

Prototyping Resources and Links

RS Components

Professional trade supplier of electrical, electronic and mechanical components; fasteners; cables; engineering materials; tools; equipment; etc. Not cheap but a vast range available.

Mainly online at <http://uk.rs-online.com/web/home.html>

Nearest Trade Counter is at Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NR

Maplin

Very good for electrical and electronic components and products.

Mainly online at <http://www.maplin.co.uk/>

Nearest store is at Willowbrook Park, Derby Road, Loughborough, LE11 5HG

HPC Gears

Professional trade supplier of gears, pulleys, chains, bearings and some engineering materials. Not cheap but an excellent range and good quality.

Online at <http://www.hpcgears.com/>

Hobby's

Online supplier of modelling and craft materials including wood, polystyrene sections and foams, metal sheets, gears, adhesives, putty, clay, etc. Also some low temperature moulding and casting materials.

<http://hobby.uk.com/>

Homecrafts Direct

Online supplier of art and domestic craft supplies but may be useful if you go directly to the Design & Technology link for some materials, including wood, metals, acrylic sections, acrylic components, foams, plastic sheets, wire, etc.

[http://www.homecrafts.co.uk/ Design-Technology](http://www.homecrafts.co.uk/Design-Technology)

Hobby Craft

Mostly art supplies and domestic craft supplies but includes paints and adhesives, may be good for fabrics and textiles.

Nearest store is at Lady Bay Retail Park, Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GZ

Also online at <http://www.hobbycraft.co.uk/Home.aspx>

Charnwood Fasteners

A good local supplier of fasteners, happy to deal in small quantities.

Unit F27-30, Cumberland Trading Estate, Loughborough, LE11 5DF

Lighthouse

A good source for water slide transfer labels (see example below); although it is not their core business and it may not appear on their website. However, there is a minimum order of in £50 excluding VAT.

<http://www.lighthouse.uk.com/>



Everest Label

Overseas suppliers of woven textile labels (see example below); this is not cheap and minimum quantities apply but might be a good supplier if woven labels are required.

<http://www.everestlabel.com/>



Aluminium Warehouse

<http://www.aluminiumwarehouse.co.uk/>

Sells tubes sections, extrusions, etc.

Metals 4U

<http://www.metals4u.co.uk/>

Aluminium, Copper, Brass, Bronze, Mild and Stainless Steel even Nylon and acetyl in tubes and different profiles. Even sells polishing kits and fasteners etc. Also has a useful resources page.

PipeCraft

<http://www.pipecraft.co.uk/>

Bends stainless and mild steel and Aluminium, as well as stock standard tubing and has ability to fabricate (though this is basic).

RollTek

<http://www.rolltek.co.uk/>

More industrial castors, but have some good guidance pages about castor layout and what different layout offer in terms of optimising weight and manoeuvrability.

TENTE

<http://www.tente.co.uk>

Huge selection of castors, very helpful

Direct Plastics

<http://www.directplasticsonline.co.uk/DelrinRod/Natural/20mm/>

Huge selection of plastics

Fitsco

<http://www.fitscoindustries.com/product.aspx?c=776a4d80-e81a-4ce5-8b3a-df7970ec8bd4>

Brilliant selection of threaded inserts and helpline is useful in enquires about pilot holes and design of parts

Find the Needle

<http://www.findtheneedle.co.uk/companies/h-and-h-products-ltd/products/tube-bending-west-midlands>

Good website directory of companies, specifically manufacturers in your local area, or in the UK in general