

Specifying Custom Wooden Keychains

An Operational Source Brief for Procurement & Merchandising

RAW MATERIAL:
SUSTAINABLE MAPLE
(ACER SACCHARUM)

LENGTH: 75.0mm

VECTOR CUT PATH:
PRECISION CNC ROUTE
(TOLERANCE $\pm 0.05\text{mm}$)
WIDTH: 30.0mm

THICKNESS:
6.0mm

VECTOR CUT PATH:
PRECISION CNC ROUTE
(TOLERANCE $\pm 0.05\text{mm}$)

KEYRING APERTURE:
 $\varnothing 4.5\text{mm}$ (CHAMFERED EDGE)

WIDTH: 30.0mm

'Wood' Is Not a Complete Specification

The Core Variable

A wooden keychain utilizes a wood, veneer, laminated, or engineered body. The exact substrate determines feasibility.

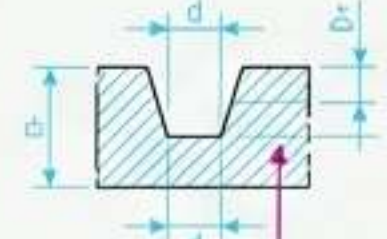
MATERIAL: American Walnut Solid
[SPECIES: J. NIGRA]
THICKNESS: 6.35mm [± 0.1 mm]
DENSITY: 610 kg/m³
MOISTURE: 8-10%



Visible Character Factors

Appearance is driven by grain direction, cut geometry, layered construction, engraving depth, or printed art.

GRAIN: Flat Cut [PLAIN SAWN]
ENGRAVING DEPTH: 0.5mm [MIN]
EDGE FINISH: Burnished, Polished with Beeswax
PRINTING: N/A



Critical Secondary Specs

Species/composite type, surface coating, edge appearance, and responsible-sourcing documentation require distinct, independent review. Final technical and commercial commitments require formal quotation, artwork, and material review.

COATING: Tung Oil [VOC FREE]
CERTIFICATION: FSC Certified [FSC-CXXXXXX]
HARDWARE: 304 Stainless Steel Ring [DIA: 25mm]
ARTWORK FILE: .AI / .STEP
LEAD TIME: 4 Weeks

