

WHITE PAPER

A Better Way to Buy Custom Spacers

How Hagerty Hardware turns a traditionally slow sourcing task
into a precise, transparent, self-service purchase

CONFIGURE	PRICE	PURCHASE
OD, ID, length, material	Instant, quantity-aware total	Secure checkout and fulfillment

Prepared by Hagerty Hardware Co.

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Executive summary

Buying a custom spacer should not require a chain of emails, a manually prepared quote, and uncertainty about price. For many straightforward cylindrical spacers, the specification is already defined by a small set of engineering inputs: outside diameter, inside diameter, length, material, and quantity. Hagerty Hardware converts those inputs into a guided online ordering process.

The result is a sourcing experience designed around speed without abandoning control. Buyers can enter dimensions in inches or millimeters, see pricing change as the specification changes, review a machine-readable part description, add multiple configurations to a cart, and complete payment through Stripe. Standard U.S. shipping is \$12, with free shipping when the merchandise subtotal is over \$100. When a part is more complex than the online configurator supports, the buyer can fill out the Request a Quote form and attach a drawing or CAD file for review.

CORE PROPOSITION

Hagerty Hardware is a better purchasing channel when the spacer fits the published manufacturing envelope and the buyer values immediate configuration, transparent pricing, and direct checkout.

The problem with traditional custom-part sourcing

Conventional sourcing is appropriate for complex components, unusual tolerances, special certifications, or production programs that require extensive engineering review. But applying the same process to every simple spacer creates avoidable administrative work.

- A buyer prepares a drawing or email, then waits for a supplier to interpret it.
- A salesperson or estimator manually calculates price and lead time.
- Specification questions move back and forth before an order can be released.
- Small changes to dimensions, material, or quantity may require a revised quotation.
- The final purchase record can become separated from the technical definition of the part.

For a standard hollow cylindrical spacer, much of that work can be structured in advance. A purpose-built configurator shifts validation and pricing closer to the buyer while preserving server-side checks before payment.

Why the Hagerty Hardware model is different

1. The product is configured, not merely described

A generic product page asks the customer to adapt to a stock size. A generic quote form asks the customer to describe a custom need in free text. Hagerty Hardware takes a third approach: the customer defines the

actual geometry through dedicated OD, ID, and length inputs. The site enforces a minimum wall and published dimensional limits, reducing the likelihood that an obviously invalid configuration reaches checkout.

2. Price is visible before commitment

The configurator recalculates the unit price and merchandise total as material, geometry, and quantity change. This allows a buyer or engineer to evaluate design alternatives immediately. The price shown in the browser is not blindly trusted: the server recomputes the amount from the submitted specification before creating the Stripe Checkout session.

3. The specification travels with the order

Each cart item includes a descriptive spacer specification and a generated part identifier. After payment, the webhook retrieves the completed line items, customer information, shipping address, subtotal, shipping charge, and total. Hagerty Hardware receives a production-order email, while the customer receives a confirmation. This creates a clearer handoff than an order whose technical definition exists only in a separate email thread.

The buyer advantage, criterion by criterion

Buying criterion	Traditional custom sourcing	Hagerty Hardware approach
Starting an order	Prepare a drawing, email, or request for quotation.	Enter OD, ID, length, material, and quantity in a guided configurator.
Pricing	Wait for estimating and a returned quote.	See unit and total pricing update as the design changes.
Design iteration	Request a revised quote after changing inputs.	Compare configurations immediately before adding one to the cart.
Units	Clarify whether dimensions are inch or metric.	Select inches or millimeters; inputs use 0.001 in or 0.01 mm increments.
Order record	Purchase order and technical details may live in separate systems.	Spacer description, quantity, address, payment, and order number are captured together.
Payment	Credit setup or manual payment coordination may be required.	Secure Stripe Checkout supports direct online payment.
Shipping visibility	Shipping may be confirmed after quoting.	\$12 flat-rate standard U.S. shipping; free over a \$100 merchandise subtotal.
Exception path	Complex questions may extend the quote cycle.	A separate quote form supports drawings/CAD files and nonstandard requests.

Where broad online suppliers fall short

Large industrial marketplaces are useful, but their scale can work against a buyer who simply needs a made-to-order spacer at a competitive price. Hagerty Hardware is built around that specific transaction. The comparison below highlights the practical tradeoffs a spacer buyer encounters—not just the size of each supplier’s catalog.

Online supplier	Where the supplier is strongest	Where Hagerty Hardware is differentiated
McMaster-Carr	Convenience and rapid fulfillment often come with a higher price for comparable spacers. Its enormous catalog can also add search noise when the buyer needs one precisely defined custom part. [1]	Hagerty Hardware concentrates on custom spacers, provides a direct dimensional workflow, and is positioned to deliver a more competitive price without making the buyer search a general-purpose catalog.
MISUMI	Its configurable products and CAD resources are capable, but numerous series, part-number rules, and dimensional constraints can make selection feel engineered around a component catalog rather than a simple purchase. [2]	The Hagerty workflow asks for the dimensions buyers already know—OD, ID, and length—plus material and quantity, with inch or metric entry and an immediate order total.
Accu	Its broad precision-component offering spans many product families. Custom or nonstandard work may move the buyer from online product selection into a conventional inquiry process, adding steps before price and manufacturability are confirmed. [3]	Qualifying cylindrical spacers can proceed directly from exact dimensions to checkout. Only genuinely more complex parts are routed to the drawing/CAD quote form.

The practical distinction

McMaster-Carr remains a strong option when immediate availability matters more than unit cost, but buyers can pay a premium for that convenience. MISUMI rewards customers who are comfortable navigating its configurable-component system, while Accu serves a wide range of precision-component needs. Hagerty Hardware removes those distractions: a buyer who knows OD, ID, length, material, and quantity can configure and purchase a qualifying made-to-order spacer through a purpose-built process.

