

1 Licences

## CERN Open Hardware Licence



01 – CERN has probably developed the best licence for Open source hardware projects to date, the CERN Open Hardware Licence (CERN OHL).

CERN OHL comes in three variants:

- CERN-OHL-S (strongly reciprocal, txt, pdf)
- CERN-OHL-W (weakly reciprocal, txt, pdf)
- CERN-OHL-P (permissive, txt, pdf)

---

Sources: CERN. (n.d.). „CERN Open Hardware Licence“ [Website]. Retrieved February 7, 2026, from <https://cern-ohl.web.cern.ch>

Image: CERN, CERN Logo, n.d., digital graphic © CERN



01 - Creative commons developed six commonly used licenses for open source projects, ranging from most permissive to most restrictive, thus only making only the first two truly open source:

- CC BY (Attribution): The most open, allowing commercial use and adaptation with credit.
- CC BY-SA (Attribution-ShareAlike): Allows commercial use and adaptation, but derivative works must share the same license.
- CC BY-NC (Attribution-NonCommercial): Allows adaptation but only for non-

commercial purposes.

- CC BY-ND (Attribution-NoDerivatives): Allows commercial distribution, but no modifications are permitted.
- CC BY-NC-SA (Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike): Allows non-commercial adaptation, but derivative works must share the same license.
- CC BY-NC-ND (Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives): The most restrictive, allowing only non-commercial, verbatim copies.

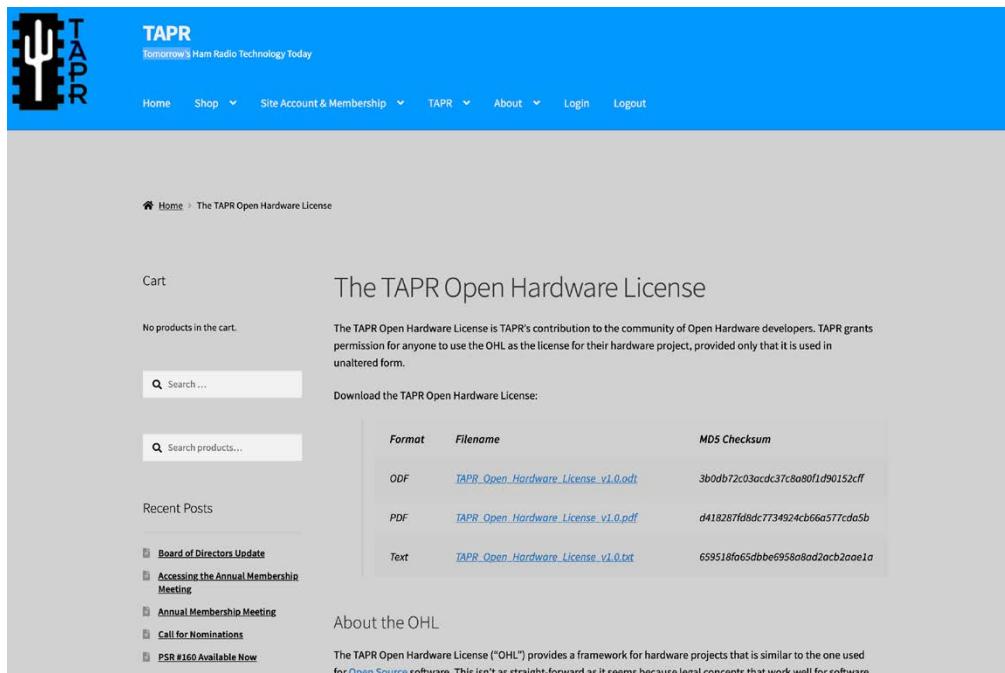
---

Sources: Creative Commons license. (n.d.). In Wikipedia. Retrieved February 7, 2026, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative\\_Commons\\_license](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creative_Commons_license)

Image: Creative Commons. (n.d.). Creative Commons logo [Image]. <https://creativecommons.org/about/downloads/>

### 3 Licences

#### TAPR Open Hardware License



The screenshot shows the TAPR website with a blue header bar. The header includes the TAPR logo, the text "TAPR Tomorrow's Ham Radio Technology Today", and navigation links for Home, Shop, Site Account & Membership, TAPR, About, Login, and Logout.

The main content area has a grey background. At the top left is a "Cart" section showing "No products in the cart." Below it is a search bar with the placeholder "Search ...". To the right is the title "The TAPR Open Hardware License". A text block explains the license: "The TAPR Open Hardware License is TAPR's contribution to the community of Open Hardware developers. TAPR grants permission for anyone to use the OHL as the license for their hardware project, provided only that it is used in unaltered form." Below this is a "Download the TAPR Open Hardware License:" link. A table lists three download options: ODF, PDF, and Text, each with its filename and MD5 checksum.