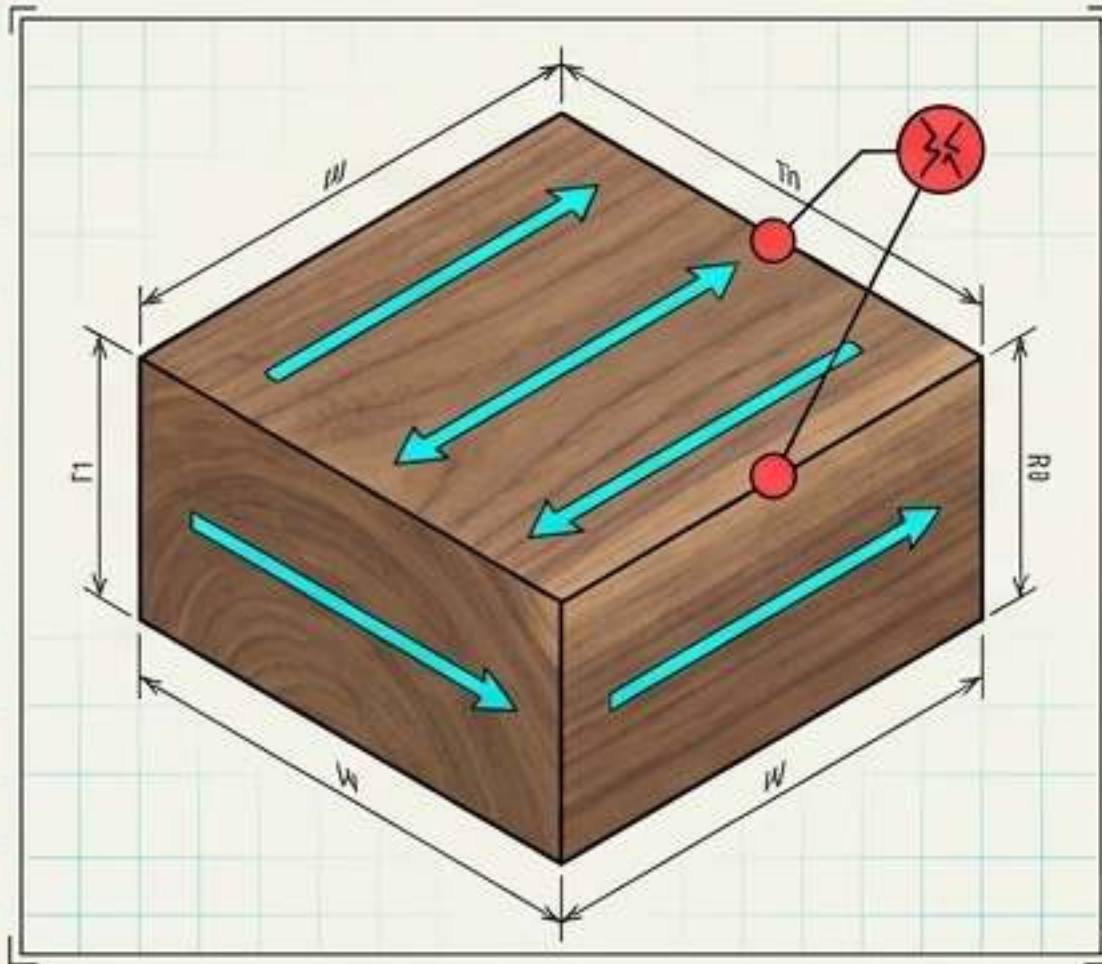


Category Diagnostic: True Wood vs. Alternatives

			
True Wooden Keychains	Wood-Look Acrylic	Molded Plastic/Rubber	Metal Fob with Wood Insert
True Wooden Keychains (Solid, Veneer, Engineered)	Wood-Look Acrylic	Molded Plastic/Rubber (Flexid Plastic/Rubber)	Metal Fob with Wood Insert
Trait: Natural material forms the principal body. Variation: High natural variation; must be tightly referenced.	Trait: Printed wood pattern on plastic. Advantage: The clearest route for transparent, full-color art. Zero natural variation.	Trait: Grain texture molded into the surface. Advantage: Best route to investigate for flexible molded relief.	Trait: Metal chassis with a decorative wood inlay. Advantage: High structural integrity with a touch of natural character.

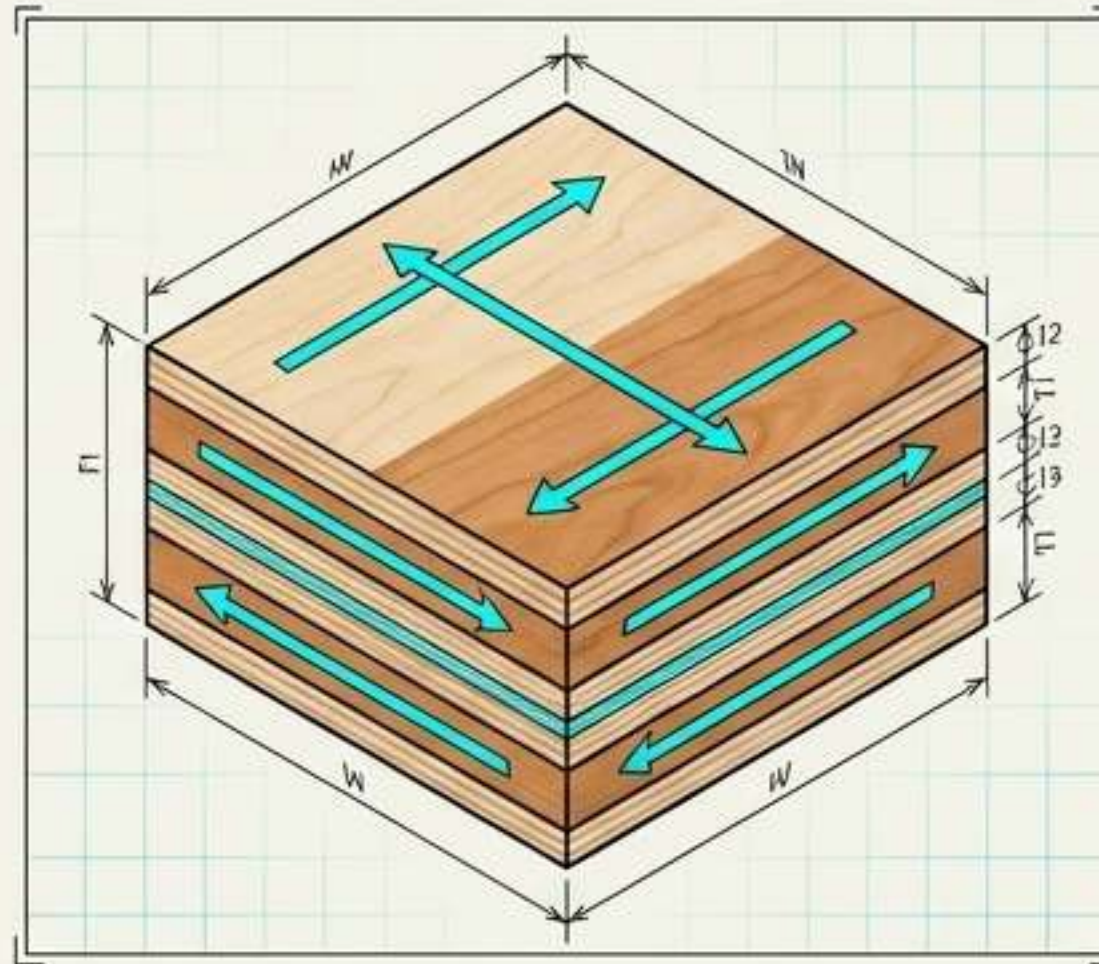
CRITICAL ALIGNMENT: Establish immediately whether natural material must form the principal body and whether visible natural variation is an asset or a liability for your specific project.

