Engineering comparison of external fins

fin-tube

Type	Thermal contact	Base-tube protection	Service range	Cleaning
Extruded	Highly stable	Broad coverage	Depends on alloy and design	Moderate
G	Good mechanical contact	Limited	Moderate temperature	Moderate
L	Depends on contact pressure	Limited	Lower temperature	Relatively easy
LL	Similar to L with better coverage	Better than L	Low to moderate	Moderate
KL	Better than basic L	Limited	Moderate	Moderate
HF welded	Metallurgical bond	Base tube remains exposed	More suitable for high temperature	Depends on fin spacing
Serrated welded	Metallurgical bond	Base tube remains exposed	Subject to design	Harder in heavy fouling

Page note / source: An integral fin is formed from the tube material by cold working, so there is no separate fin-to-tube interface. Low Fin tubing typically has short, closely spaced fins and is used in shell-and-tube exchangers, condensers and evaporators.