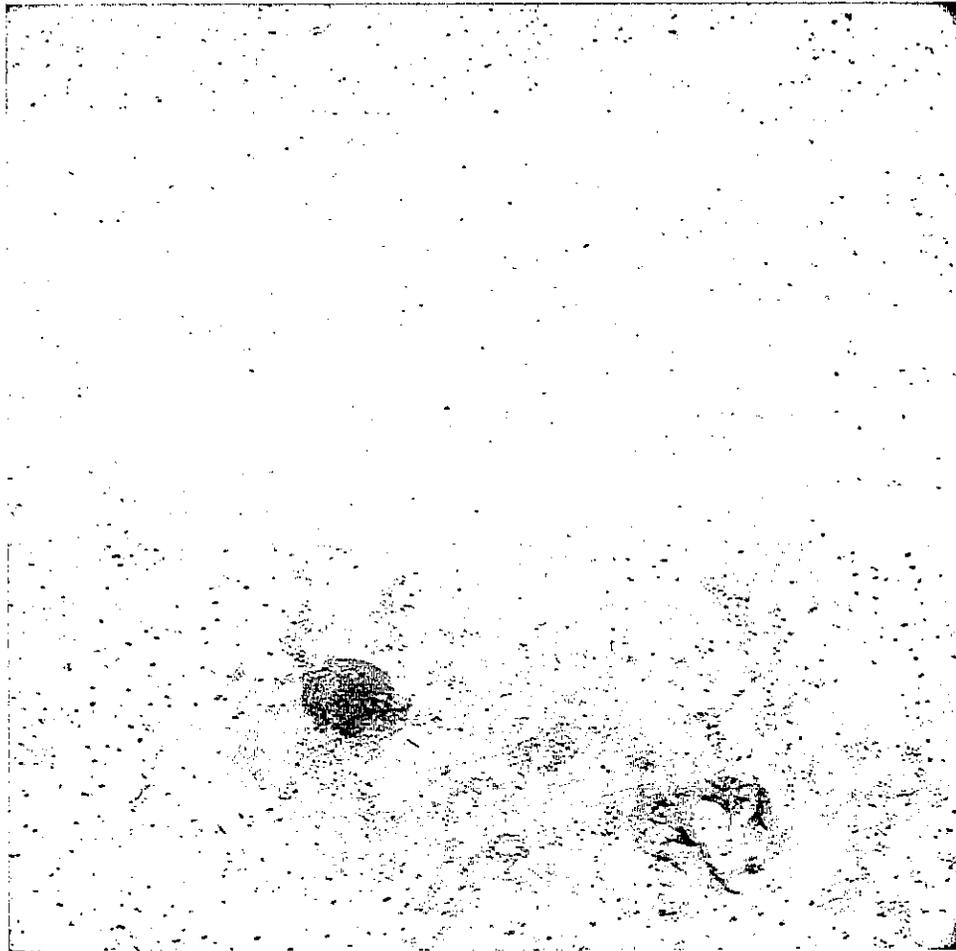


Figure 16 Typical distribution of porosity in cast aluminum alloy A356 of a FAU part.



1 inch



Figure 17 The porosities in the sample trapped water which later leached out to the surface during a 24-hour drying period. The staining of the surface is quite evident from the two samples above.