The Substrate: Character Meets Construction



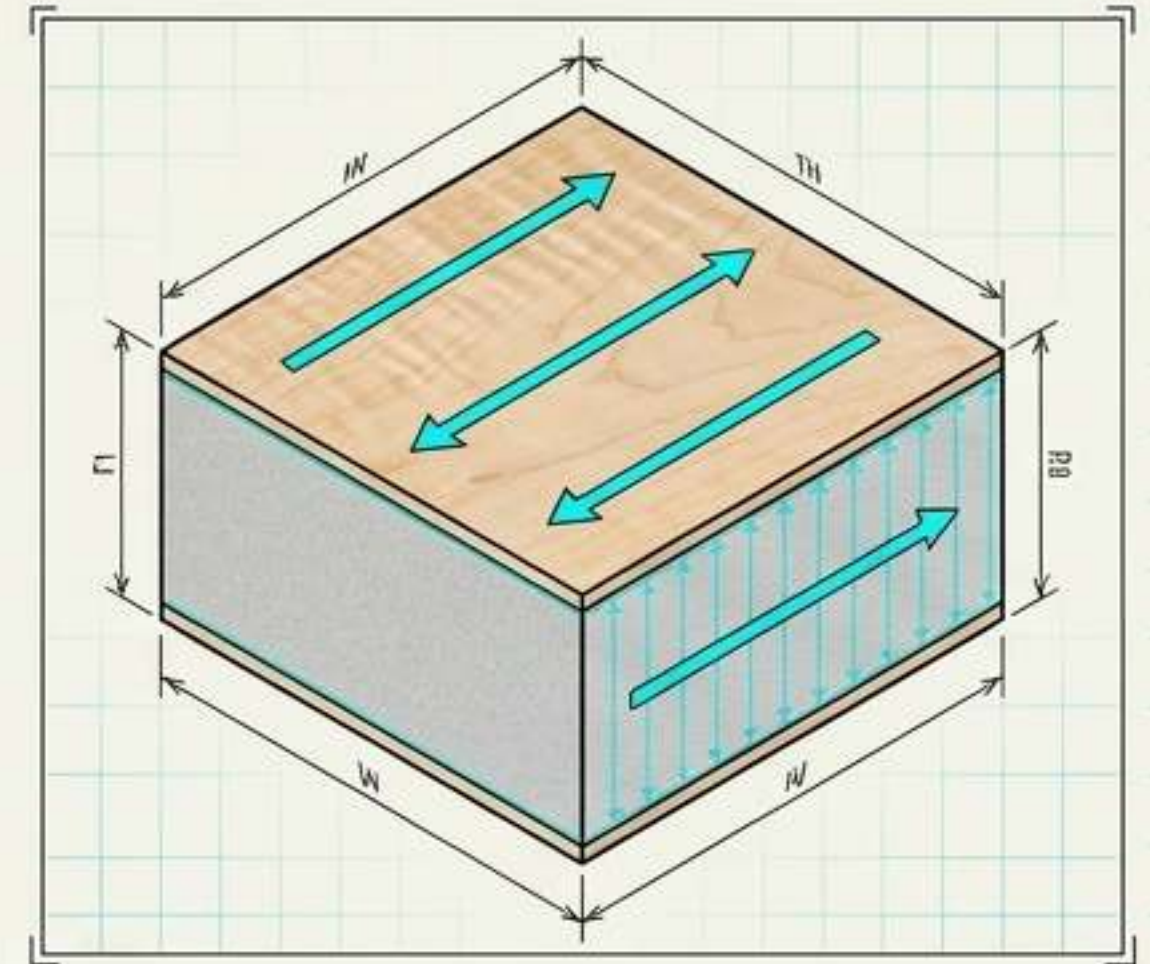
Solid Wood Solid Wood

Maximum natural character, but highly susceptible to grain-direction weakness and snapping.



