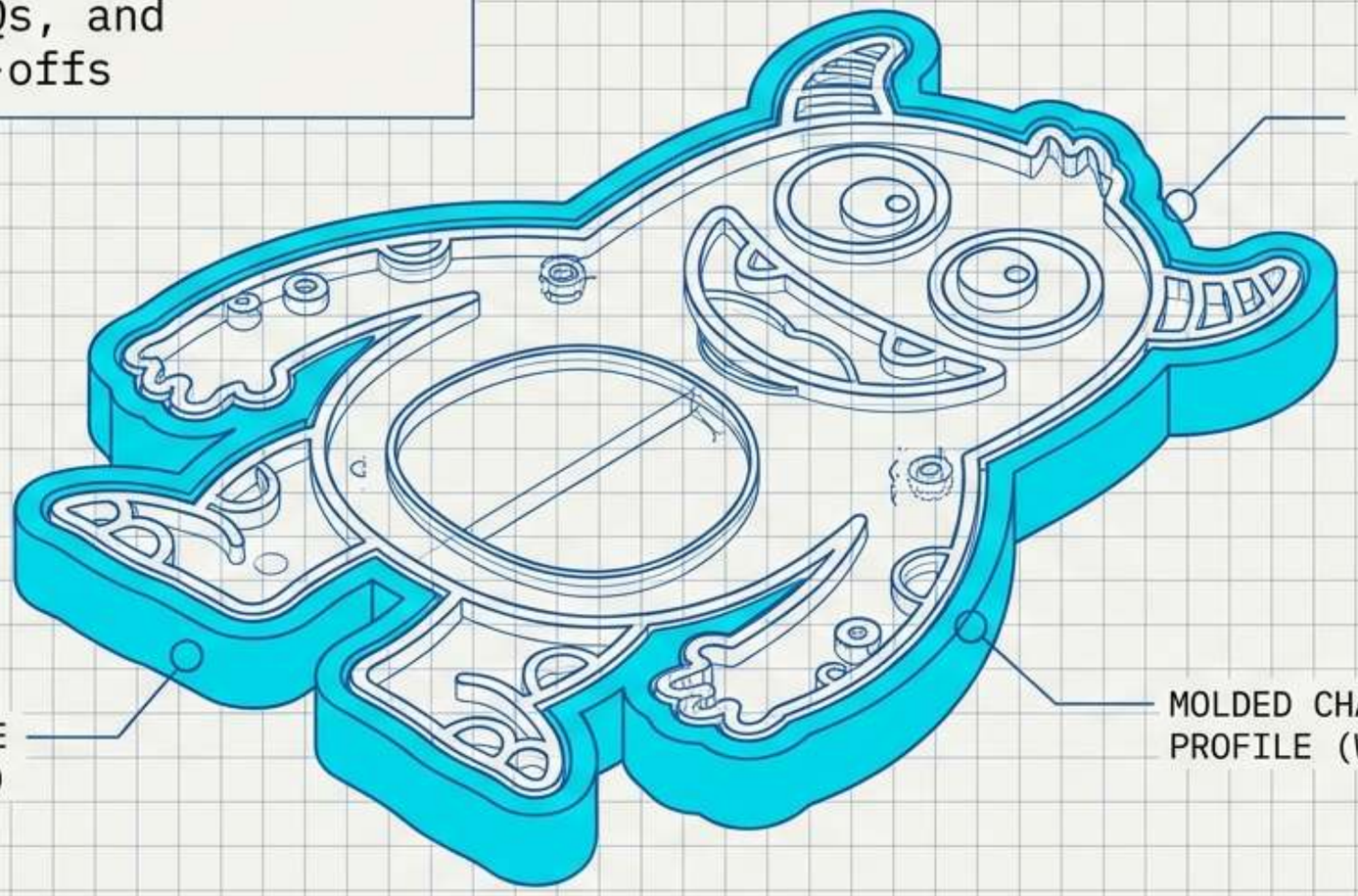
Sourcing Custom Rubber Fridge Magnets

A Technical Blueprint for Specifications, RFQs, and Manufacturing Hand-offs

Buyer Source Brief



ZIGPAC

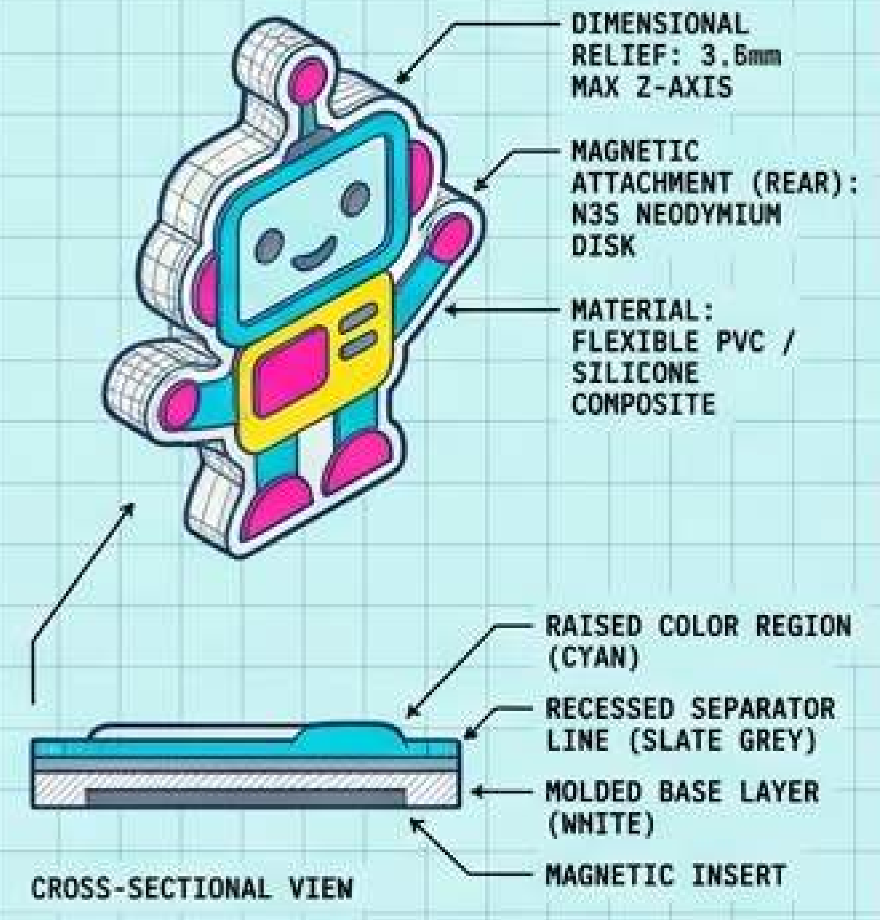
Defining the Custom Molded Category

Category Clarification Matrix

SPECIFICATION: CMYK SEPARATION / HIGH-RELIEF MOLDING

Custom Molded Flexible Material (Target)

Dimensional relief (raised/recessed), bold separated colors, magnetic back. Best for characters, brand icons, and souvenirs.