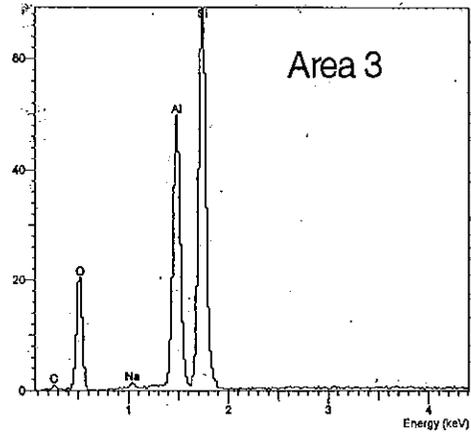
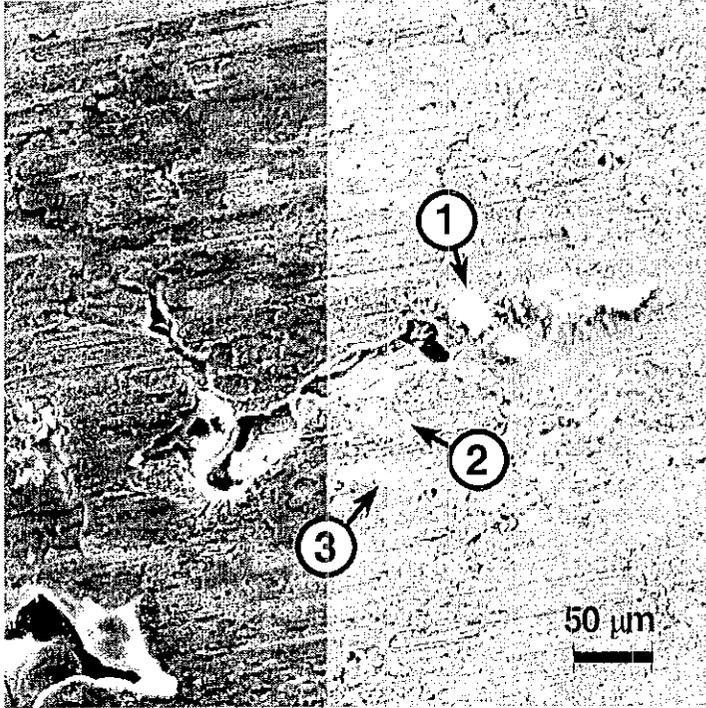
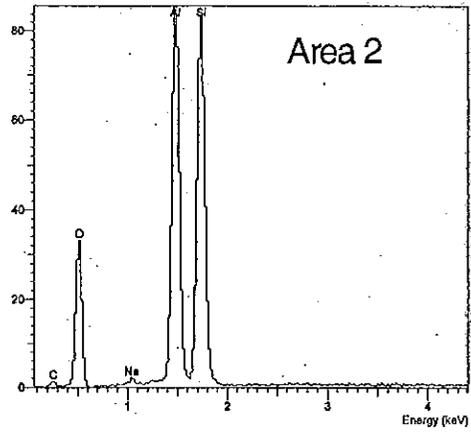
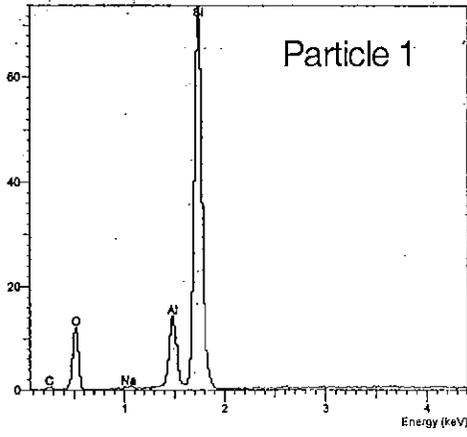
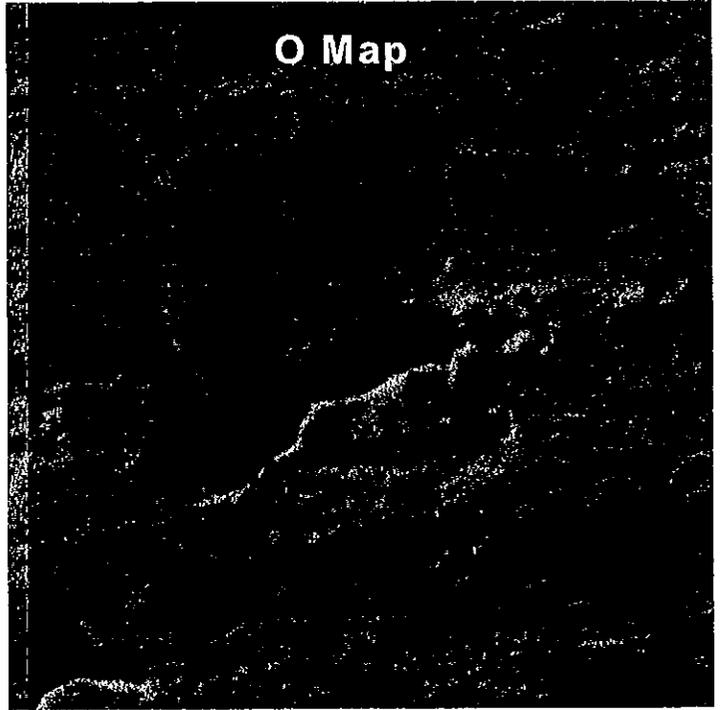
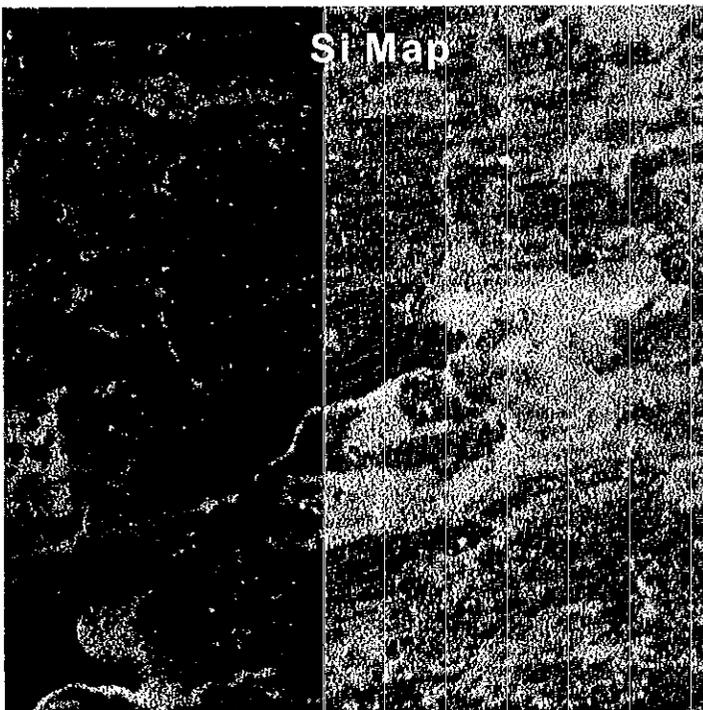