Laminated / Plywood Laminated / Plywood

Increased structural stability, but edges display a layered, industrial aesthetic.



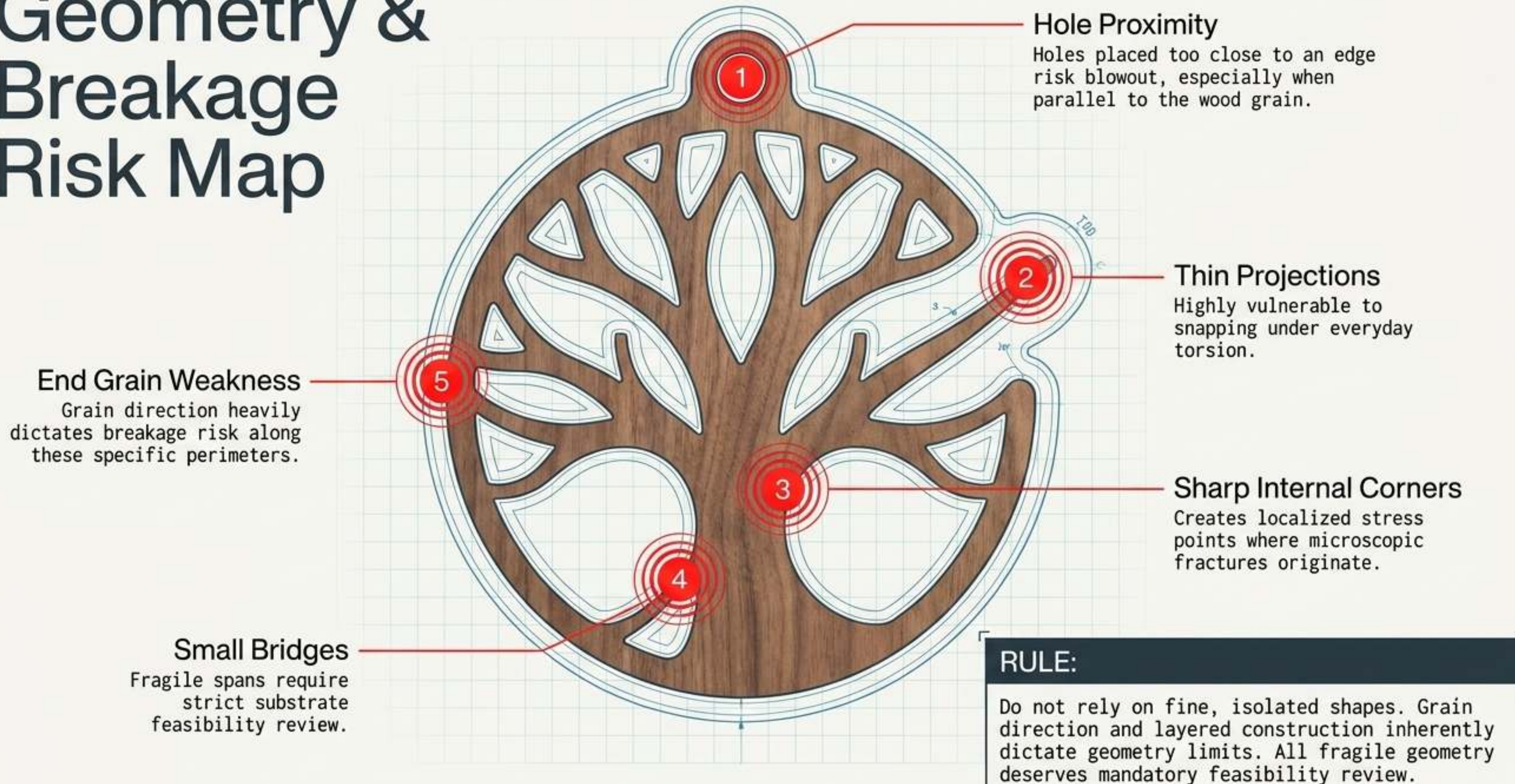
Engineered / Veneer Engineered / Veneer

Consistent core strength with highly controlled surface character.

BUYER PROMPT

Ask the supplier to propose a substrate explicitly suited for the intended shape, hole position, decoration, and environmental use. Note: Responsible sourcing and compliance documentation must be reviewed separately per substrate.