THE PRICE ADVANTAGE

For comparable spacer requirements, Hagerty Hardware is designed to compete on total purchase cost—not merely catalog convenience. Because price depends on material, dimensions, quantity, and delivery requirements, buyers should compare matched specifications rather than rely on a generic savings percentage.

That focus does not replace the other suppliers’ strengths. It creates a clearer choice: use a broad industrial distributor for catalog breadth and stocked parts; use Hagerty Hardware when the desired spacer is dimension-driven, fits the published envelope, and benefits from immediate price visibility. For a more complex part, fill out the Request a Quote form and attach a drawing or CAD file.

A defined ordering envelope

The configurator is intentionally constrained. Clear limits help buyers determine whether a part is suitable for direct online ordering or should be submitted for review.

Parameter	Published online range or option
Outside diameter	4.00-19.05 mm (approximately 0.157-0.750 in)
Inside diameter	1.00 mm minimum; maximum depends on OD and minimum wall
Length	2.00-127.00 mm (approximately 0.079-5.000 in)
Minimum wall	1.00 mm per side
Materials	1018 carbon steel, 304 stainless, 316 stainless, brass, and 6061 aluminum
Quantity	1-100,000 pieces per configured item
Shipping	\$12 standard U.S. shipping; free when merchandise is over \$100

Value for engineering, purchasing, and operations

For engineers: faster design-to-cost feedback

The live price preview turns sourcing into an early design input. An engineer can see how wall thickness, length, material, and quantity affect the order total before releasing the design. This is especially useful when several geometries would satisfy the functional requirement.

For purchasing: fewer administrative touches

A structured product definition reduces ambiguity at the start of the transaction. The buyer can place an order without waiting for a conventional quotation, while the confirmation preserves the selected specifications and financial details. Clear shipping rules also make the landed purchase amount easier to understand.

For maintenance and small manufacturers: practical quantities

The configurator accepts quantities from a single piece through high-volume orders. This makes the channel useful for prototypes, replacement parts, fixtures, repairs, pilot builds, and repeat production—provided the part stays within the published envelope.

For Hagerty Hardware: disciplined order intake

The platform does more than improve the buyer experience. It standardizes order inputs, validates dimensional relationships, computes pricing consistently, captures shipping information, and sends a production-ready summary after successful payment. That reduces translation between sales, estimating, and manufacturing.

Trust, control, and transaction integrity

A fast online workflow must still protect the transaction. Hagerty Hardware uses several controls designed for a dependable handoff:

- Authoritative server-side price recomputation before checkout.
- Stripe-hosted payment processing and shipping-address collection.
- Signed webhook verification before an order is treated as paid.
- Idempotent fulfillment logic to reduce duplicate processing.
- Internal and customer email confirmations containing order details.
- A separate quotation path for files and requests that do not fit the standard configurator.

When direct online ordering is the best fit

Hagerty Hardware is strongest when the requirement is a straightforward cylindrical spacer, the dimensions fit the configurator, one of the listed materials is acceptable, and the buyer wants to move quickly with transparent pricing.

MORE COMPLEX PART? FILL OUT THE QUOTE FORM

For special tolerances, finishes, certifications, additional machined features, nonstandard materials, or requirements outside the published size range, complete the Request a Quote form and attach a drawing or CAD file for review.

Illustrative purchasing scenarios

Prototype and fixture development

An engineer needs several spacer lengths to evaluate alignment in a fixture. Instead of requesting multiple quotations, the engineer can configure each option, compare price, place the selected versions in one cart, and pay once. The order record retains the dimensions and material for each line item.

Maintenance replacement

A maintenance team measures an existing spacer but cannot identify a stock replacement. With known OD, ID, and length, the buyer can recreate the geometry and order the needed quantity without waiting for a supplier to research a catalog match.

Low-volume production

A small manufacturer requires repeatable spacers but is not ready for a long-term sourcing program. The online process offers an immediate purchasing route while preserving a consistent part identifier and specification for reorder reference.

Cost-conscious material selection

When several materials are technically acceptable, the buyer can compare the pricing impact directly. That visibility helps avoid over-specification and brings commercial feedback into the design decision earlier.

What “better” means

No purchasing channel is best for every requirement. Hagerty Hardware is not positioned as a substitute for engineering collaboration on complex machined components. Its advantage is focus: it standardizes the repetitive portion of custom spacer sourcing while preserving an exception route for work that requires review.

For qualifying spacer orders, “better” means fewer steps, earlier price visibility, clearer technical inputs, a secure checkout, explicit shipping charges, and an order confirmation that connects the part definition to the payment and destination.

Conclusion

Hagerty Hardware brings the convenience expected from modern e-commerce to a product that is usually purchased through a manual industrial process. The customer retains control of the key engineering inputs; the website provides immediate validation and pricing; Stripe completes the payment; and the fulfillment workflow carries the order details to production.

For buyers who need custom cylindrical spacers within the published manufacturing envelope, the site offers a compelling combination of precision, transparency, and speed. It is not simply another place to browse hardware. It is a purpose-built way to specify and buy the spacer actually required.

BUYER TAKEAWAY

If you know the OD, ID, length, material, and quantity, Hagerty Hardware can turn those five decisions into a complete custom-spacer order in one online session.

Comparison sources

[1] McMaster-Carr, “Unthreaded Spacers” and “Spacers” (mcmaster.com).

[2] MISUMI USA, “Metal Spacers” and “Straight Spacers—Configurable Dimensions” (us.misumi-ec.com).

[3] Accu, “Washers & Spacers” and “Custom Manufacture of Precision Components” (accu-components.com).