

VARØ INDUSTRIES

LASER-CUT WOOD & ACRYLIC

# SWITCH PLATE GUIDE

Wood species, acrylic colors, device types, sizing, screws, ordering, and every question buyers ask — in one place.

SWITCHPLATES.INFO · UPDATED NOVEMBER 2026

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PRODUCTS

# WHAT WE MAKE

Every plate is cut to order on our laser. Most orders ship within 5 business days. Custom configurations just need a message.

## WOOD SWITCH & OUTLET PLATES

Laser-cut from real wood veneer over a flat, stable MDF core — walnut, cherry, maple, oak, and more. Fits standard US electrical boxes. Replaces your existing plastic plate — take the old one off and screw this one on.

SHOP ON ETSY →

## ACRYLIC ALTERNATIVES

Not a wood person? We also cut plates from clear, frosted, or colored acrylic. Great for modern interiors or anywhere you want a translucent look. Same sizes, same cut quality.

SHOP ON ETSY →

## BACKING PLATES

Need to cover where the outlet box sits proud of the wall? Our backing plates are cut to bridge the gap cleanly. Available in standard sizes or custom dimensions. Made of 1/8" material that sticks right onto your VARO Industries plates.

SHOP ON ETSY →

## DECORATIVE SCREWS

The finishing touch. Brass-slot or antique-style decorative screws that complement the wood grain instead of fighting it. Sold in sets of 8, or also included with your switch plate order.

SHOP ON ETSY →

## SWITCH GUARDS & LOCKS

Stop a switch from getting flipped by accident. Our laser-cut toggle switch guards mount under your existing plate screw to lock a switch on or off — ideal for freezers, garbage disposals, aquariums, sump pumps, and holiday lights, plus childproofing and "do not turn off" switches. Three designs — Pivot Guard, Lockout Bar, and Slide Guard — in real wood or any of our acrylic colors.

SHOP ON ETSY →

READ THE GUIDE

MATERIALS

# WOOD SPECIES

Every plate is real wood veneer — no printed faux-grain — on both faces of a flat, stable MDF core. Each species behaves differently on the laser, so cut quality and edge color vary slightly by species.



## BIRCH

**PALE CREAM / OFF-WHITE**

One of the lightest North American hardwoods. Nearly white to pale cream with a fine, subtle grain. Exceptionally clean look — great for Scandinavian or minimalist interiors.



## BASSWOOD

**PALE BLONDE, NEARLY GRAINLESS**

Creamy white to pale straw with almost no visible figure. The softest wood we cut, so it engraves deep and dark with excellent contrast — the pick when the design matters more than the grain.



## MAPLE

**LIGHT CREAMY BLONDE**

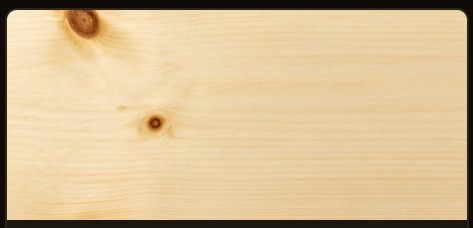
Clean, light tone with subtle grain. Works well in bright spaces or modern interiors. Takes engraving crisply for high-contrast designs.



## HICKORY

**LIGHT CREAM WITH COLOR VARIATION**

One of the hardest domestic species. Dramatic color variation within a single board — pale sapwood to warm tan heartwood. Bold, rustic character that stands on its own.



## KNOTTY PINE

**LIGHT, RUSTIC, KNOTTED**

Light blonde tone with prominent knots and swirling grain. Distinctive rustic character — right at home in cabins, farmhouses, or any space that leans country.



## BAMBOO

**LIGHT, FINE-GRAINED**

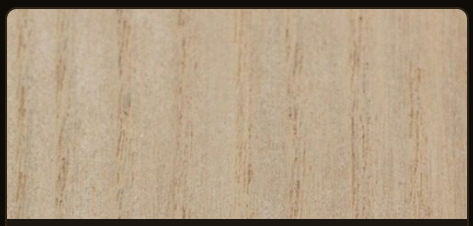
Technically a grass, but cuts like a hardwood. Light, consistent grain, eco-friendly sourcing. Good pick for natural or biophilic design schemes.



## CLEAR ALDER

**WARM AMBER TAN**

"Clear" means knot-free. Light amber to soft reddish-tan with an even, fine grain. Often compared to cherry but lighter in tone — a great mid-range wood that stains beautifully.



## SASSAFRAS

**LIGHT TAN, OPEN GRAIN · LIMITED**

A North American hardwood with a coarse, open grain that looks a lot like ash. Light tan, and the color tends to deepen with age. Limited stock: once it's gone, it won't be restocked.



## WHITE OAK

**COOLER, GRAYISH-BROWN**

Similar grain pattern to red oak but with a cooler, taupe-gray cast. Trending in contemporary interiors. Pairs well with matte black hardware.



## RED OAK

**MEDIUM, PROMINENT GRAIN**

Classic hardwood with bold, open grain. Warm amber tone. A great match if your existing trim or floors are oak — blends right in.



## RUSTIC OAK

**WARM TAN, KNOTS & CHARACTER**

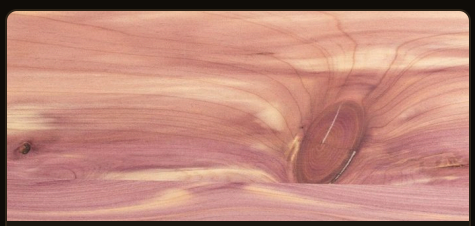
Oak with the knots, grain swirls and color shifts left in. Every plate is a little different. Great for farmhouse, cabin and rustic rooms where a clear, uniform grain would feel too polished.



## AROMATIC CEDAR

**WARM REDDISH-BROWN, KNOTTY**

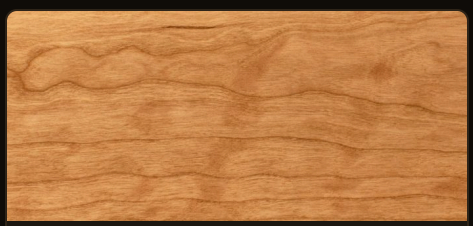
Eastern red cedar with its signature scent and striking contrast between reddish-brown heartwood and creamy white sapwood. Naturally rot-resistant. Every piece is uniquely patterned.



## UNFINISHED AROMATIC CEDAR

**PINKISH-RED & CREAM, NO FINISH · LIMITED**

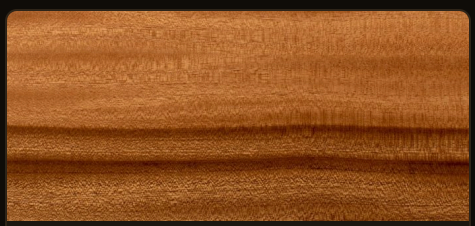
The same aromatic cedar, left bare with no finish applied. Leave it raw or finish it yourself. Limited stock: once it's gone, it won't be restocked.



