

Materials & Effects — UV vs. laser, leather, and acrylic layers

The material and the process together decide what your patch looks like. Here's how to choose, and how PatchForge previews each one accurately.

patchforge.makerfoundryco.com · a Maker Foundry tool

1 UV Printed vs. Laser Engraved

UV Printed lays your full-color artwork on top of the material — great for colorful logos and photos. **Laser Engraved** burns the design into the material; the color you see is whatever the material reveals when burned. You set this in ① **Process**, and it changes which materials and export files are available.

2 Leather & leatherette

PatchForge ships the full catalog of leather and leatherette colorways, each with its **real engrave color** — the tone that shows when the laser burns that specific material (black, gold, silver, copper, and more). When you pick a leather and switch to laser, the preview recolors your art to that engrave color so what you see matches what the machine produces.

Names read as base/engrave — e.g. "Rawhide/Black" is a rawhide-colored surface that engraves to black.

3 Dual- & tri-layer acrylic

Layered acrylic is a solid top color bonded over one color (dual-layer) or two colors (tri-layer) beneath it. Engraving cuts through the top to reveal a lower color — so a single sheet can produce two or three colors with no ink at all.

The **top layer is bare surface** — negative space, never engraved by default. Every piece of your artwork defaults to the **first engrave layer** (the second color), so a normal black cutout comes in ready to engrave.

On a tri-layer you can send individual pieces **deeper** to the third color for a second, deeper engrave: select a piece (Ungroup a grouped SVG first) and use the **Top / Mid / Deep** swatches in the selection toolbar or the Layers panel — Top returns a piece to the bare surface, Mid is the first engrave layer, Deep is the bottom layer. Your choice sticks.

Layer order is top → mid → deep. If a specific sheet you own is stacked differently, let us know and we'll correct that material's order.

4 Vinyl & embroidery texture

Vinyl is a print/cut material for full-color UV work. If you want the woven look of an embroidered patch, turn on **Simulate embroidery stitch texture** in the toolbar to preview the stitched finish.

Browse the full catalog

Open **Materials** from the account menu to browse every material with its price-per-square-inch tier. Need the physical blanks? Shop leather, hats, and supplies at <https://makerfoundryco.com>.

Pick the material, and the preview tells the truth.