DIMENSIONAL RELIEF: 3.5mm MAX Z-AXIS
MAGNETIC ATTACHMENT (REAR): N35 NEODYMIUM DISK
MATERIAL: FLEXIBLE PVC / SILICONE COMPOSITE
RAISED COLOR REGION (CYAN)
RECESSED SEPARATOR LINE (SLATE GREY)
MOLDED BASE LAYER (WHITE)
MAGNETIC INSERT
CROSS-SECTIONAL VIEW

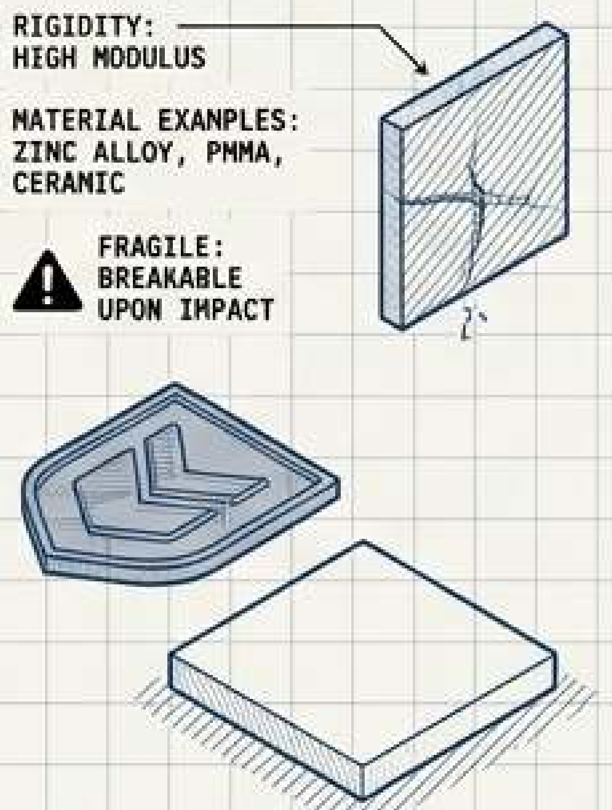
TARGET APPLICATION: PREMIUM SOUVENIRS & BRANDING

Flat Printed Flexible

Lacks substantial molded relief. Best for photographic detail and gradients.