Figure 18 Areas around a cast porosity of an alloy A356 showing the formation of aluminum hydroxide.



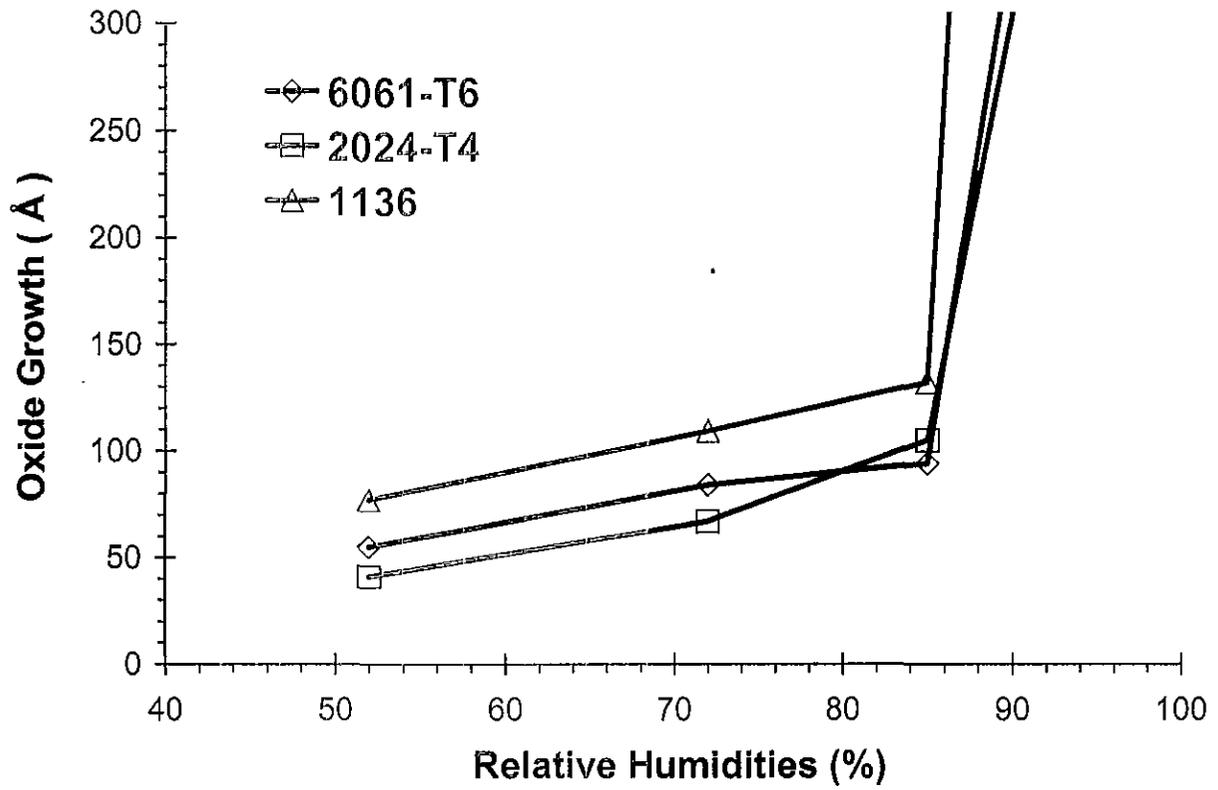


Figure 19 Oxide growth rate of aluminum alloys exposed in air for five years.

APPENDIX A-2

Sample	Time	Part/ Swipe	Unit	Alloy	Size	X-ray Counts													
						C	O	Mg	Al	Si	S	Cl	K	Ca	Ti	Cr	Fe	Ni	
5687	10:31	MA3 #9 L103	FAU	A356						1300									
5687	10:34	MA3 #9 L103	FAU	A356		160	15							5	5				
5687	10:45	MA3 #9 L103	FAU	A356		10	5			90									
5687	14:05	MA3 - C	FAU	A356		4	5							21					
5687	14:14	MA3 - C	FAU	A356		4	1					3		2	3				
5687	14:22	MA3 - C	FAU	A356										30					
5687	14:35	MA3 - C	FAU	A356		6	1			1		1		1	2				
5695	14:28	#15	FAU	A356	4 μ m	1	1		1	250									
5695	16:10	#15	FAU	A356	4 μ m	1	1		1	0.5							5		
5695	16:19	#16	FAU	A356	4 μ m	4	4		2	16				64					
5695	11:07	Pal C415	FAU	A356	3 μ m	30	15		10	300									
5695	11:42	Pal C4 15	FAU	A356	2 μ m	30	15		5	300									
5695	11:45	Pal C415	FAU	A356	1 μ m	35	20		5	300									
5695	11:46	Pal C415	FAU	A356		26	19		1	1									
5695	12:14	Pal C416	FAU	A356		5	4		3										
5695	12:17	Pal C416	FAU	A356	2000 μ m	12	8		0.5	3.20									
5695	12:22	Pal C416				11	6		2	20									
5691	14:35	S/N 102 M-5 MA5	FAU	A356		23	16		1										
5691	13:56	S/N 102 M-5 MA5	FAU	A356	1-3 μ m	18	14		2	14									
5691	13:30	S/N 102 M-5 MA5	FAU	A356	5 μ m	10	8		5	260									
5691	13:33	S/N 102 M-5 MA5	FAU	A356	4 μ m	19	5		3	50		3		4	4				
5691	13:48	S/N 102 M-5 MA5	FAU	A356		10	8		1	55									

Sample	Time	Part/ Swipe	Unit	Alloy	Size	X-ray Counts													
						C	O	Mg	Al	Si	S	Cl	K	Ca	Ti	Cr	Fe	Ni	
5690	13:45	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		160	20												
5690	13:48	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		8	4											2	
5690	13:52	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		17	16											1	
5690	13:55	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		5	5										20	62	5
