



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)

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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.

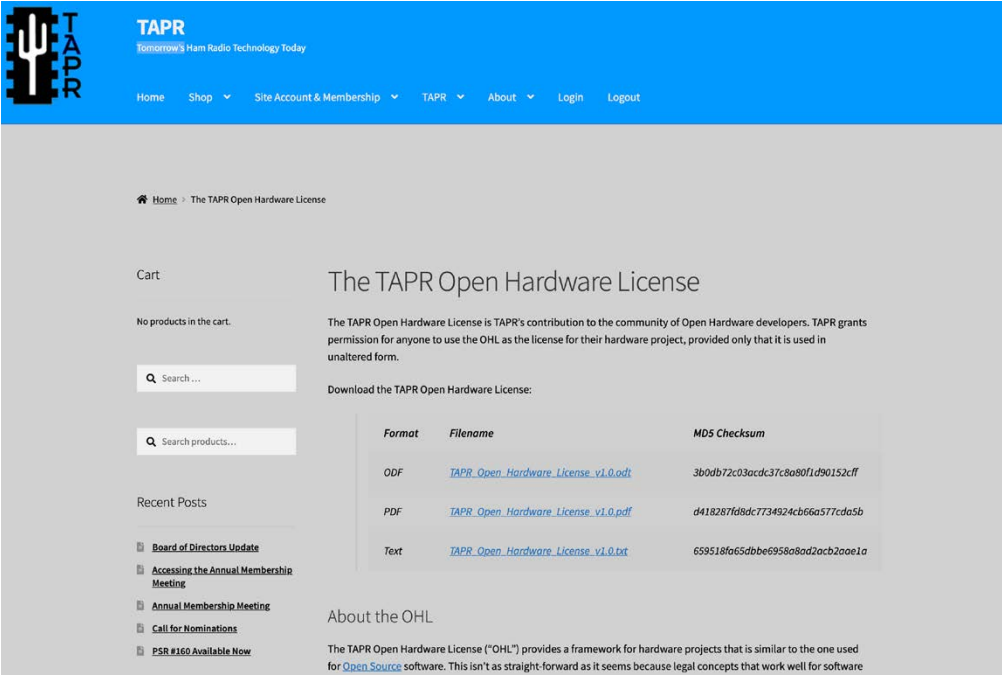
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3 Licences

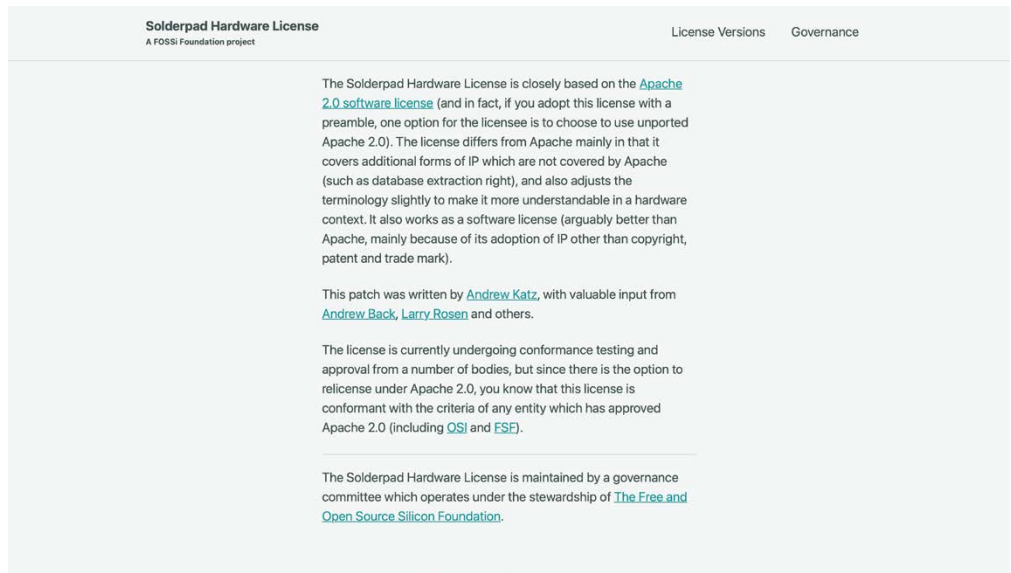
# TAPR Open Hardware License



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 license 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.

## 4 Licences

### Solderpad License



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.

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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/>



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 December 2025, tries to solve the problems, that are common with the commercialization of Open Source projects, for the consumers and the publishers. But until today its been badly received by the community by its bad wording.