Geometry & Breakage Risk Map



Decoration Mechanics: Burn, Print, and Contrast

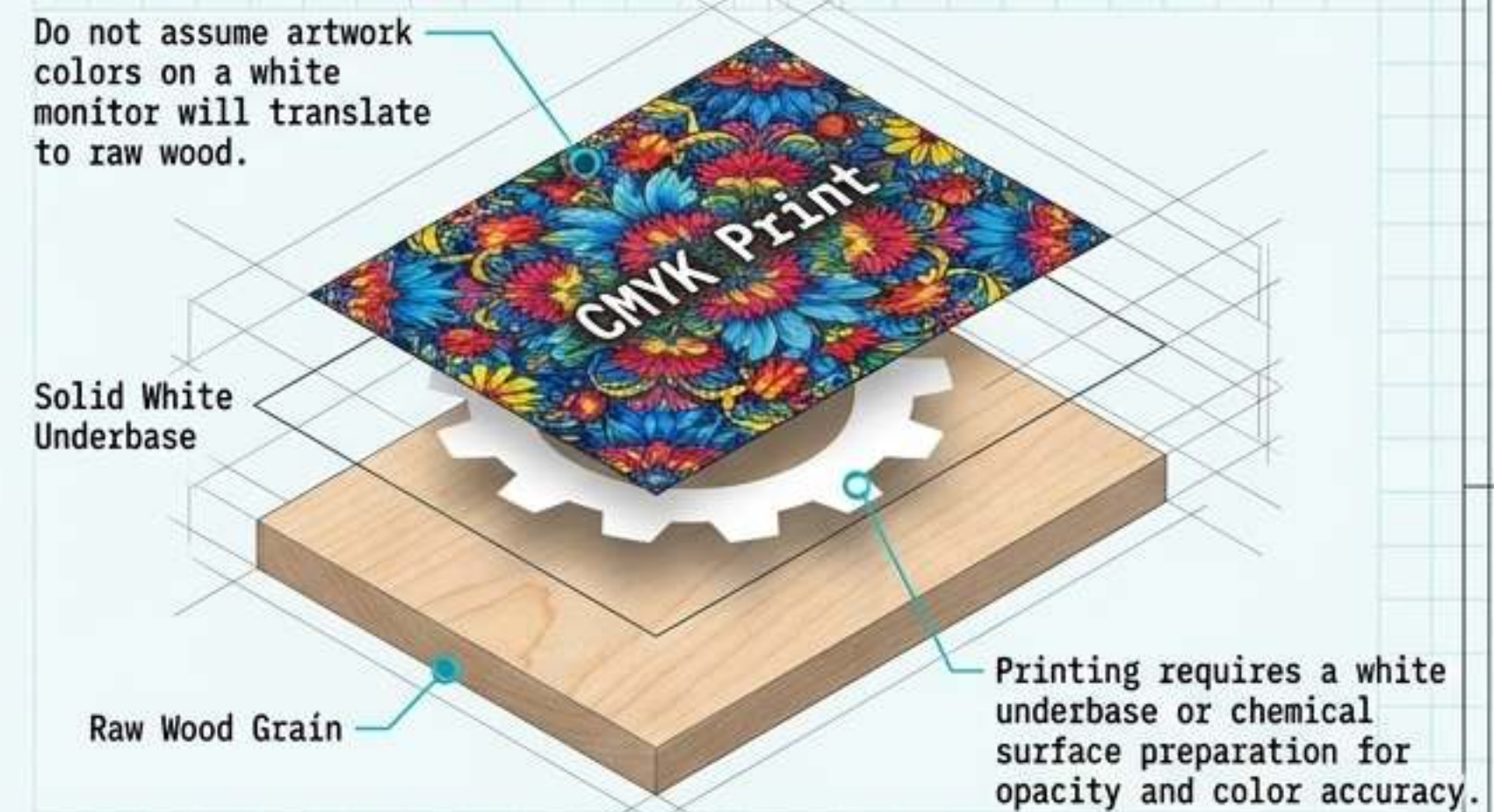
Engraving Mechanics



Engraving Rule

Engraving depth, tonal contrast, and burn behavior will vary naturally with the grain. Specify exact edge finish (darkness) and stain/coating appearance.