Rigid Resin, Acrylic, Metal, Ceramic

Hard souvenir items lacking flexibility.



PVC Keyring

Uses similar decorative molding language, but requires a mechanical attachment fitting rather than a magnetic back.

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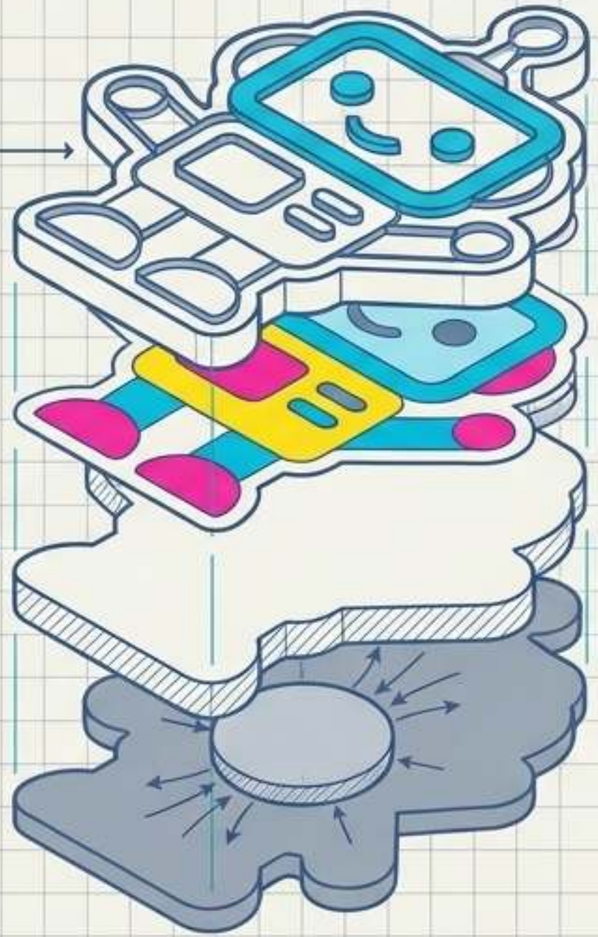
Anatomy of Dimensional Relief

Molded Borders:
Raised outlines separating distinct color regions.

Base Compound:
The foundational flexible rubber-like material.



Colored Fills:
Solid flexible compound filling recessed areas.

Magnetic Backing:
The functional attachment mechanism on the reverse.

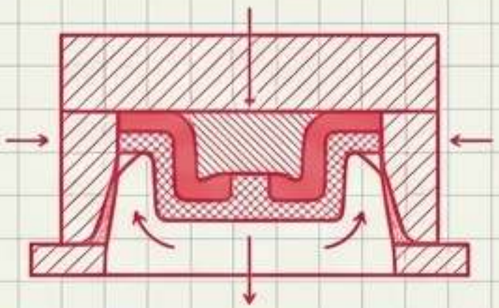
Context Note: A dimensional refrigerator magnet is strictly an indoor display product—it must not be treated as a vehicle magnet or a safety-critical holding device.

Evaluating Artwork for Moldability

Design Limits Warning Dashboard

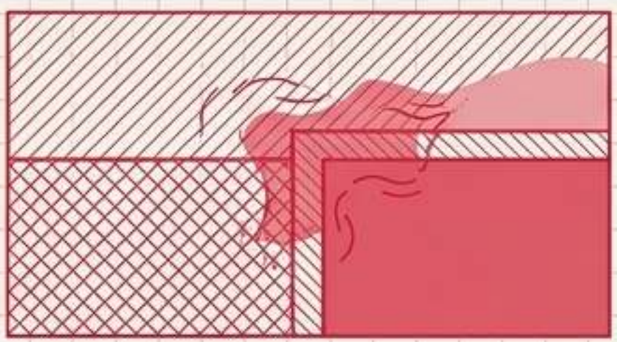
Panel 1: Scale & Density

Scale & Density: Very small lettering, thin projections, and narrow gaps cannot be accurately molded or filled.



Panel 2: Geometry

Geometry: Deep undercuts prevent clean extraction from the mold. Raised, recessed, and flat textures must have drafted, manufacturable angles.