## CHERRY

**WARM AMBER-BROWN**

Elegant warm tone that deepens and reddens with age. Fine grain, smooth surface. Pairs well with traditional and transitional interiors.



## SAPELE

**RIBBON-STRIPED REDDISH**

African hardwood with a striking interlocked grain that produces a ribbon-stripe figure. Similar tones to mahogany with more visual complexity.



## MAHOGANY

**DEEP REDDISH-BROWN**

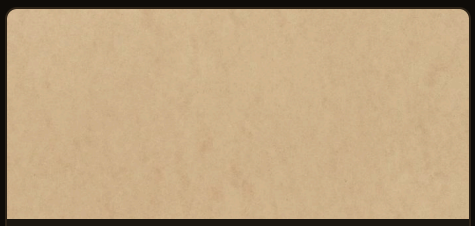
Classic cabinetry wood with a straight, fine grain. Deep red-brown tones and a naturally smooth surface. Rich and formal without being heavy.



## WALNUT

**RICH WARM BROWN**

Rich, deep grain with natural variation — tone runs from warm mid-brown to near chocolate depending on the board. The premium choice — looks great in modern, mid-century, and rustic spaces alike.



## MDF / PAINTABLE

**NEUTRAL, SMOOTH SURFACE**

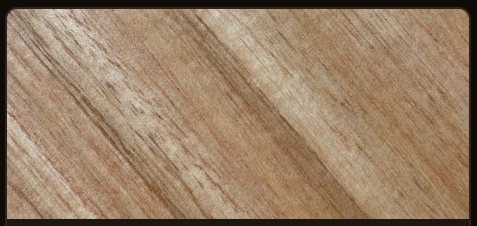
No wood grain — perfect if you want to paint to match your wall color exactly. Smooth, consistent surface holds paint well.

SPECIALTY ORDERS

# EXOTIC & SPECIALTY SPECIES

These woods are available by request — they're not always in stock but we can source them. If you see something you like, send us a message and we'll let you know lead time and pricing.

## PLYWOOD — REAL WOOD VENEER, SINGLE-SIDED



### GRAY ELM

**GRAYISH WHITE, SUBTLE GRAIN**

Light-toned with a distinctive grayish-white hue and interlocked grain. Quieter than red elm — works well in modern or Scandinavian-influenced spaces where you want wood texture without a strong color statement.



### ASH (QUARTERED)

**LIGHT BROWN, TIGHT STRAIGHT GRAIN**

Quartersawn ash reveals a particularly clean, straight grain pattern. Light to medium brown with a consistent, fine texture. Strong contrast between light and dark growth rings — bold without being flashy.



### LACEWOOD (QUARTERED)

**REDDISH-BROWN WITH SILVER FLECK**

One of the most visually striking woods available. Quartersawing exposes the large medullary rays as silvery, lace-like flecks against a reddish-brown background. No two pieces look the same.



### BIRDSEYE MAPLE

**CREAMY WHITE WITH EYE FIGURING**

A rare figure in hard maple — tiny, swirling "eyes" scattered through a pale creamy grain. Highly sought after for its unusual texture. Light and elegant, with a lot going on up close.



### BLACK LIMBA

**GOLDEN BROWN WITH DARK STREAKS**

Light golden to tan base with dramatic gray-to-black streaks and veins running through the grain. The dark figuring is unpredictable — each piece has a completely different character. A showstopper in the right space.



### JATOBA

**DEEP REDDISH-ORANGE BROWN**

Also called Brazilian Cherry. Dense, hard, and rich — a warm reddish-orange that deepens significantly with age and light exposure. Extremely durable. Strong visual presence that commands attention.



## ROSEWOOD

**MEDIUM BROWN, DARK STREAKED**

Santos Rosewood — a sustainably sourced alternative to endangered true rosewoods. Medium to dark brown with irregular darker streaking and a naturally oily feel. Dense, fine-grained, and rich in character.



## TEAK

**GOLDEN BROWN, OILY SURFACE**

The classic premium hardwood — golden to medium brown with a slightly oily feel and coarse, straight grain. Naturally weather-resistant and dimensionally stable. A familiar, prestigious material that reads as quality immediately.



## ANIGRE (QUARTERED)

**LIGHT YELLOWISH-BROWN, PINKISH HUE**

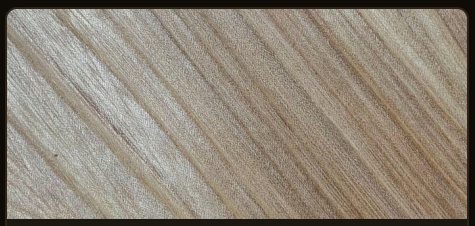
Pale yellowish-brown heartwood, sometimes carrying a soft pinkish tint that darkens gently with age. Quartersawing brings out a clean, straight grain with the occasional mottled figure. Light and understated — a calm choice for bright, modern rooms.



## CYPRESS

**PALE YELLOWISH-BROWN, STRAIGHT GRAIN**

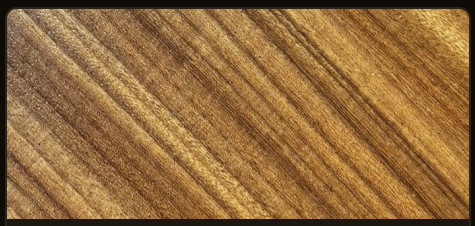
Light yellowish-brown with nearly white sapwood and a straight, medium-to-coarse grain. Some sheets show scattered dark "pecky" pockets from natural figure — a prized, rustic character. Warm and casual, with an easygoing coastal feel.



## EUCALYPTUS (QUARTERED)

**SALMON PINK TO REDDISH BROWN**

Ranges from a lighter salmon pink to a deeper brownish red, often likened to Black Cherry or Honduran Mahogany. Straight, even grain with a medium texture. The color deepens beautifully with age — rich and warm without reading as heavy.



## AFROMOSIA

**GOLDEN BROWN, FINE EVEN GRAIN**

Also known as African Teak. Yellowish to golden brown heartwood, occasionally with a reddish or olive cast. Fine, even texture with an interlocked grain that gives a subtle ribbon figure. A durable, refined alternative to true teak.

## SOLID WOOD — FINISHED ON BOTH SIDES



### BASSWOOD

**PALE BLONDE, NEARLY GRAINLESS**

Creamy white to pale straw with almost no visible figure. Soft enough to engrave deep and dark — the pick when the design should carry the plate, not the grain.



### SPRUCE

**PALE STRAW, TIGHT STRAIGHT GRAIN**

Very light, with the fine parallel lines luthiers build guitar tops from. Quiet and orderly — a cleaner alternative to knotty pine when you want light wood without the rustic read.



### POPLAR

**PALE TAN, GREEN CAST**

Light cream to tan, often with an olive-green streak through the heartwood. Genuinely unusual coloring, and it takes paint or stain as readily as it wears bare.



### MAPLE

**LIGHT CREAMY BLONDE**

Clean, light tone with subtle grain. Works well in bright spaces or modern interiors, and takes engraving crisply for high-contrast designs.