Printing Mechanics



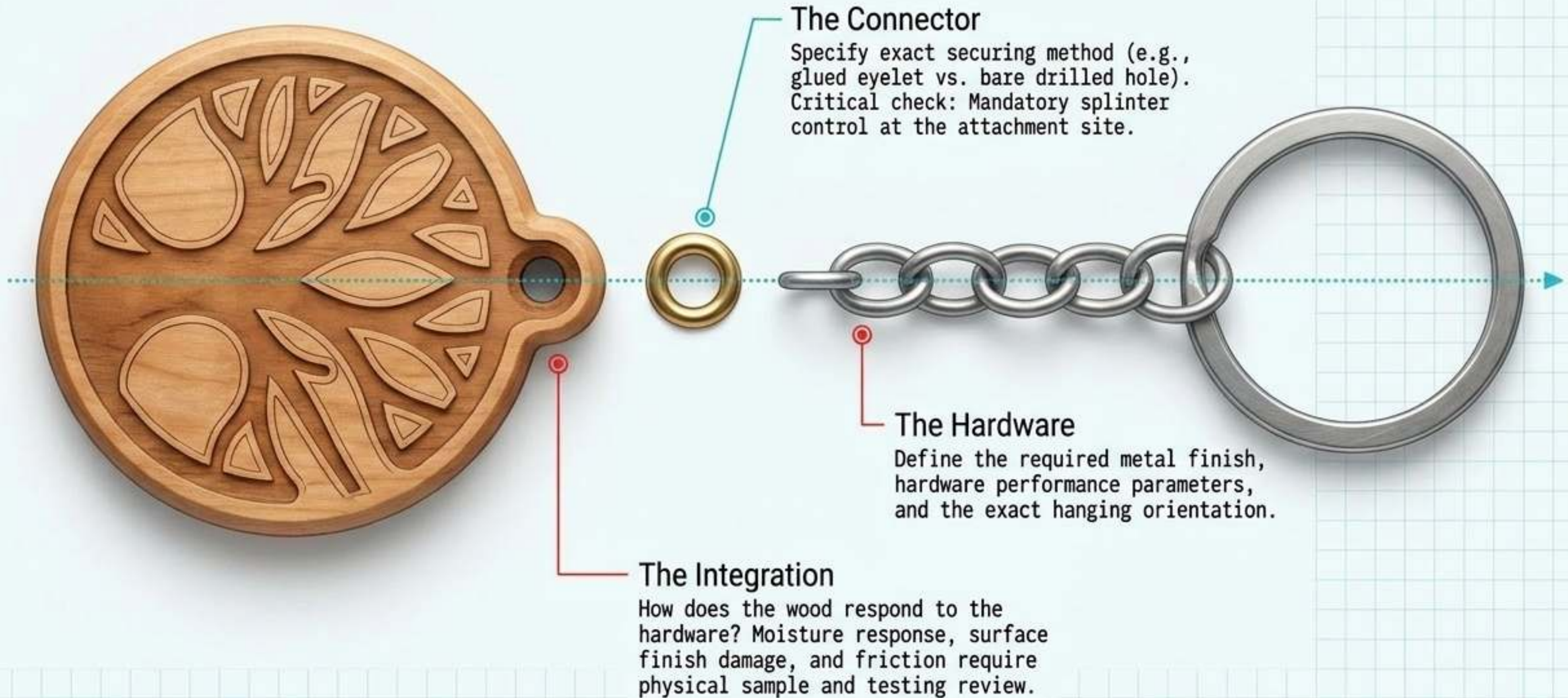
Printing Rule

Do not assume artwork colors on a white monitor will translate to raw wood. Printing requires a white underbase or chemical surface preparation for opacity and color accuracy.



PROCUREMENT CHECK: Always request process-specific proofs and physical samples before approval, especially if odor sensitivity (from laser burning or coatings) is a factor.

Hardware Anatomy & Integration



The Artwork Prep Formula

REQUIREMENT: Always request an annotated digital proof digital proof based on these exact separated layers.



5: Mockup Overlay

Scaled mockup showing exact hardware placement and reading orientation (front and reverse).

4: CMYK Print

Print colors. Identify critical logos, small text, and negative spaces where raw grain must remain visible.

3: White Underbase

Vector shapes mapping exactly where white ink must be laid down to block the wood grain.

2: Raster Engraving

High-resolution raster imagery isolated exclusively for laser engraving zones.

1: Vector Cut Paths

Magenta cut-through paths and score lines. Mark intended grain direction where visually or structurally important.



Defining the Tolerance for Natural Variation



The Procurement Reality

- Do not expect every grain pattern to be identical. Sheet yield, nesting, and natural material batches will inherently influence both quotation and final appearance.



The Golden Rule

- Commercial acceptance must be driven by an approved range of variation demonstrated by physical samples, not by an impossible standard of synthetic uniformity.



Action Required

- Natural character must be translated into an approvable, documented variation range prior to launching full production.