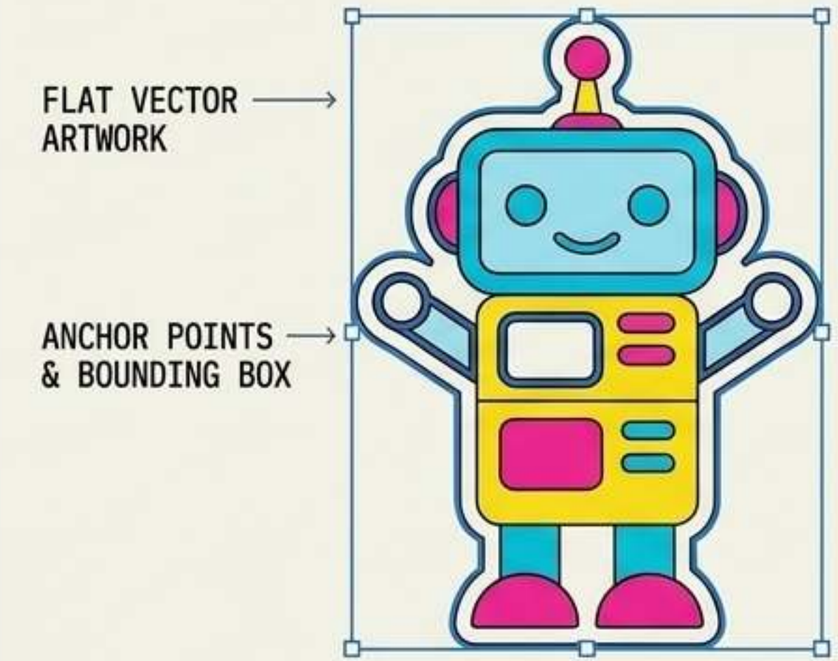


Panel 3: Color Complexity

Color Complexity: Crowded color regions risk spillover. Tonal photographic imagery or gradients require a printed or hybrid route rather than molded color fills.

Always request a manufacturability review before treating illustive artwork as a mold-ready design.

Structuring the Vector Specification File

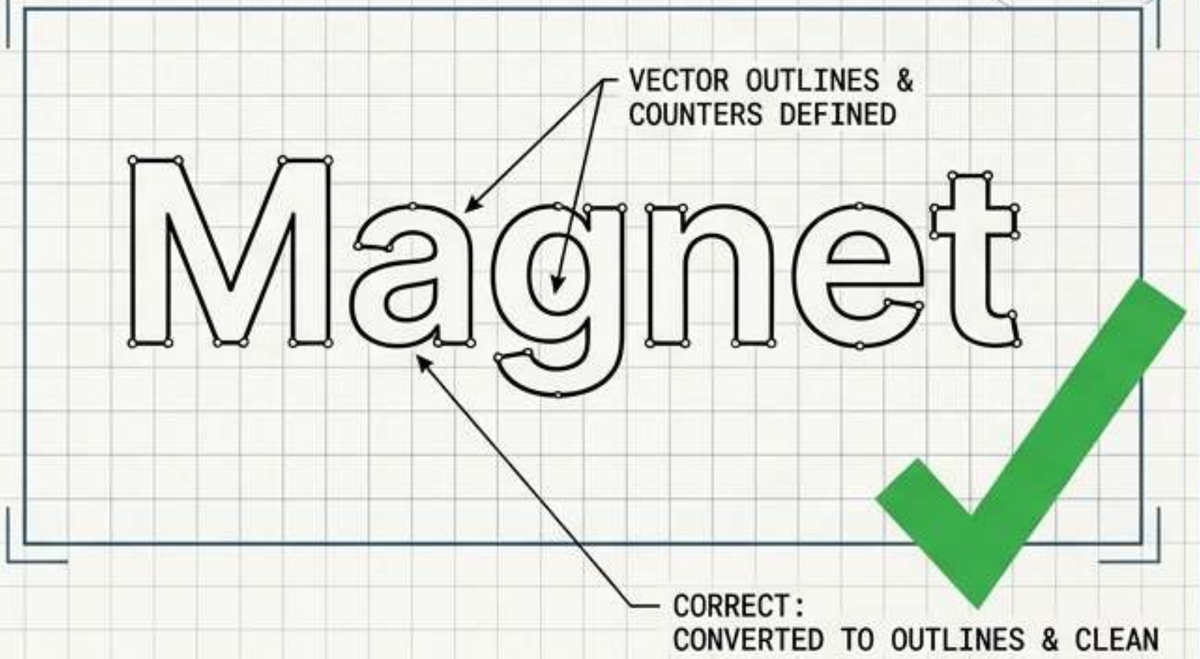


LAYERS PANEL - CHECKLIST

- [Layer] Outline / Cut Profile ✓
- [Layer] Raised Areas ✓
- [Layer] Recessed Areas ✓
- [Layer] Molded Borders (Visual weight & location must be clearly shown) ✓
- [Layer] Solid Colors (Must include a color key referencing recognized standards) ✓
  - CMYK / PANTONE
  - CMYK / PANTONE
  - CMYK / PANTONE
- [Layer] Printed Elements (For hybrid concepts) ✓
- [Layer] Reverse Details (Recessed panels, origin marks, compliance branding) ✓

Supply finished overall width/height and front, side, and back views.
Ask the supplier to propose suitable relief depths rather than inventing dimensions.