5690	13:57	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		6	3											1	
5690	13:59	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		5	4										20	60	5
5690	14:02	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061		4	2										T	1	T
5690	14:27	S/N 104 #3	EIA	6061	< 1 μ m	3	2										5	15	2
5690	9:41	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061		20	10										20	60	5
5690	9:43	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061		14	8										10	25	3
5690	9:47	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061		7	4										1	3	T
5690	10:32	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061		4	2										8	25	3
5690	10:33	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1 μ m	2	1										5	15	1
5690	10:36	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1.5 μ m	4	2										4	12	1
5690	10:39	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1.2 μ m	8	3										4	12	1
5690	13:06	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1 μ m	30	15										30	85	10
5697	13:46	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1.5 μ m	0.8	1	1	4							4			
5697	13:51	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1.0 μ m	1.2	1		2							6	0.6	0.6	
5697	13:58	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	3.0 μ m	2	3		27							2	2	1	
5697	14:05	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1.0 μ m	1	1		2							17	2	1	
5697	14:12	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	2.0 μ m	6	17	16	22							1	2		
5697	14:15	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	4 μ m	40	25	23	38							2	1		
5697	14:15	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1 μ m	8	25	23	38							3	2		
5697	14:18	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	1.5 μ m	4	9									T	T		
5697	14:43	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	2.0 μ m	20	50									2	T		
5697	14:46	S/N 104 #1	EIA	6061	2 μ m	9	6		2								12	35	3

