

Front panels and casings

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Front panels and casings are the framework for the actual input components. They vary in shape, material, type of installation and finish. An inserted aluminium front panel with integrated mechanical buttons and a robust foil overlay is almost the classic solution for industry. Casings made of plastic are, however, the typical choice for device and modular construction environments.

The draft outline for a customised front panel starts with its geometric dimensions. Almost any size and shape are conceivable here. The shapes, which we have already processed for our customers in the past, range from a rectangle to a trapeze or even an ellipse. It is then necessary to select and combine the functional or control elements. We can integrate individual buttons, pre-fabricated keyboards, touchpads, emergency shutdown switches or even displays with a touchscreen.

The shape of the casing is much more complex. In principle, we can make use of almost any three-dimensional shape. But as the casing normally accommodates embedded systems, its design is much more challenging. The casting process that is used also creates certain general restrictions, which need to be taken into account.

Front panels

- A wide choice of geometric shapes
- All flat, level materials are used
- Aluminium and stainless steel are used very often
- A foil overlay increases the resistance to dirt and liquids
- Combining different input components
- Integrating a display and touchscreens
- Individual key layouts
- Various types of insertion and attachments

Casings

- A wide choice of three-dimensional shapes
- Metal casings using various casting processes

- Plastic casing using the injection molding process
- Special coating for increased resistance
- Small casings for mobile controls
- Integrating a display and touchscreens
- Integrating embedded systems
- Low-cost rapid prototyping

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