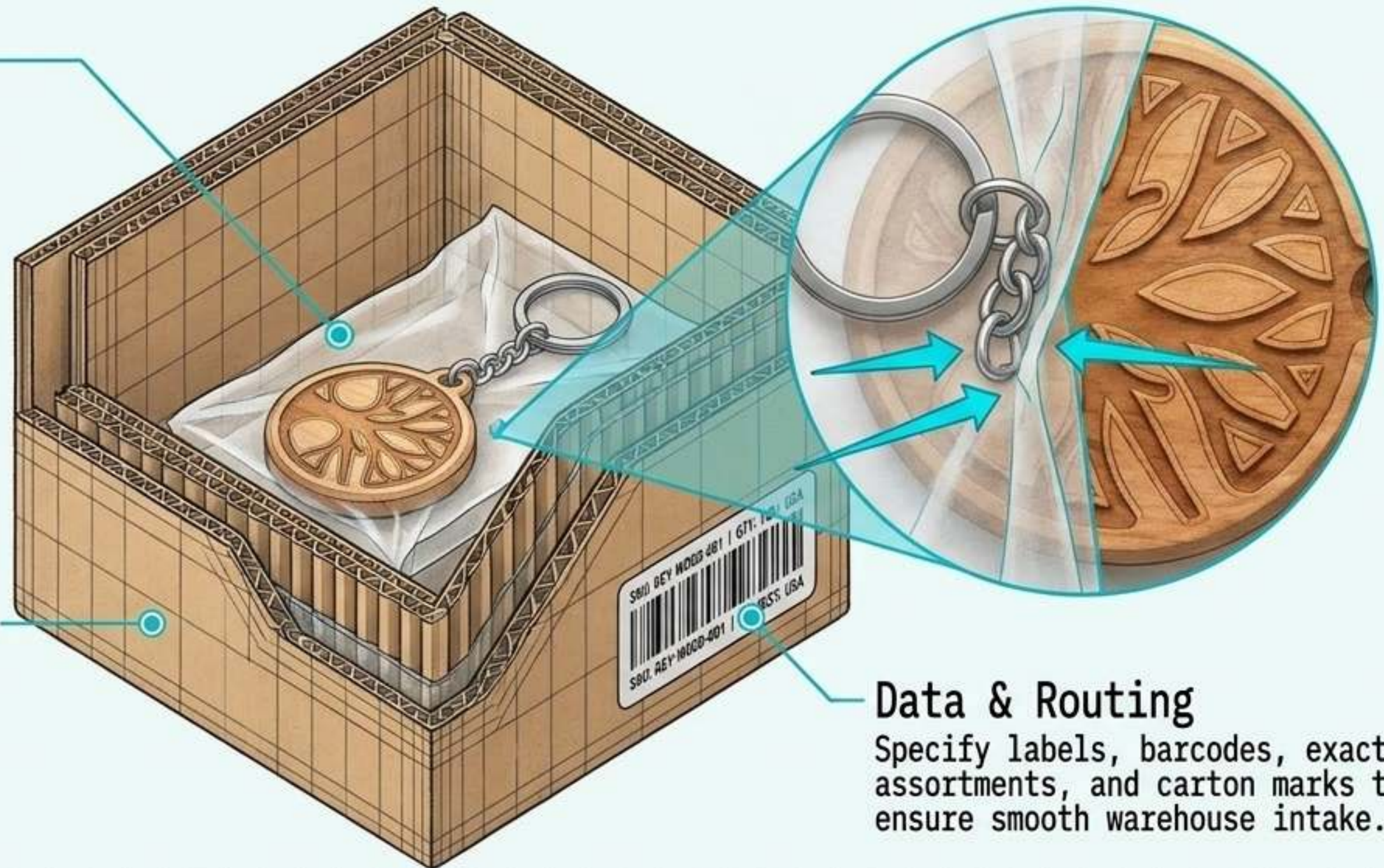
Transit & Packaging Architecture

Internal Protection

How are finished faces and edges separated from metal hardware to reduce rubbing and scratching in transit? Specify individual individual protection and backing cards.

External Architecture

Define moisture-conscious transport packing. Wood responds actively to humidity fluctuations during ocean transit.



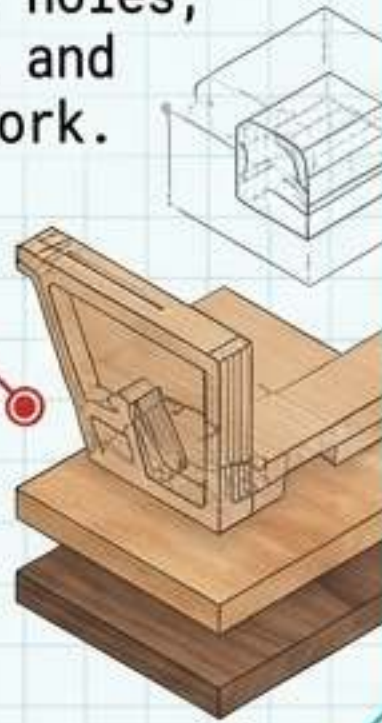
Data & Routing

Specify labels, barcodes, exact assortments, and carton marks to ensure smooth warehouse intake.