### CLEAR ALDER

**WARM AMBER TAN**

Knot-free with an even, fine grain and a warm honey-tan cast. Lighter than cherry but with the same soft, friendly warmth.



### WHITE OAK

**COOLER GRAYISH-BROWN**

A taupe-gray cast rather than oak's usual orange, with tighter grain than red oak. The current favorite in contemporary interiors, and a natural match for matte black hardware.



## RED OAK

**WARM AMBER, OPEN GRAIN**

Bold, open grain with a warm amber tone — the classic American oak look. The easiest species to match against existing oak trim and floors.



## CHERRY

**WARM AMBER-BROWN**

Fine, smooth grain in a warm reddish-amber that darkens and deepens with age. A plate cut today will not look quite the same in five years — in a good way.



## MAHOGANY

**GOLDEN REDDISH-BROWN**

Straight, fine, remarkably even grain in a warm golden-red brown. Rich and formal without reading heavy or dated.



## SAPELE

**RIBBON-STRIPED REDDISH BROWN**

African hardwood with a ribbon-stripe figure that shifts light and dark as you move past it. More visual complexity than mahogany at a similar tone.



## LACEWOOD

**COPPERY WITH SILVER FLECK**

Warm copper-brown covered in a dense lattice of pale medullary flecks — the closest thing to a printed pattern that grows on a tree. Nothing else on this page looks like it.



## BUBINGA

**DEEP ROSE-RED, DARK STREAKS**

Dense African hardwood in a deep rose-red shot through with darker purple-brown streaking. Heavy, hard, and considerably more dramatic than cherry.



## PADAUK

**VIVID ORANGE-RED**

The brightest wood we stock — a genuine fire-engine orange-red straight off the saw. It mellows toward a deep reddish-brown over a year or two; keep it out of direct sun to slow that down.



## WALNUT

**RICH WARM BROWN**

Rich, dark grain with natural variation from board to board. The premium default — it suits almost any room and never looks like it is trying.

MATERIALS

# ACRYLIC COLORS & FINISHES

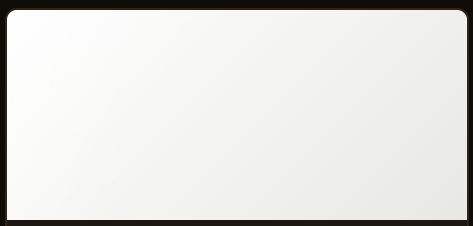
Prefer a modern, high-gloss look? We also cut plates from cast acrylic in a wide range of colors and finishes. Each color is offered in one or more finishes — [M] Matte, [G] Gloss, and [T] Transparent (see-through). Don't see a shade you want? Our suppliers carry hundreds — just ask.



## CLEAR

**TRANSPARENT [T]**

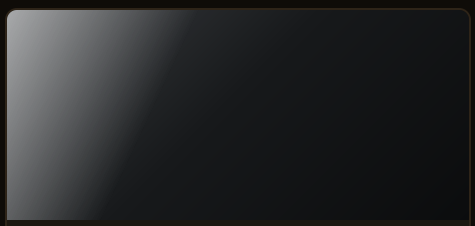
Crystal-clear, glass-like transparency with a high-gloss surface. Blends into any wall or lets your paint color show straight through.



## WHITE

**MATTE, GLOSS & TRANSPARENT [M/G/T]**

A clean, neutral white in three finishes — soft matte, bright gloss, or translucent. The easy default for any room.



## BLACK

**MATTE, GLOSS & TRANSPARENT [M/G/T]**

Deep, rich black in matte, gloss, or smoked transparent. Matte reads sleek and modern; gloss adds a mirror-like shine.



## GREY

**SMOKE GREY, TRANSPARENT [T]**

A tinted smoke-grey with see-through depth. Understated and contemporary — pairs well with stainless and matte-black fixtures.



## GREEN GLASS

**TRANSLUCENT GREEN, TRANSPARENT [T]**

A soft seafoam-green translucency reminiscent of vintage glass. Adds a subtle pop of color while still letting light through.



## YELLOW

**OPAQUE LEMON, GLOSS [G]**

Bright, cheerful opaque yellow with a glossy face. A bold accent for playrooms, studios, and creative spaces.

## CLEMENTINE

**WARM ORANGE, MATTE [M]**

A warm, saturated orange with a smooth matte finish that hides fingerprints. Vibrant without being glossy.

## CHERRY

**CHERRY RED, MATTE [M]**

A rich cherry red in a soft matte finish. Classic and bold — a statement plate for kitchens and accent walls.

## SHAMROCK

**EMERALD GREEN, MATTE [M]**

A deep emerald green with a velvety matte surface. Jewel-toned and grounded — great with wood or brass accents.

## TEAL

**TEAL, GLOSS [G]**

A vivid blue-green with a glossy shine. Coastal and fresh — a favorite for bathrooms and beachy interiors.

## LAPIS

**DEEP BLUE, MATTE [M]**

A deep lapis blue with a matte finish. Bold and moody — pairs beautifully with warm metals and dark walls.

## BABY BLUE

**SOFT LIGHT BLUE, GLOSS [G]**

A gentle sky-blue with a glossy face. Calm and airy — a natural fit for nurseries and bedrooms.

## BLUE NEON

**FLUORESCENT BLUE, TRANSPARENT [T]**

An electric, blacklight-reactive blue that glows at the edges. High-energy and eye-catching for game rooms and studios.

## FLUORESCENT GREEN

**NEON GREEN, GLOSS / TRANSPARENT [G/T]**

A punchy neon green with a glowing, blacklight-reactive edge. The loudest color we carry — pure fun.

## BLUSH PINK

**PASTEL PINK, GLOSS OR MATTE [G/M]**

A soft pastel blush in gloss or matte. Delicate and modern — a subtle warm accent for bedrooms and vanities.



## GREEN GLOW-IN-THE-DARK

**CHARGES IN LIGHT, TRANSPARENT [T]**

Looks like a pale green by day, then glows after the lights go out. Perfect for kids' rooms, hallways, and finding the switch at night.

SPECIALTY ORDERS

# SPECIALTY, MIRROR & PATTERNED ACRYLIC

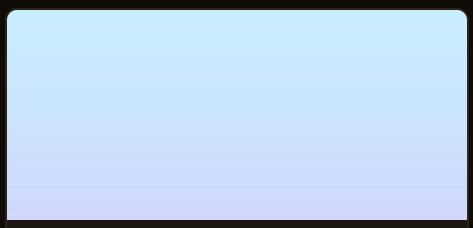
Mirrored, iridescent, and printed-pattern acrylics for when you want the switch plate to be the statement. These come and go with our suppliers' stock — if you see one you love, send us a message and we'll confirm availability.



## ROSE GOLD MIRROR

**REFLECTIVE MIRROR, GLOSS [G]**

A true reflective mirror finish in warm rose gold. Glamorous and bright — bounces light around a room like a small accent mirror.