Typographic Specifications



Convert all text to outlines to prevent font substitution errors.

SPELL

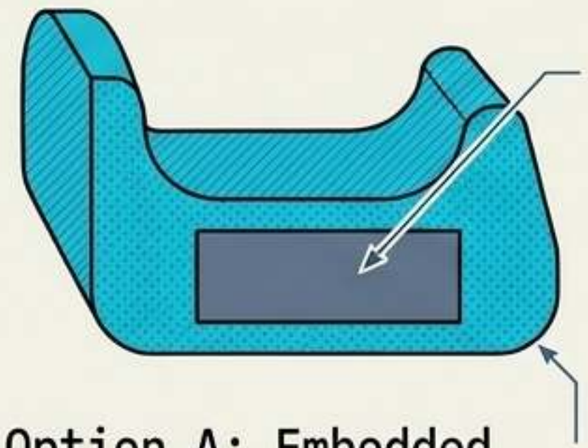
Run a final spell check prior to outlining text.

Avoid relying on extremely fine counters or strokes. Adjacent color borders may become part of the molded appearance, altering text legibility.

Clearly distinguish relief levels, colors, print areas, and edge profiles on all approval views.

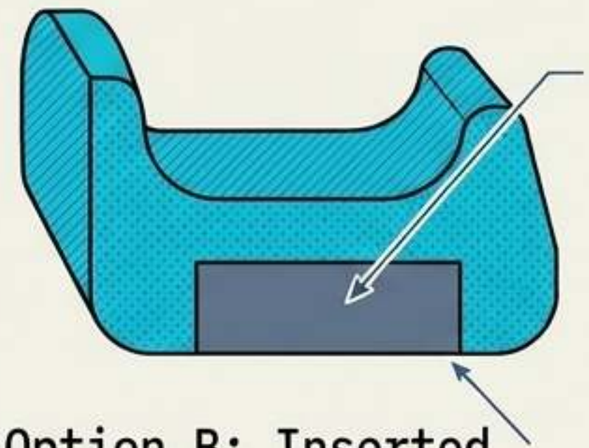
Engineering the Functional Back Construction

The Magnetic Backing Anatomy Matrix



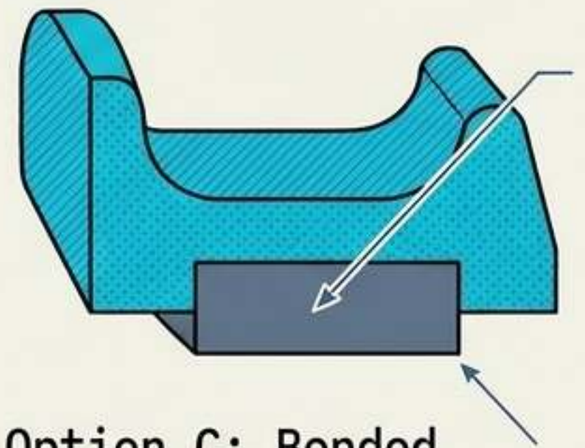
Option A: Embedded

Magnet sits inside the compound. (Visible or hidden options).



Option B: Inserted

Magnet is pressed into a molded cavity.



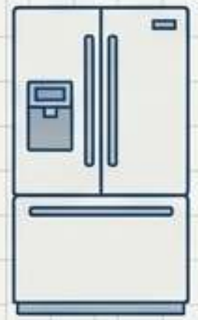
Option C: Bonded

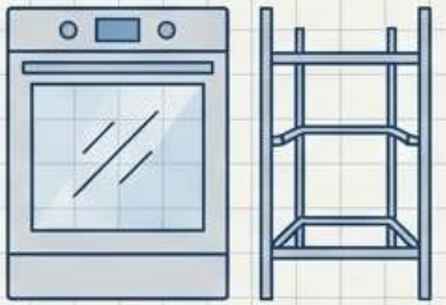
Magnet is adhered to a flat reverse surface.

Evaluation Criteria:
Does the route use a retained magnetic element?
Must the back be perfectly flat?
Does any magnet area remain visible?

Warning:
Avoid prescribing an unreviewed attachment method. Ask the supplier to identify their proposed construction.

Assessing Target Surface Receptivity





Green Zone (Receptive)

Standard ferromagnetic refrigerator doors and traditional steel appliance panels.

Yellow Zone (Variable)

Stainless-looking panels, treated coatings, and specific nonferrous alloys.