The RFQ Master Checklist

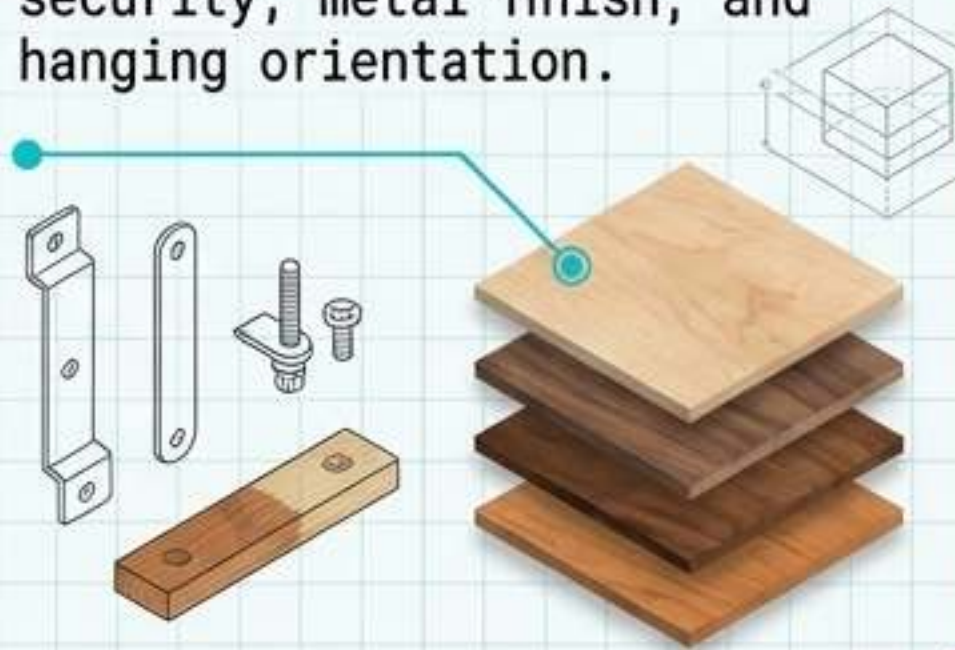
Material & Geometry

1. Identify preference (natural wood, veneer, laminate, or engineered).
2. Provide cut paths, holes, grain orientation, and front/reverse artwork.
3. **Flag** fragile geometry, fine detail, critical color, and grain expectations.



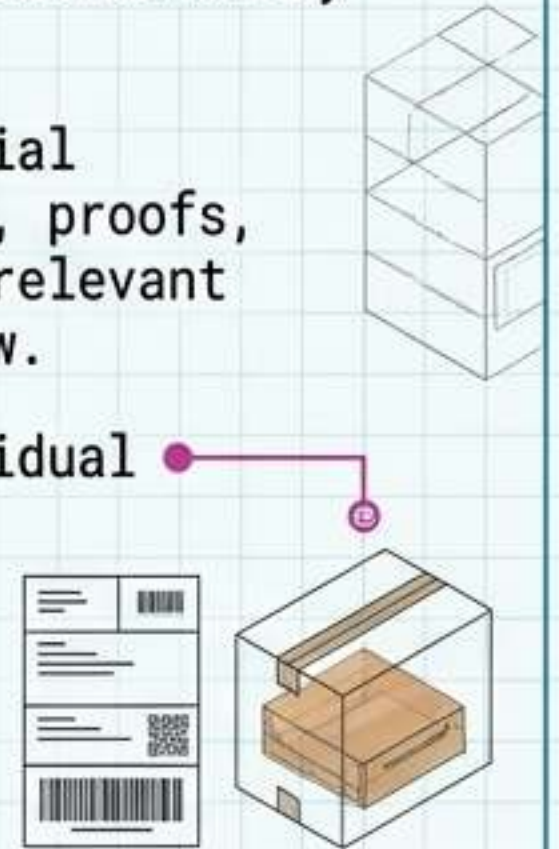
Finish & Hardware

4. Define engraving, printing, staining, coating, and edge appearance.
5. Confirm attachment type, security, metal finish, and hanging orientation.



Logistics & Quality

6. State intended use, quantity, destination, and delivery requirement.
7. Request material identification, proofs, samples, and relevant testing review.
8. Specify individual packing, assortments, labels, and carton marks.



THE APPROVED CONCLUSION: Final technical and commercial commitments require quotation, artwork, and material review. Approved physical samples define the baseline.