## RAINBOW IRIDESCENT

**COLOR-SHIFTING HOLOGRAPHIC, GLOSS [G]**

Shifts through the rainbow as you move past it. A holographic, color-changing surface that never looks the same twice.



## COASTAL DRIZZLE

**GREY & TEAL DRIZZLE, GLOSS [G]**

A drizzled grey-and-teal pattern over frosted white, like sea spray on glass. Organic — no two sheets alike.



## ELECTRIC DRIZZLE

**BLUE & YELLOW ON BLACK, GLOSS [G]**

Bright blue and yellow drizzle splashed across a glossy black base. Bold, energetic, and totally unique per sheet.



## BUFFALO PLAID

**BLACK & RED CHECK, GLOSS [G]**

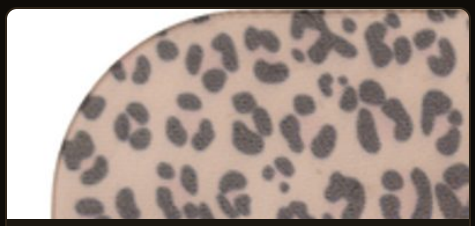
Classic black-and-red buffalo check. Cozy and rustic — a favorite for cabins, holidays, and farmhouse interiors.



## GREEN CAMO

**GREEN CAMOUFLAGE, GLOSS [G]**

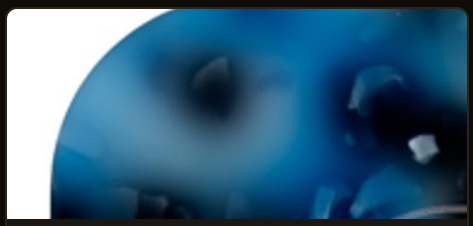
A printed green camouflage pattern. Rugged and playful — great for dens, garages, and kids' rooms.



## LEOPARD

**LEOPARD PRINT, GLOSS [G]**

A bold leopard animal print with a glossy face. Fun and fashion-forward — an instant conversation piece.



## MIDNIGHT BLOSSOM

**DARK FLORAL, GLOSS [G]**

Delicate florals over a dark background. Elegant and moody — a soft, decorative touch for bedrooms and vanities.



## ROSE STARRY SKY

**ROSE STARFIELD, GLOSS [G]**

A dreamy rose-toned night sky scattered with stars. Whimsical and calming — lovely in nurseries and reading nooks.



## RAINBOW STRIPES

**RAINBOW STRIPES, GLOSS [G]**

Bright rainbow stripes across a glossy sheet. Cheerful and bold — a playroom and classroom favorite.



## MERMAID POLKA DOT

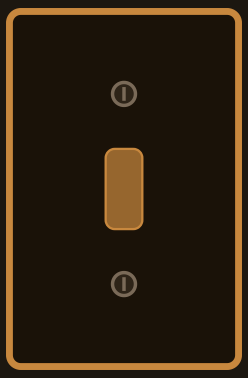
**IRIDESCENT CONFETTI, GLOSS [G]**

Iridescent confetti dots that shimmer and shift with the light. Magical and fun — made for mermaid-themed rooms.

COMPATIBILITY

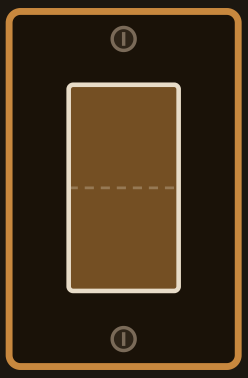
# DEVICE TYPES

We cut openings to fit all standard US device configurations. If you need something not listed, send a message — we can cut almost anything.



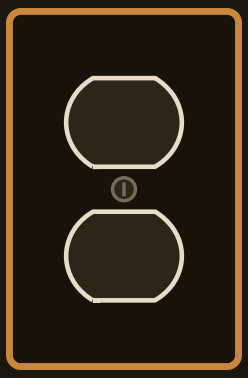
### TOGGLE SWITCH

Classic flip-style light switch. Single or multi-gang configurations available.



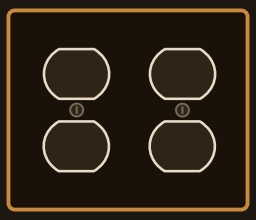
### DECORA / ROCKER

Large paddle-style switches. The most common modern switch type.



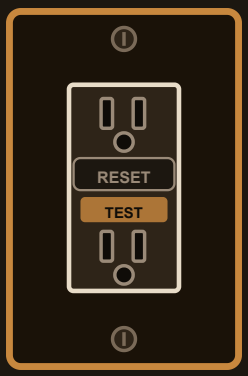
### DUPLEX OUTLET

Standard two-plug outlet. The most-ordered configuration by far.



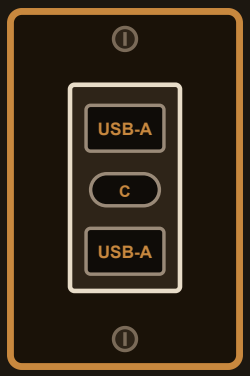
### QUAD OUTLET (2-GANG DUPLEX)

Two side-by-side duplex outlets — four receptacles total. Great for workbenches, entertainment centers, and kitchen counters.



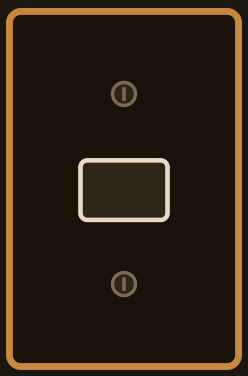

### GFCI OUTLET

Ground fault outlet with TEST/RESET buttons. Wider opening to clear the buttons.



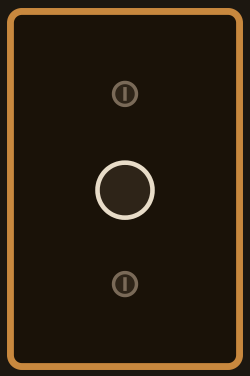

### USB OUTLET

Fit modern USB-A or USB-C charging outlets. Opening sized for the wider face plate.



### RJ-45 ETHERNET

Keystone or pass-through ethernet ports. Clean finish for home office or media room wiring.



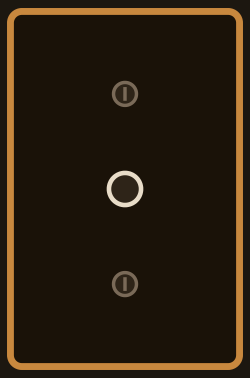
### COAXIAL

Cable TV / coax F-connector plates. Single or dual port openings.



### BLANK

No opening — covers unused boxes, junction boxes, or decommissioned outlets cleanly.



### ROTARY DIMMER

Small round hole for the knob shaft of a rotary dimmer. Pull the knob off, fit the plate, and push the knob back on. Uses standard toggle gang spacing.

REFERENCE

# STANDARD PLATE SIZES

All standard switch plates are **4-1/2" tall** (4.5" / 114.3 mm) and approximately **5/32" deep** (0.16" / 4.0 mm).
Heights are consistent across all gangs; width grows with each additional device position.

