How to Get Your Instant Quote: User Guide

Welcome to our instant quoting tool! This guide will walk you through the entire process, from preparing your design file to adding your custom parts to the cart.

To ensure you get an accurate quote and your parts are made correctly, please read the file preparation rules carefully.

1. How to Prepare Your DXF File

The accuracy of your quote depends entirely on the quality of your DXF file. Our system automatically analyzes your file's geometry to calculate the cutting perimeter and area.

Follow these rules to guarantee your file is read correctly:

- **Design in Millimeters (mm) at 1:1 Scale** Your file **must** be designed at a 1:1 scale, with **millimeters (mm)** as the unit. If your part is 100mm long, it should measure 100 units in your CAD program. The dimensions shown in the preview window are your final check.
- **Closed Shapes Only** Your part outline must be a single, continuous, and closed polyline. Think of it as a continuous fence with no gaps.
    - **GOOD:** A complete circle, a rectangle, or a complex outline where the start point and end point are joined.
    - **BAD:** Open lines, or shapes made of separate lines that aren't joined, will be ignored by the system and result in an error.
- **One Part Per DXF File** Each DXF file should contain **only one part**.
    - Do not "nest" or arrange multiple parts in a single file. Our system will do the nesting for you.
    - If you have 5 different parts, please upload 5 separate DXF files.
- **Convert All Text to Paths (Explode Text)** Our system cannot read text elements. Any text (like part numbers or notes) **must be converted to polylines (paths) or "exploded"** in your CAD software. If you only need the text for reference, please delete it from the file.
- **Internal Holes are Supported** Our system fully supports internal cutouts (holes). Just ensure the hole's outline is also a single, closed shape and is located **completely inside** the main part outline.
- **Clean Your File** Delete any unnecessary elements. The file should *only* contain the cutting paths for your single part.

- Remove all notes, annotations, and dimension lines.
- Remove any stray points or lines.
- Delete empty or hidden layers.
- The system will ignore any shapes smaller than 1mm^2.

DXF Checklist:

- [ ] 1:1 Scale in **Millimeters (mm)**?
- [ ] Is the main outline a **single, closed** shape?
- [ ] Is it the **only part** in the file? (No nested parts)
- [ ] Is all text **converted to paths** or deleted?
- [ ] Are all internal holes **closed shapes** and **inside** the main outline?
- [ ] Are all notes, dimensions, and stray lines **deleted**?

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2. Step-by-Step Quoting Guide

Once your file is ready, getting a quote is easy.

Step 1: Upload Your File(s)

You can add parts one by one or all at once.

- **Drag & Drop:** Drag your DXF files directly onto the "Drag & drop" area.
- **Click to Select:** Click the upload area to open a file browser and select one or more DXF files from your computer.

A new "Part" row will be created for each file you upload.

Step 2: Check the Preview

A preview of your part will appear. This is your most important check.

- **File:** Check that the correct filename is shown.
- **Dimensions:** Look at the Dimensions (e.g., 150.25mm x 75.50mm). This shows the maximum length and width of your part. **If these dimensions look wrong, your file is not at a 1:1 mm scale.** Please go back and fix your file.
- **Preview image:** This image must be a correct visual representation of your part. If it appears blank, incomplete, or shows just a single line, your file has an error.

Please see the **Troubleshooting DXF Uploads** section at the end of this guide for the solution.

Step 3: Select Your Material

In the "Select Material" dropdown, choose the material and thickness you need.

- **Note:** Your part's dimensions must be smaller than the material sheet size. If your part is larger than the selected material, you will get an error during calculation.

Step 4: Enter Quantity

Type the number of of this *specific part* you wish to order.

Step 5: Add More Parts (Optional)

- To add more parts, either drag and drop new files or click the **"+ Add Another Part"** button.
- **Pro-Tip:** If you have many parts and want to use the same material for all of them, select the material on any *one* part, and then click the **"Apply to All"** button.

Step 6: Calculate Price

When all your parts are added, click the **"Calculate Price"** button.

The system will now analyze all your parts, group them by material, and run them through our nesting engine to find the most efficient layout. This may take 30-60 seconds, and you will see a progress bar.

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3. Understanding Your Quote & Checking Out

Once the calculation is complete, your results will appear.

- **Cost & Weight Per Component:** The price and weight for a *single unit* of each part will now appear in that part's preview box.
- **Total Price:** The final price for your entire job (all parts and all quantities) is shown next to the "Add to Cart" button.
- **Add to Cart:** If you are happy with the price, click the **"Add to Cart"** button. This will add your complete, custom-quoted job to your shopping cart as a single item.

Shipping

After adding the items to your cart, you can proceed to checkout. Shipping is calculated based on two factors:

1. **Total Order Weight:** The combined weight of all your parts.
2. **Part Dimensions:** The dimensions of your *largest single part*.

Our system automatically offers the cheapest available shipping option:

- **Courier:** For smaller, lighter orders.
- **Pallet Delivery (Standard or Large):** For heavy orders or orders containing at least one part that is too large for courier.

If your part is extremely large (e.g., longer than 2.3 meters), it may be too big for our standard pallet network, and you will be prompted to contact us for a custom collection.

Troubleshooting DXF Uploads

Why is my part preview blank, incomplete, or showing just a single line?

This is the most common issue new users face and is almost always caused by an **"open" or "exploded" DXF file.**

- **What it is:** Your file may *look* like a complete part in a CAD program, but it is actually made of many separate, individual lines, arcs, or splines that are not connected.
- **Why it fails:** Our system requires a **single, closed polyline** to understand the part's boundary. When it sees dozens of separate lines, it can't determine the correct outline and either shows nothing or just grabs one of the individual pieces or may display additional lines.

The Solution: Join & Close Your Part (Using AutoCAD)

This is the recommended method for users with a standard AutoCAD license.

1. **Open Your DXF File:**
    - Open the problematic DXF file in AutoCAD.
2. **Join All Segments:**

- Select all the individual lines and splines that make up the part.
- In the command bar at the bottom, type JOIN.
- Press **Enter**. AutoCAD will convert all the separate segments into a single, unified Polyline.

3. **Close the New Polyline:**
    - After joining, the new shape is still technically "Open." We must flag it as "Closed."
    - Select the new, single polyline you just created.
    - In the command bar, type **PEDIT** (which stands for Polyline Edit) and press **Enter**.
    - You will see a list of options in the command bar (e.g., [Open/Join/Width/Edit vertex...]). Type C (for "Close") and press **Enter**.
    - Press Esc to exit the command.
4. **Save the File:**
    - Go to **File > Save As** and save your file as a new DXF.

This new, fixed file will now upload to our system correctly, and the correct preview will appear instantly.