APPENDIX A-3

ASTROPAK REVISION D PROCEDURE

MARCH 1, 2001

1. Identify the frame to be used and document the number in the above location.
2. Uncrate the frame, remove all data and deliver to the Program Manager.
3. Remove all wrapping from frame and perform a visual inspection looking for any anomalies. Report any such findings to the Program Manager.
4. Transfer the Frame to a S.S. 2 x 2 pallet.
5. Perform two Brulin/Rinse cycles on the entire frame.
6. Pull 2 NVR samples in locations A and B.
7. Lay the frame down and perform two Zonyl/rinse cycles on the top casting and sidewalls
8. Dry off with N2-
9. Stand the frame up in the vertical position and perform two Zonyl/rinse cycles on the lower casting.
10. Dry off with N2-
11. Perform-n all 16 particle swipes.
12. Remove the frame from the cleanroom and perform a complete "pre-clean" on the entire frame by first cleaning with acetone followed by 100% IPA (Reference MEL98-002-OD and MEL98-003-OC). Document the visible marks and iterations below on both the upper and lower castings as well as the sidewalls.
13. Perform particle swipes on locations 9,10, 11, 12,13 and 14.
(Note: At this time we will let the frame sit for a minimum of 12 hrs.)
14. Repeat step # 13. Notify the Program Manager of your findings on the wipes before continuing forward.
15. Perform particle swipes on locations 9,10,11,12,13 and 14.
(Note: The Program Manager will make a decision at this point to either let the frame sit for an additional 12 hrs or proceed forward. If the decision is made to let the frame sit perform steps 16 and 17. If not, proceed to step 18.)
16. Repeat step # 13.
17. Perform particle swipes on locations 9,10,11,12,13 and 14.
18. Transfer the frame into the cleanroom for precision cleaning
19. Perform two Brulin/rinse cycles on entire frame,
20. Dry off and perform two NVR's in locations A and B.
21. Lay the frame down and perform two Zonyl/rinse cycles on the top rating and sidewalls.
22. Dry off with N2-
23. Perform particle swipes on locations 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,15 and 16.
24. Stand the frame up in the vertical position and perform two Zonyl/rinse cycles on the lower castings
25. Dry off with N2-
26. Perform particle swipes on locations 9,10,11,12,13 and 14.
27. Contact Program Manager when complete.

Old Process

Frame	Process	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Ave.
7585	Pre-clean(1X), 2 Zonyl/2 Rinse (3X)	190	184	96	119	76	92	65	55	70	110	105	88	99	98	105	117	104
7491	Pre-clean(1X), 1 Zonyl/1 Rinse (3X)	134	123	76	84	83	128	72	79	91	73	97	96	89	87	83	103	94
7577	Pre-clean(1X), 1 Zonyl/1 Rinse (3X)	162	119	86	85	76	96	87	86	76	94	106	110	105	102	91	98	99
7147	Pre-clean(1X), 1 Zonyl/1 Rinse (3X)	181	139	111	107	82	67	92	65	79	102	80	72	83	68	92	98	95
		167	141	92	99	79	96	79	71	79	95	97	92	94	89	93	104	

Revision D Process

7585	Wipe (1X), 2 Zonyl/2 Rinse (1X)	94	87	76	84	84	88	77	75	74	97	79	75		81	61	93	82
7585	Additional 2 Brulin/ 2 Rinse (1X)	100	99	76	89	84	70	75	53	62	82	68	79	78	63	69	78	77
7492	Wipe (3X), 2 Zonyl/2 Rinse (1X)	94	97	71	62	54	67	58	63	69	79	87	78	74	60	68	63	72
8647	Wipe (2X), 2 Zonyl/2 Rinse (2X)	74	85	78	92	86	87	66	74	89	106	77	86	88	73	93	91	84
8647	Additional 2 Zonyl/2 Rinse (1X)	92	81	97	102	83	98	63	74	77	70	69	68	81	91	84	83	82
		91	90	80	86	78	82	68	68	74	87	76	77	80	74	75	82	

Swipe Reading of Old vs. Revision D Procedure