## Standard Plate Widths by Gang Count

| GANGS | INDUSTRY STANDARD WIDTH | VARO WIDTH | VARO WIDTH (MM) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1-gang** | 2-3/4" (2.75") | 2-3/4" (2.75") | 69.9 mm |
| **2-gang** | 4-9/16" (4.5625") | **≈4-5/8" (4.62")** | 117.3 mm |
| **3-gang** | 6-3/8" (6.375") | **≈6-15/32" (6.454")** | 163.9 mm |
| **4-gang** | 8-3/16" (8.1875") | **≈8-11/32" (8.338")** | 211.8 mm |
| **5-gang** | 10" (10.0") | **≈10-1/8" (10.124")** | 257.1 mm |
| **6-gang** | 11-13/16" (11.8125") | **≈12-3/32" (12.109")** | 307.6 mm |

**Note:** Our multi-gang plates run slightly wider than the common industry standard — from about 1/16" wider on a 2-gang to about 5/16" on a 6-gang. Each still covers a standard electrical box of the same gang count. If you are replacing an existing plate and the fit is critical, measure your current plate before ordering.

## Device Opening Sizes

| DEVICE TYPE | OPENING WIDTH | OPENING HEIGHT | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Toggle switch | 13/32" (0.406") | 15/16" (0.937") | Classic flip-style switch |
| Decora / Rocker / GFCI / Rectangular outlet | 1-5/16" (1.312") | 2-5/8" (2.625") | All “wide” modern devices use this cutout |
| Duplex outlet (each slot) | 1-11/32" (1.343") widest | 1-1/8" (1.125") | Two per gang; slots spaced 1-17/32" center-to-center |

| DEVICE TYPE | OPENING WIDTH | OPENING HEIGHT | NOTES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Despard | 29/32" (0.906") widest | 11/16" (0.687") | Stacked tandem/interchangeable devices |
| Push button (pair) | 9/16" each | — | Spaced 15/16" center-to-center |
| RJ-45 / Ethernet keystone | 15 mm (0.591") | 21 mm (0.827") | Accepts standard keystone snap-in insert |
| Coaxial cable (F-type) | 5/8" diameter round (0.625") | — | Round hole; F-connector passes through |
| Rotary dimmer | Small round hole | — | Shaft passes through; knob pushes on over the plate; toggle gang spacing |

## Gang-to-Gang Spacing

Device openings are spaced **1-13/16" apart, center to center**, from one gang to the next — this is standard across all manufacturers.

# SCREWS & HARDWARE

All North American switch plates mount using **6-32 machine screws** (thread size #6, 32 threads per inch).
Screw length and hole spacing vary by device type:

| DEVICE TYPE | SCREW HOLE SPACING (CENTER-TO-CENTER) | STANDARD SCREW LENGTH |
|---|---|---|
| Toggle, single round outlet, push button | 2-3/8" | 1/2" |
| Decora / Rocker, GFI/GFCI, Despard | 3-13/16" | 5/16" |
| Blank, cable/phone/low-voltage (new style) | 3-9/32" | 1/2" |
| Duplex outlet | Center-mounted (single hole) | 1/2" |

Screw holes are **5/16" across at the top, tapering to 3/16" at the bottom** — this keyhole shape allows plates to hang on the screw before tightening.

Our decorative outlet screws use the same 6-32 thread and are designed to be a drop-in replacement for the standard slotted screws that come with your devices. They add a finished, cohesive look that inexpensive screws can't provide.

## SCREW FINISHES

Ten finishes, included free with every plate. Antique brass is the default and also comes in 1"; antique copper and antique silver are 3/4" long, the rest are 1/2".

https://varo.industries

# SCREW FINISH GUIDE

TEN FINISHES · 6-32 THREAD · STANDARD WALL PLATE SIZING



### BLACK

Bold matte-black finish. Sharp contrast for modern, industrial, and minimalist spaces.



### IVORY

Warm cream finish. Blends naturally with ivory, almond, or light wood switch plate covers.



### STAINLESS STEEL

Brushed silver finish. Contemporary and clean — pairs with nickel, chrome, or stainless fixtures.



### WHITE

Crisp clean finish. Disappears seamlessly against white walls and standard white switch plates.



### ANTIQUE BRASS

½ & 1 INCH

Warm golden-brown with aged character. Our default finish — pairs beautifully with wood plates and vintage-style décor.



### ANTIQUE BRONZE

Deep oil-rubbed bronze with dark aged tones. The classic match for bronze fixtures and traditional hardware.



### BRASS

Classic bright gold finish. Elegant and timeless — ideal for traditional and transitional décor.



### ANTIQUE COPPER

½ INCH

Rich weathered copper with reddish-brown patina. Warm and rustic against darker wood grain.



### BROWN

Rich espresso-brown finish. Perfect match for dark wood plates and rustic earthy styles.



### ANTIQUE SILVER

½ INCH

Darkened pewter-grey with an aged satin surface. Softer than stainless — a quiet match for weathered and farmhouse finishes.

½ INCH · 6-32 THREAD · ANTIQUE COPPER & ANTIQUE SILVER ARE ½ INCH · ANTIQUE BRASS ALSO IN 1 INCH

ORDERING

# HOW TO ORDER

Each plate is made to order. Here's how to get exactly what you need.

1. **Choose your configuration** — Select the listing that matches your gang count (1-gang, 2-gang, etc.) and device type (toggle, Decora/rocker, duplex outlet, GFCI, RJ-45, coaxial, etc.).

2. **Select your wood species** — Choose from birch, maple, hickory, knotty pine, bamboo, clear alder, white oak, red oak, aromatic cedar, cherry, sapele, mahogany, walnut, or plain MDF. Each species has a unique grain and character — see the wood species section for details.

3. **Choose your screw finish** — Decorative screws are included with every order. Pick your finish from the screw color dropdown in the listing's personalization options: antique brass (default), antique bronze, antique copper, antique silver, brass, black, brown, stainless steel, ivory, or white — see the screw finish guide for all ten. The same options let you choose grain direction (vertical by default) and corner style (rounded by default).

4. **Add any special notes** — Need a specific quantity, a mix of configurations, or custom engraving? Message us before or after ordering and we'll work it out.

Questions before you buy? Send us a message — we're happy to help you find the right combination for your space.

# INSTALLATION & CARE

## Installation

**Turn off power at the breaker** before removing your existing plate and installing the new one. VARO plates install just like any standard switch or outlet cover — no special tools or wiring required. Use your existing screws, or use the decorative screws included with your order.

## Care

Once installed, **dust or wipe gently with a soft, dry cloth**. Avoid harsh chemical cleaners or soaking the wood — moisture is the main enemy of any wood finish. The pre-finished surface holds up well to normal use; if the finish becomes dull over time, a light coat of furniture wax can restore the look.

FAQ

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Real questions from real buyers, answered.

## THE BASICS

**What does "gang" mean?**

A **gang** is just the number of device openings side by side on a single plate. A **1-gang** plate covers one switch or outlet, a **2-gang** covers two side by side, and so on. When you order, count the switches or outlets your plate needs to cover: that's your gang count.

