

Overview

Any open source device requires at least one open source license. Ideally, the creator selects appropriate licenses for the different components of their device (hardware, software, and documentation). The goal of the licensing resource is to provide information on the licenses Makers Making Change uses most often, and links to information about open source licenses.

It is important to note that the Neil Squire Society and Makers Making Change program are not offering legal advice on which license to apply to your own design. Choosing the correct license should be done on a case-by-case basis and should meet the goals and needs of the designer.

If you have any suggestions to improve this resource, you can add [an Issue to the GitHub page for our resources](#).

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Documentation

Documentation and other written works often fall under [Creative Commons licensing](#). There are six different license types which have different levels of permissions for use and distribution of information. Review the Creative Commons website to understand each license and choose the one that you feel meets your needs.

Documentation License Typically Used by MMC

[Creative Commons Attribution – Sharealike 4.0 International](#)

Hardware

The [CERN Open Hardware Licence \(CERN OHL\)](#) offers three levels of open hardware licenses to promote collaboration among hardware designers. Review the CERN OHL website to understand each license and choose the one that you feel meets your needs.

Hardware License Typically Used by MMC

[CERN OHL weakly reciprocal license](#)

Software/Firmware

The [GNU General Public License](#) is a free license for software and other kinds of works. It is intended to guarantee users the freedom to share and change all versions of a program.

Software/Firmware License Typically Used by MMC

[GPL 3.0](#)