Red Zone (Non-Receptive)

Glass fronts, internal appliance structures, and nonferrous household materials.

Key Takeaway

The display surface must be specified. Attachment and retention must be assessed on representative target surfaces, not assumed.

Dynamics of Holding Behavior

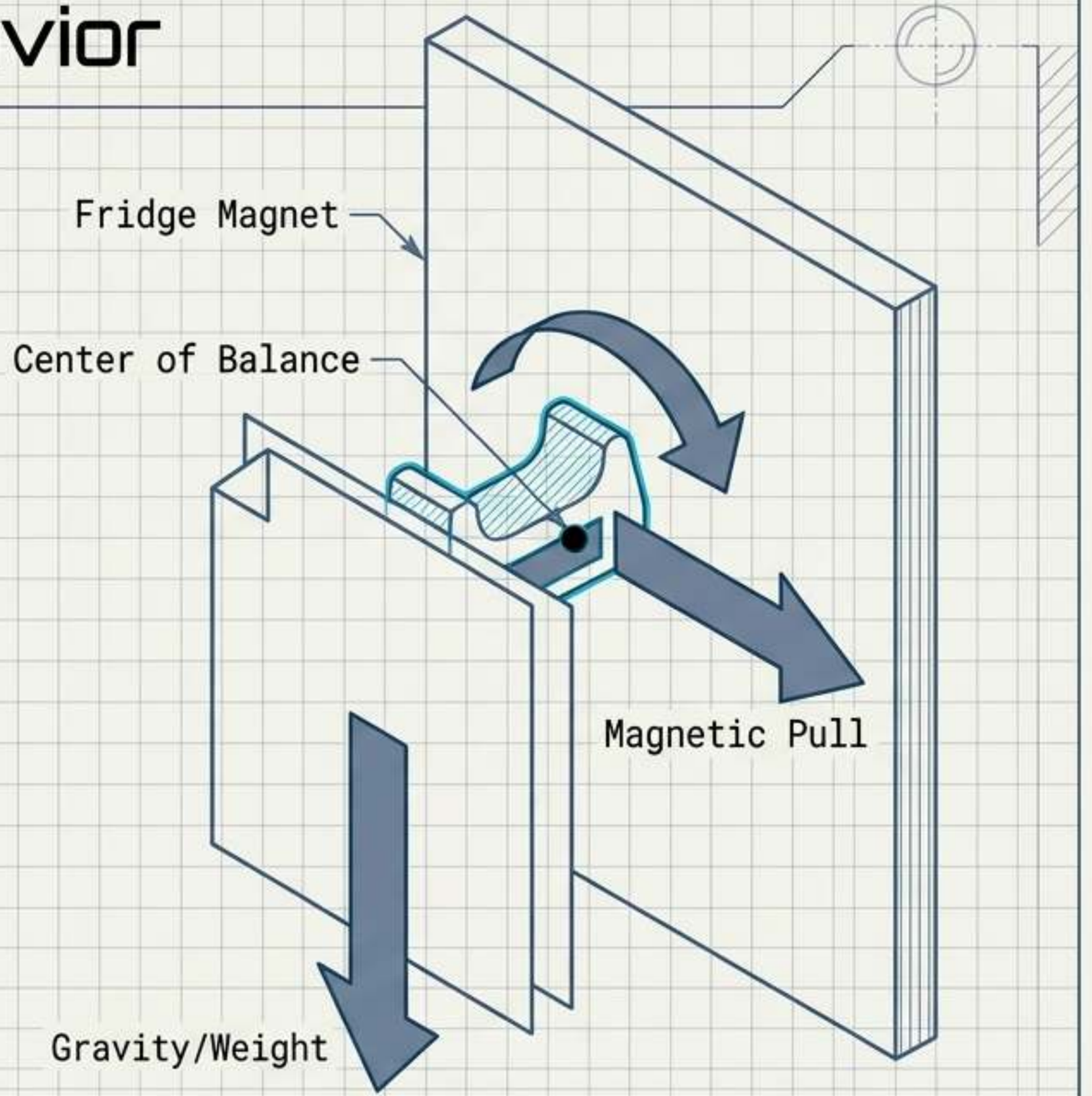
Variables dictating performance:

Weight & Footprint: The mass of the flexible material versus the surface area of the magnet.

Balance & Placement: Location of the magnetic component relative to the center of gravity.

Intervening Layers: Whether users are expected to attach paper beneath the magnet.

Pull Behavior: Retention strength and potential for surface marking.



Compliance, Safety, and Market Distribution

Core Rule: Do not assume a decorative magnet is a toy.