**How do I know which type of cover I need?**

Look at your existing switch or outlet. A small flip lever is a **toggle**. A wide, flat paddle is a **Decora/rocker**. TEST/RESET buttons mean a **GFCI**. Two sets of plug slots is a **duplex outlet**. Match the cover opening to the device, not to the box or the old plate.

**Will these fit my existing electrical box?**

Yes. My plates are sized to standard single-gang and multi-gang US electrical boxes. Screw hole spacing follows the NEMA standards used by all major device manufacturers (Leviton, Lutron, Eaton, Pass & Seymour, etc.).

**Are these safe to use? Are they rated for electrical use?**

Yes. Wood switch plates are decorative covers, not electrical components. They do the same job as a plastic or metal plate, covering the box opening, and attach with the same screws. They carry no electrical load and don't touch live wiring when installed correctly. As with any wall plate, install them with the circuit breaker off.

**Can I use these in kitchens or bathrooms?**

With caveats. Wood and sustained moisture don't mix well, so I don't recommend wood plates directly above a sink or in a shower surround. Most kitchen and bathroom outlet locations are fine. If you're concerned, acrylic is the better choice for high-humidity spots.

**Do you do custom engraving?**

Yes. Engraving is a natural add-on with a laser in the shop: room labels, house numbers, logos, decorative patterns. Send me what you'd like engraved and I'll fit it into the design. Engraving is typically a small upcharge depending on complexity.

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLATE

**Not sure which plate you need?**

My wall plate buying guide walks through it step by step: identify the device, count the gangs, read combinations left to right, pick a size, and avoid the common mix-ups (like a GFCI needing a Decora plate, not a duplex). Read it here: https://varo.industries/blog/posts/wall-plate-buying-guide

**Which option do I pick for my GFCI / USB outlet / smart switch / dimmer?**

If the device has a **rectangular face**, choose **Rocker/Decora**. "Decorator-style" is the industry-standard opening shared by GFCI and AFCI outlets, USB-A/USB-C charger outlets, smart switches (Leviton, Lutron Caseta, Kasa, etc.), rocker switches, and most dimmers. The opening is 1-5/16" wide x 2-5/8" tall, if you want to measure yours to be sure.

**What's a "duplex" outlet?**

That's the standard household outlet with two oval/round plug faces. If yours is a rectangle (like a GFCI), see the question above.

**Not sure what you have?**

Send me a photo of your current plate and I'll tell you exactly which option to select. I'd much rather answer a question than have you order the wrong thing.

**I don't see my configuration (e.g., 3 rockers + 1 toggle, a switch next to an outlet, a 5-gang).**

I can make pretty much any combination. Many common combos (switch + outlet, 5- and 6-gang, blanks) are already in the listings. For anything else, message me on Etsy or through the contact form at varo.industries/contact. Tell me the gang count and which openings you need (toggle, Decora, duplex outlet, etc.), and include a photo or sketch if you have one. I'll confirm the layout and quote a price before cutting anything.

**Do you make blank plates?**

Yes, in 1-gang and 2-gang (and larger on request).

## WOOD, FINISH, AND COLOR

**What are the plates made of?**

Pre-finished **MDF core plywood** with a **real wood veneer on both sides**. The MDF core keeps the plates flat and stops them warping with the seasons, which solid boards can do. The edges look dark because the laser burns through the wood as it cuts.

**Why are the edges dark?**

That's from the laser. It cuts by burning a very fine line through the wood, which chars the cut edge dark brown to black. It's a natural part of laser cutting, not paint or stain, and it gives each plate a crisp, framed outline. If you'd prefer a lighter edge, a light sanding removes the charring (see "Can I sand or trim a plate myself?").

### What is MDF core plywood?

**MDF** stands for **medium-density fiberboard**. It's an engineered wood panel made by breaking wood down into fine fibers, mixing them with wax and resin binders, and pressing them into sheets under heat and pressure. The result is dense, perfectly flat, and uniform: no knots, no voids, and no grain to twist or warp. It's denser and stronger than particle board, more consistent than ordinary plywood, and expands and contracts less than solid wood as humidity changes.

**MDF core plywood** is a sheet of MDF with a thin layer of real wood (a veneer) bonded to each face. You get the look and feel of real cherry, walnut, oak, and so on, on a core that stays flat and cuts cleanly with crisp, sharp edges.

It's far from a shortcut material. MDF and MDF core panels are used throughout furniture, kitchen and bathroom cabinets, shelving, doors, and millwork. There's a good chance some of the cabinets or furniture in your home are built the same way.

### Which woods do you offer?

Birch, Maple, Hickory, Knotty Pine, Bamboo, Basswood, Clear Alder, White Oak, Red Oak, Rustic Oak, Aromatic Cedar, Cherry, Sapele, African Mahogany, Walnut, and Light MDF (paintable, no grain). Specialty and exotic veneers (Lacewood, Birdseye Maple, Teak, Padauk, Bubinga, and more) are available in a separate listing.

### Which is the lightest? The darkest?

Birch is the lightest, with basswood and maple close behind. All three are very pale. Walnut is the darkest of the standard woods.

### Will my plate look exactly like the photo?

Close, but every piece is unique. Wood is a natural material, so grain and color vary, even between two plates cut from the same sheet. Screens and lighting also shift color a lot in photos.

### Will my plates look like the sample I received?

Yes, in both color and sheen. Samples are cut from the same pre-finished stock as the plates. Because it's natural wood veneer, expect some color and grain variation, even between two plates. Plates are veneered on **both sides**, so you can pick whichever face you like better.

**What's the difference between the specialty wood plates and the regular ones?**

They're all laser cut. The regular listings use double-sided, real-wood-veneered MDF core plywood (see "What is MDF core plywood?" below). The specialty woods are either solid wood or **single-sided** veneered plywood (also on an MDF core). I rarely carry these, so depending on the species they may be in stock or a special order from my supplier.

**Can you match my cabinets / trim / floors?**

I can usually identify the wood **species** from a photo (red oak vs. white oak, for example), but I can't reliably match **color** from a photo, and I don't do stain matching. The best way to choose is my **sample set**: a ring of every wood species I offer, so you can hold them up against your space in person.

**Can I get them unfinished so I can stain or paint them myself?**

All of my standard stock comes pre-finished from my supplier, which is a huge time saver. Unfinished wood is a special order. I often have some species (white oak, red oak, maple, walnut) on hand from other projects, and others can be ordered in. Depending on the species, expect a small added cost and about a week of extra lead time. **If you just want to paint, choose Light MDF.** It takes paint nicely and needs no special order.

## SIZE AND FIT

**How thick are the plates?**

About **1/8"**, roughly the same as a standard plastic plate.

**Why does my plate sit flat (and maybe leave a gap at the wall)?**

These plates are **completely flat**. They are cut from flat sheet stock, so unlike plastic plates they have no rounded front edge and no recess on the back. If your switch or outlet sits out from the wall, the plate may sit slightly off the wall. Some folks like that look; for those who don't, there are **backing plates** (see below).

