

## The evolution of mid-century door handles and plates

In the 1920s, long plates, latch plates, and key plates were made from pressed sheet metal alongside cast plates. The long plates were mainly decorative, as they covered the entire length of the door. The door handles were attached to the long plates with flanges, which transmitted the push and pull forces to the door. However, this design required the handles to be adapted to the thickness of the door, which increased the manufacturing and storage costs.

In the 1930s, there were full-size interior door locks that covered most of the door edge. However, during World War II, there was a shortage of materials. Therefore, smaller interior door locks were developed. The long plates also became smaller, as they only needed to provide a better grip for the wood screws above and below the lock body.

Long plates were popular in the 1930s, but round escutcheons were also common. Escutcheons were circular metal discs that surrounded the handle and protected the door from wear and tear. In the 1930s, Escutcheons had three screw holes, but after the war, they had two screw holes for slightly larger screws.

The mid-century era was also marked by functionalism, a design movement that emphasized function over decoration. Most door handles were cylindrical in shape with few decorative elements. Bakelite and thin

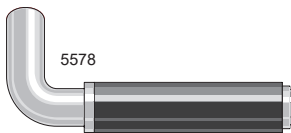
sheet metal sleeves replaced wood as the material for the handle ferrules (the parts that connect the handle to the plate). During the war, brass was often replaced by steel, but this was not visible, as all fittings were nickel-plated.

It was not until the 1950s that decorative elements began to reappear. Bright Bakelite ferrules were introduced to add some color and contrast to the door handles. Wooden ferrules also came back, but not in black, but in different types of wood, such as oak, teak, and rosewood. The end nut, which held the sleeve in place, was more prominent and usually cambered (curved outward). On many handles, it was rationalized by no longer making the Bakelite or wooden sleeve tubular (hollow) but giving it a gable (triangular) shape and pressing it onto the handle frame. The thin nickel-plated sheet metal plates still prevailed, both in round and rectangular forms.

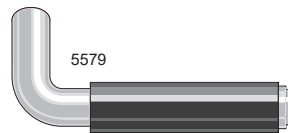
The whole development was also dictated by a quest for costs. More handle manufacturers started production in Småland and Västergötland regions of Sweden and competition became more intense. The traditional Eskilstuna industry lost its previously dominant position.

Eskilstuna Kulturbeslag's mid-century handles can be combined either with latch plates and key plates or with long plates. Escutcheons (the parts that cover the keyhole or latch) can be exchanged for WC accessories.

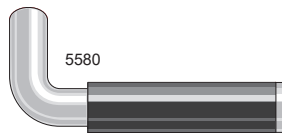
### Handle



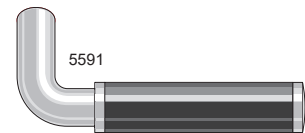
1930s - 1940s



1930s - 1940s  
Simplified design

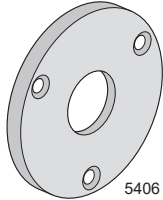


1950s - 1960s  
Simplified design

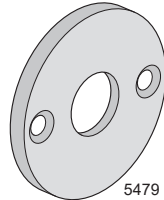


1950s - 1960s

### Rosette

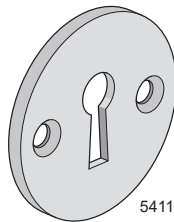


1930s - 1940s



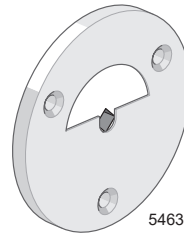
1950s - 1960s

### Escutcheon

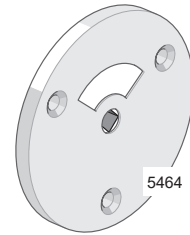


1930s - 1960s

### WC accessories

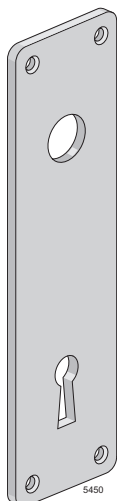


WC accessories for locks  
with  
½ turn rotation

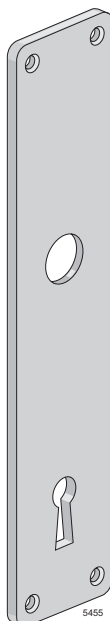


WC accessories for locks  
with  
¼ turn rotation

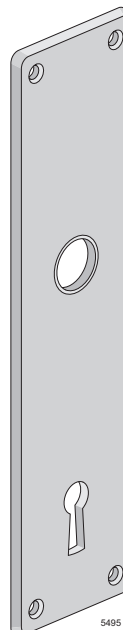
### Long plate



The low long plate  
was common in the  
1950s and 1960s.



The tall long plate  
was most common  
in the 1930s and  
1940s.



A wider long plate  
better covers holes  
and damages in the  
door.

**Do not over tighten the screws.  
It will cause the plate to deform.**