Diagnostic Inputs required for the Supplier:

- Destination Market & Sales Channel
- Intended Age Positioning
- Applicable Buyer Standards

Risk Triggers requiring specialized testing:

- Child-accessible distribution
- Detachable elements
- Small magnetic parts (swallowing hazards)

Deliverables Required:

Restricted-substance documentation, specific packaging warnings, and mandatory labeling.

Logistics and Packing Configuration

Lifecycle of a Packed Magnet

Step 1: Retail Packing

Options: Individual bags, printed inserts, backing cards (requires sample review of attachment/ removal experience), barcode labels.

Step 2: Assortment

Define if quantities are fixed per design or packed as mixed assortment boxes.

Step 3: Bulk Transit

Requires protective separation.

Hazards Mitigated by Packing:

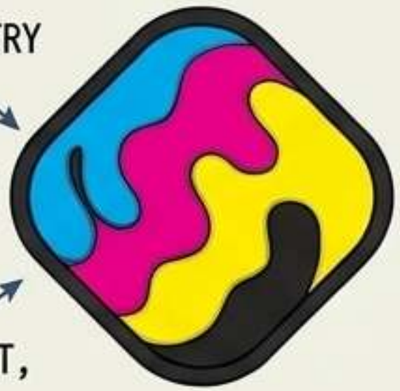
Deformation, surface abrasion, color transfer, contamination, and unwanted attraction between magnetic components.

Storage Rules:

Note distribution-center rules. Long storage, stacking pressure, or heat exposure can permanently affect shape and appearance.

The Physical Validation Imperative

DIGITAL RENDERING:
FLAT COLOR,
VIRTUAL GEOMETRY



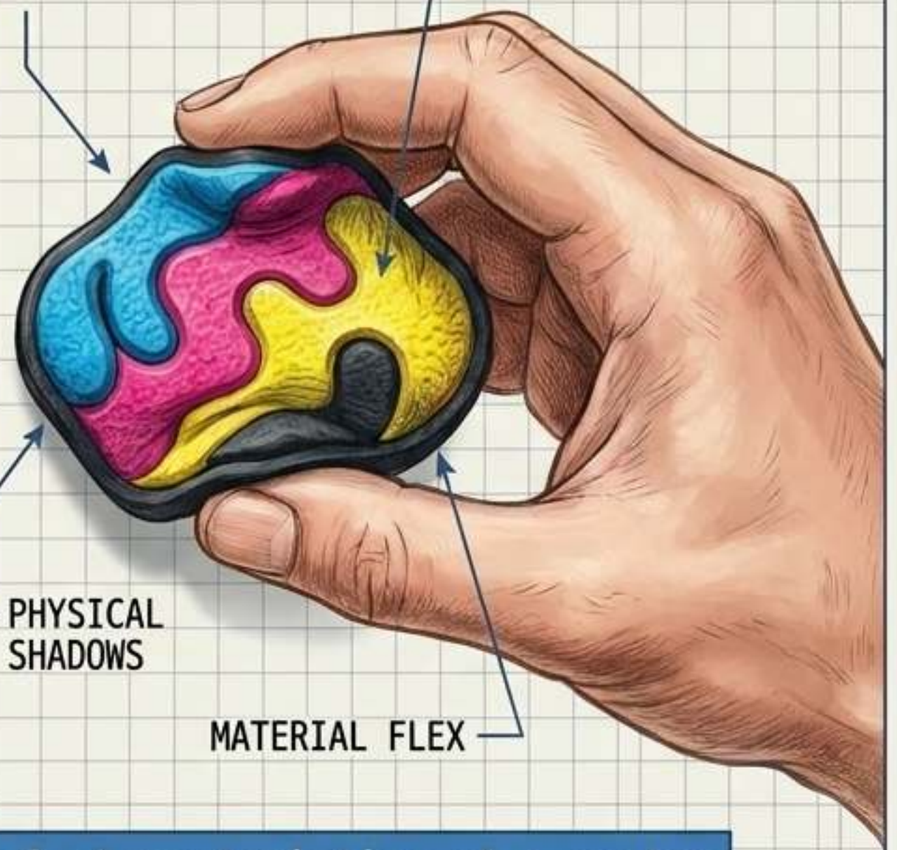
DIGITAL MAGNET,
MISLEADING RENDER

Validation Checklist:

- Tactile feel and material flexibility
- Exact color matching
- True dimensional appearance and relief depth
- Odor profile
- Surface contact marking
- Actual magnetic pull behavior