**What size are the plates?**

Standard US sizes. A single plate is about 4-1/2" tall. They are designed to fit standard US electrical boxes and hardware.

### Can you make a plate in a custom size?

Yes, and it's one of my most common requests. About half my orders are custom sizes. Examples: an oversized plate to hide old paint lines or patched drywall, a narrow plate next to a door frame, or a plate trimmed on one side.

- **Custom size, centered opening:** use the custom-size listing and enter your width and height in the personalization fields.
- **Off-center openings, odd spacing, unusual devices:** message me with photos and measurements. For tricky fits I can mail a **cardboard test template** first, so you can confirm the fit before I cut the final wood plate.

### Do you make plates for outside the US (UK, Australia, NZ, etc.)?

My designs are built for US boxes and devices. I can make plates for other standards if you can send me exact dimensions and photos. Be aware that international shipping from the US is expensive.

### I need something thicker than 1/8".

Backing plates are also 1/8" and can be stacked, and I can make a custom 1/4" backing on request.

## BACKING PLATES

### What are backing plates?

A backing plate is a second layer cut to the outline of your plate, made from MDF (the same core as the plates), with 3M adhesive on one side. It sticks to the back of the plate to add depth, which closes the gap when a switch or outlet sits proud of the wall. They come in **1/8"** (and 1/16" on request) and are sized by gang: 1 for a single, 2 for a double, and so on. A duplex outlet takes a single (1-gang) backing plate.

### Do I need backing plates?

It's entirely personal preference. Some folks like the plate floating slightly off the wall, some want it tight to the wall, and some don't need one at all because there's no gap. In my own house I only have a few, on the switches and outlets that stick out a little too far for my taste.

### Is there a way to tell for sure if I need backing plates?

The best way to know is to put a plate on and look. If you'd like to check before ordering, try a quick DIY test: cut a rectangle the size of your switch or outlet opening out of a piece of cardboard and slip it over the device. To make it easy, print my true-size cardboard test templates for a toggle, rocker/Decora, and duplex outlet: https://varo.industries/assets/switch-plate-templates.pdf (print at 100% / "Actual size"). If there's a gap at the wall you don't like, order some backing plates.

A hint from photos: if your outlet or switch sits **on top of the wall** instead of nestled into the electrical box, you'll likely want one.

### What are my options for ordering backing plates?

All backing plates attach the same way, with 3M adhesive transfer tape, so you have three options:

1. **Attached by me.** Order them with your covers and I'll attach them before shipping.
2. **Shipped loose.** Order them with your covers and attach them yourself as needed (see the video below).
3. **Skip them for now.** If you find you need them later, order them and attach them yourself.

### Why don't all covers come with backing plates?

They're relatively cheap, a couple of bucks, but making one actually uses a lot of material, and the adhesive itself is quite expensive. So they're entirely an add-on, and it's all up to personal preference: some folks like it with the gap, some without, and some just don't need one because there's no gap. I actually sold these plates for years without backing plates, or even offering them as an option, until a customer reached out, we workshopped it, and now it's a thing.

### What type of adhesive is used to attach the backing plates?

3M 468MP Adhesive Transfer Tape.

### How do I attach a backing plate myself?

Here's a quick video showing how: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/kdfZoSCGoHQ

### Can I remove a backing plate later?

Yes, if you decide you don't want it. Just note that the **backing plate** (not the cover) will probably break when you pull it off, because the 3M adhesive is tenacious! Once it's off, if there's any leftover adhesive residue, use isopropyl alcohol, denatured alcohol, or something like Goo Gone to remove it. Be careful not to soak the cover with whatever you use: apply it to a rag or paper towel and use that to wipe the residue away.

Here's a quick video showing how to work a backing plate off: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/bsIv_7mRn9U

## SCREWS AND HARDWARE

### Do screws come with my order?

Yes, matching screws are included, and I usually toss in an extra one or two. If you're anything like me, you'll lose at least one!

### What screw colors are available?

Antique Brass (default), Antique Copper, Antique Bronze, Antique Silver, Brass, Black, Brown, Stainless Steel, Ivory, White, and Gray. Choose yours in the personalization options when ordering.

### What length are the screws?

The screws that come with your plates are 1/2", except Antique Copper and Antique Silver, which are 3/4". If you need longer screws (common with backing plates or deep-set devices), message me after ordering. I have 1" antique brass screws and will note your order. You can also buy extra sets of 8 in 3/8", 1/2", 3/4" or 1" (lengths vary by finish) from my switch plate screws listing: https://www.etsy.com/listing/1847941173

### Is the screw length the whole screw, or just the threaded part?

Neither, exactly. The length is measured from the edge of the head, where it sits flush against the plate, to the tip. That includes the cone-shaped part under the head, but not the small rounded dome on top, which adds a little under 1/16". The screws are threaded all the way up to the head, so the threads run about 1/16" to 1/8" shorter than the listed length. For example, a 1/2" screw has roughly 3/8" to 7/16" of thread.

**Can I get two colors to decide later?**

Sure. Just ask and I'll include both.

## ORDERING OPTIONS

**What do grain direction and corner style mean?**

- **Grain direction:** vertical (default) or horizontal, i.e., which way the wood grain runs on the plate.
- **Corners:** rounded (default, a small 1/10" roundover) or square.

Both are chosen in the personalization section when ordering.

**How do I send you a photo?**

Etsy only lets you attach photos after I've replied to your first message. Send me a quick note, I'll reply, and then you can attach photos. Or email them to **g@varo.industries** (check your junk folder for my reply; the domain is a little unusual).

**I'm doing a whole house. Can we do one order?**

Absolutely. Send me a count of each type (e.g., "11 duplex outlets, 4 single toggles, 2 quad toggles") plus photos of any unusual ones, and I'll put together a single custom order.

**I placed two orders. Can you combine shipping?**

Yes. Etsy calculates shipping per order, so if you place more than one, I'll combine them into one shipment and refund the shipping difference.

**Is there a discount for coming back?**

Yes. Every packing slip has a coupon code for your next order.

## SHIPPING

**How fast do you ship?**

Most orders ship within **5 business days**, often sooner, and a bit longer if I'm working through a backlog or waiting on a particular wood from my supplier. If anything delays your order, I'll message you.

**Can I pick up locally?**

Sorry, I'm not able to offer local pickup. Everything ships, packed carefully so it arrives in good shape.

**Do you ship internationally?**

Yes. Priority international usually takes 6-10 business days; first-class international can take several weeks. Shipping outside the US is costly, often more than the plate itself.

**My package is lost or arrived damaged.**

Message me. I'll make you a new one and get it back in the mail. Please send a photo if it arrived broken. If the original turns up later, just let me know.

## RETURNS AND PROBLEMS

**What's your return policy?**

Returns and exchanges are accepted for 30 days from receipt on **non-custom** plates. The buyer pays return shipping, and I refund the purchase price minus the original shipping once the plate arrives back. Please message me first so I know it's coming, then ship it to:

**VARO Industries, 679 Washington St., Unit #8-118, South Attleboro, MA 02703**

Send me the tracking number if you can. It's a PO box, so it may be a few days after delivery before I can pick it up and issue the refund.

