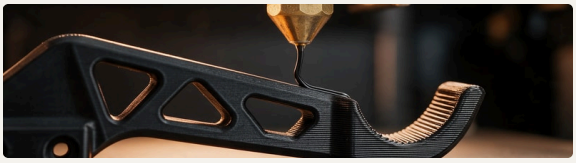
5 weeks became 2 days.

Bellweather Packaging used to machine the gripper fingers on its packaging line from aluminum, and wait 5 weeks for every order. Now it prints them in a tough nylon in 2 days. Each finger is 60% lighter, and a changeover takes 15 minutes instead of 45.



A GRIPPER FINGER PRINTED IN A TOUGH NYLON.

THE SAME PART, TWO WAYS	 BEFORE: MACHINED ALUMINUM	 AFTER: PRINTED IN A TOUGH NYLON
THE ORDER	A drawing goes to a machine shop. A quote comes back. Then the wait.	The design file goes to the printer on the plant floor.
THE WAIT	**5 weeks** from order to part in hand.	**2 days.**
THE PART	Solid aluminum, cut from a block. More metal than the job needs.	**60% lighter per finger.** The same grip, without the weight.
THE VOLUME	Every replacement is a purchase order and another wait.	**~1,400 fingers / year,** printed in-house as the line needs them.
THE CHANGEOVER	**45 min.** The line waits on the parts.	**15 min.** A new set is ready the next morning.

The part didn't change its job. It changed where it comes from.

> *"We used to order a finger and wait 5 weeks for it. Now I print one on Tuesday and it's on the line Thursday."*

Marcus Delgado, Plant Engineer, Bellweather Packaging (SAMPLE)

Illustrative sample: the company, the people and the figures are representative.

04 · THE NUMBERS

What changed, in five figures.

BELLWEATHER PACKAGING
GREENVILLE, SC SAMPLE

5 weeks → 2 days

LEAD TIME

Lead time for a new gripper finger.

45 min → 15 min

CHANGEOVERS

Line changeover, with a new set ready the next morning.

WEIGHT

60%

lighter per finger

Printed nylon against machined aluminum.

VOLUME

~1,400

fingers / year

Printed in-house, as the line needs them.

MATERIAL

A tough nylon

Built for a part that grips, wears and gets replaced.



Changeover at Bellweather: 15 minutes, down from 45.



A new set is ready the next morning.

01 · THE PART

The piece that touches the product.

A gripper finger is the small part at the end of a robot arm that closes on the package. On Bellweather Packaging's line in Greenville, South Carolina, the fingers hold each carton as the line moves it.

02 · THE OLD WAY

Cut from a block. Then wait.

Every finger began as a block of aluminum. The plant sent a drawing to a machine shop, the shop cut the part and shipped it back: 5 weeks from order to part in hand.

05 · THE LINE NOW

Ready by morning.

The printer runs while the plant sleeps. When a changeover is on tomorrow's schedule, the new set is printed tonight and sitting at the line the next morning.

"A changeover used to be 45 minutes. It's 15 now, because the new set printed overnight and it's already on my bench."

Marcus Delgado, Plant Engineer, Bellweather Packaging (SAMPLE)

"We go through about 1,400 fingers a year, all in a tough nylon. When one wears out, I don't send a purchase order. I print the next one."

Marcus Delgado, Plant Engineer, Bellweather Packaging (SAMPLE)

06 · YOUR LINE

Every machined part has a wait hiding in it.

Bellweather found theirs in a gripper finger. Bring us the part on your line that you wait longest for, and we'll show you what it looks like printed.

Start a part review →

A SHORT FORM AT AXIM

Illustrative sample: the company, the people and the figures are representative.