TACTILE FLEX:
REAL MATERIAL

TEXTURED RUBBER:
DEPTH & RELIEF

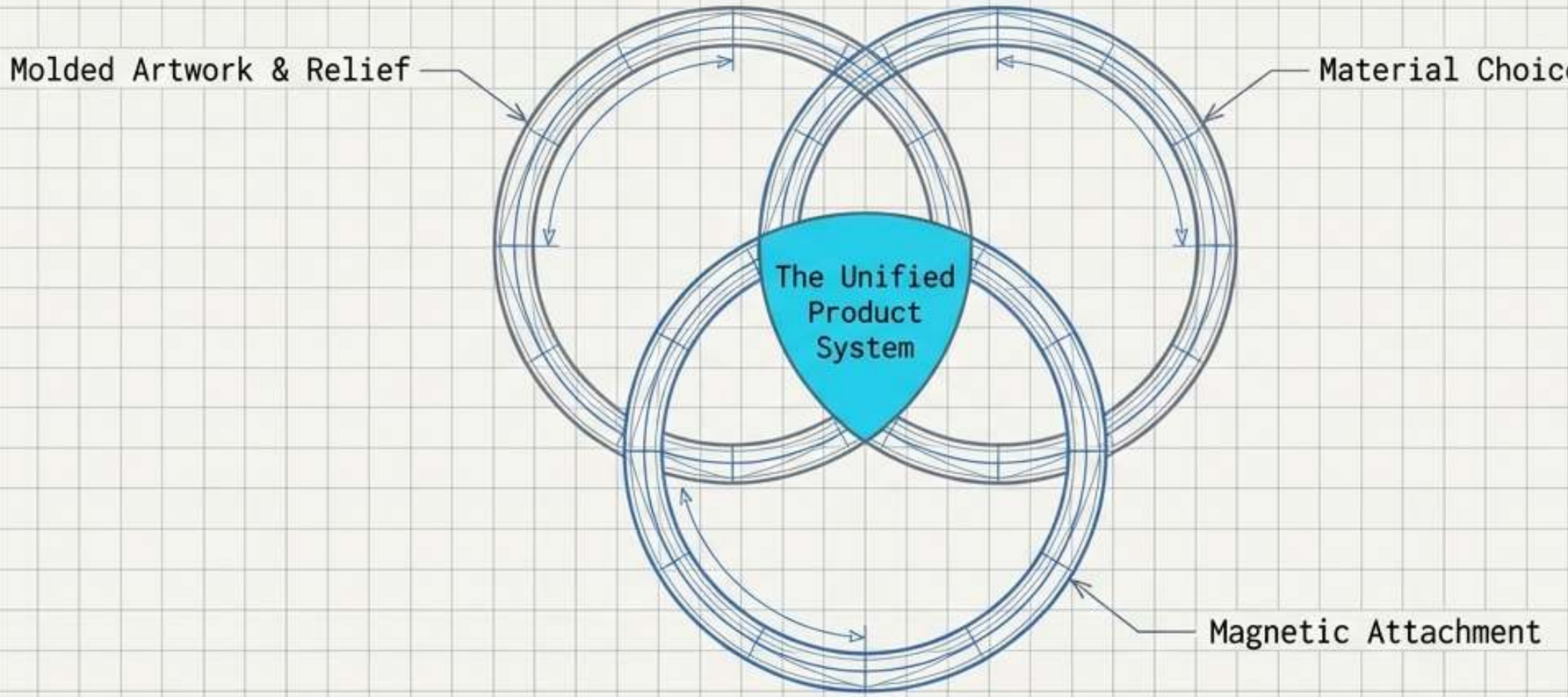


PHYSICAL
SHADOWS

MATERIAL FLEX

Screen renderings alone cannot establish the critical physical characteristics of a custom rubber magnet. A physical sample or representative material-and-color review is mandatory.

The Unified Product System



Custom rubber fridge magnets succeed only when developed holistically. Bold molded artwork, specific material formulation, and magnetic attachment cannot be engineered in silos.

Final Rule: Do not invent MOQs, prices, tolerances, or material grades. Treat technical descriptions as proposed directions until supplier review, tooling, sampling, testing, and written commercial confirmation are complete.

The Definitive RFQ Checklist

[01] Describe intended use, audience, destination market, and display surface.

[02] Provide finished size, outline, design views, and quantities by version.

[03] Identify raised, recessed, textured, printed, and color-filled areas.

[04] Supply vector artwork, outlined fonts, color references, and reverse details.

[05] Request supplier identify proposed flexible material, molding route, and magnet construction.

[06] State required attachment behavior (including expectation to hold paper).

[07] Flag critical tactile, color, flexibility, surface, safety, and compliance rules.

[08] Define proof, prototype, color sample, and functional sample approval needs.

[09] Specify individual, retail, bulk, assortment, labeling, and carton requirements.

[10] Request written commercial and technical confirmation post-review.