**I ordered the wrong thing (toggle instead of rocker, backing plate instead of a blank, etc.).**

It happens all the time. These listings have a lot of options! Message me and we'll sort it out. If I haven't shipped yet, I can cancel and refund so you can reorder the right item.

**Something's wrong with my plate (wrong grain direction, misaligned cutout, missing item).**

Message me with a photo and I'll make it right. Usually that means a fresh plate in the mail right away, and in most cases there's no need to send the original back.

## INSTALLATION AND CARE

**Which side is the back of the plate?**

Both faces are real wood veneer, so they can look a lot alike. Look for the **VARO logo mark**: that's the back, which faces the wall (and where a backing plate attaches). Here's a quick video showing both sides: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/KTkH9CSFTaI

**How do I install them?**

Just like any switch or outlet cover. **Turn off power at the breaker**, remove the old plate, and screw the new one on with the included screws. No special tools or wiring are needed.

**How do I clean them?**

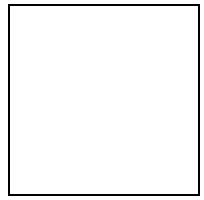
Dust or wipe gently with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid harsh cleaners or soaking the wood.

**Can I sand or trim a plate myself?**

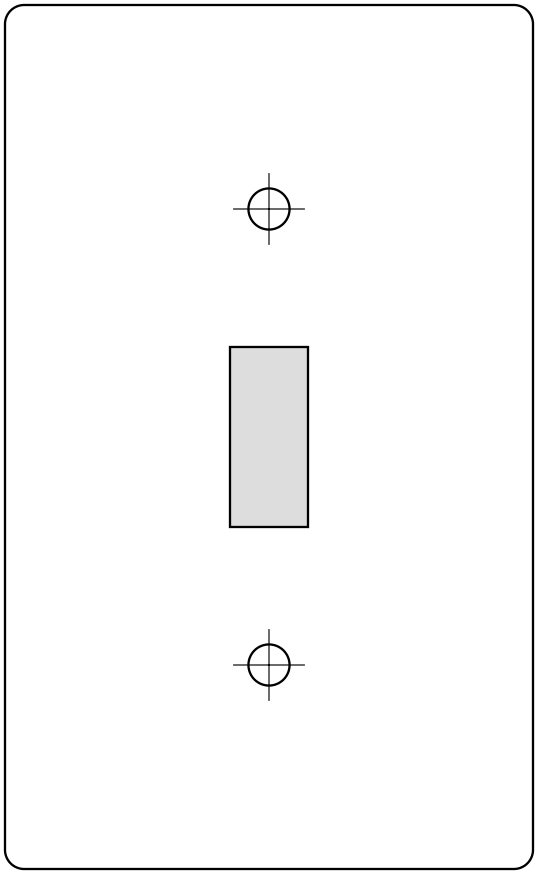
Yes. The plywood sands easily if you need to take a hair off an edge. Sanding an edge also removes the dark charring left by the laser. For anything more than a light touch-up, I'd rather make you a custom plate at the right size.

# CARDBOARD TEST TEMPLATES

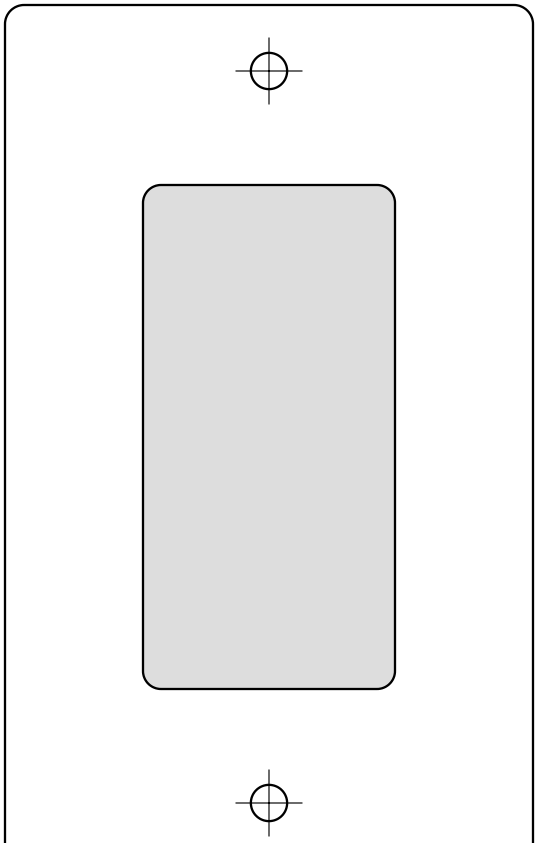
1. **Print at 100% / "Actual size"** (turn off "Fit to page"). Check that the square on the right measures exactly 1 inch.
2. Glue or tape the page to a piece of cardboard, then cut along the outer line and cut out the shaded opening.
3. With the power off and your old plate removed, slip the template over your switch or outlet.
4. If it sits flat against the wall, you don't need backing plates. If there's a gap you don't like, add backing plates to your order.



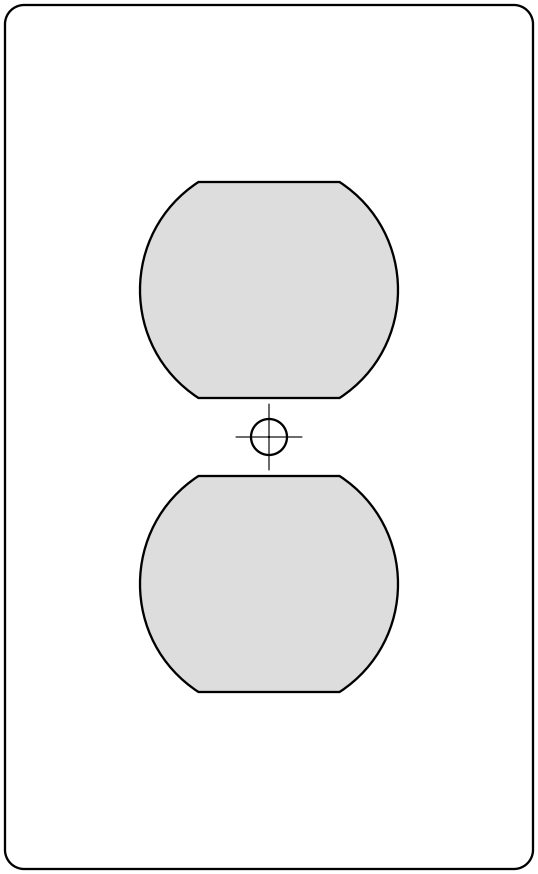
1 inch



**TOGGLE**
Standard flip switch



**ROCKER / DECORA**
Rocker, GFCI, USB, smart switch, dimmer



**DUPLEX OUTLET**
Standard two-plug outlet