Format	Filename	MD5 Checksum
ODF	<a href="#">TAPR_Open_Hardware_License_v1.0.odt</a>	3b0db72c03acd37c8a80f1d90152cff
PDF	<a href="#">TAPR_Open_Hardware_License_v1.0.pdf</a>	d418287fd8dc7734924cb66a577cd5b
Text	<a href="#">TAPR_Open_Hardware_License_v1.0.txt</a>	659518fa65dbbe6958a8ad2acb2aae1a

On the left side, there is a "Recent Posts" sidebar with links to "Board of Directors Update", "Accessing the Annual Membership Meeting", "Annual Membership Meeting", "Call for Nominations", and "PSR #160 Available Now". At the bottom left is a "About the OHL" section with a brief description of the license's purpose and how it compares to open source software.

01 – TAPR Open Hardware License is another commonly used license for open source Hardware projects and one of the first ones. It was created by Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR). The licensee grants the commonly as open soure defined rights by forbidding anyone who receives rights under the OHL to deny any other licensee those same rights to copy, modify, and distribute documentation, and to make, use and distribute products based on that documentation. Thus making it a true open source license.

---

Sources: TAPR Open Hardware License. (n.d.). In Wikipedia. Retrieved February 7, 2026, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TAPR\\_Open\\_Hardware\\_License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TAPR_Open_Hardware_License)  
Image: TAPR. (n.d.). „The TAPR Open Hardware License“ [Screenshot]. <https://tapr.org/the-tapr-open-hardware-license/>

## 4 Licences

### Solderpad License

**Solderpad Hardware License**  
A FOSSI Foundation project

License Versions    Governance

The Solderpad Hardware License is closely based on the [Apache 2.0 software license](#) (and in fact, if you adopt this license with a preamble, one option for the licensee is to choose to use unported Apache 2.0). The license differs from Apache mainly in that it covers additional forms of IP which are not covered by Apache (such as database extraction right), and also adjusts the terminology slightly to make it more understandable in a hardware context. It also works as a software license (arguably better than Apache, mainly because of its adoption of IP other than copyright, patent and trade mark).

This patch was written by [Andrew Katz](#), with valuable input from [Andrew Back](#), [Larry Rosen](#) and others.

The license is currently undergoing conformance testing and approval from a number of bodies, but since there is the option to relicense under Apache 2.0, you know that this license is conformant with the criteria of any entity which has approved Apache 2.0 (including [OSI](#) and [FSF](#)).

The Solderpad Hardware License is maintained by a governance committee which operates under the stewardship of [The Free and Open Source Silicon Foundation](#).

01 - The Solderpad Hardware Licence (SHL) is a permissive open hardware licence designed specifically for hardware designs. It is closely based on the Apache Licence 2.0 (Apache 2.0 Licence) for software, but extends it with specific provisions relevant to the hardware context.

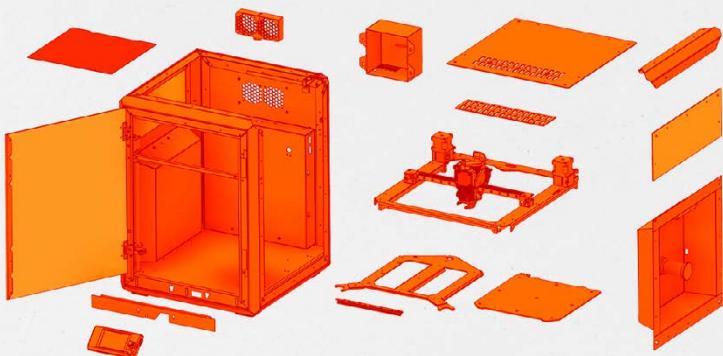
---

Sources: Hardware License. (n.d.). „Solderpad Hardware License“ [Website]. <http://solderpad.org/>

Image: Solderpad Hardware License. (n.d.). Solderpad Hardware License homepage [Screenshot]. Retrieved February 9, 2026, from <http://solderpad.org/>

5 Licences

## Open Community Licence (OCL) – Prusa Research



# OPEN COMMUNITY LICENSE V1.0

01 – „The Open Community License (OCL) is our answer to the gaps left by traditional software licenses when applied to physical hardware. It is designed to be concise and human-readable (it fits on one page) and it even includes practical examples linked directly in the document so you know exactly what you can and cannot do.“ - Prusa Research

02 – This newly released License on the 19th Decembre 2025, tries to solve the problems, that are common with the commercialalation of Open Source projects, for the consumers and the publishers. But until today its been badly received by the community by its bad wording.

---

Sources: 01 – Průša, Josef (2025, December 19). „Open-sourcing CORE One CAD Files Under the New Open Community License (OCL)“ [Blog post]. Prusa3D. [https://blog.prusa3d.com/core-one-cad-files-release-under-the-new-open-community-license-ocl\\_127290/](https://blog.prusa3d.com/core-one-cad-files-release-under-the-new-open-community-license-ocl_127290/) Image: Josef Prusa, Open Community License Header, 2025, digital graphic © Prusa Research a.s.