

**izé**

**basics**  
Sergison Bates architects



## basics

It can be very hard to think with clarity about the things that surround you. There is a huge amount of stuff which appears peripherally in the background of our lives and with which we only occasionally connect when we need to perform a specific task. Yet it is only at these points that we physically engage with the buildings in which we live. Our houses and offices are full of these small moments which form delicate bridges between the mass of the walls and the planes and openings which surround and enclose us and our presence within the space.

These items are so ubiquitous, and so generic, that we rarely, if ever, notice them. Most ironmongery and hardware develops a kind of psychological patina through use, memory and years of being taken for granted, and it is rendered virtually invisible. As a result of centuries of fading into the background, these small elements have evolved into standard components which function; which will do, and which have remained effectively unchanged. What we are left with then, is a selection of Victorian, sometimes Georgian, or even older designs which have become a kind of vernacular. It seems absurd that, despite the radical changes in the architecture of the last century, we continue to live with such archaic hardware yet it is accepted because it has become invisible, and because it is not seen, it has rarely been questioned.

With the tagline of 'the architecture of the everyday', we at izé have long felt it important and appropriate to readdress this whole undervalued vocabulary of an architecture for the hand. Sergison Bates architects design buildings which deal with exactly these issues, with use and with the ordinary, with function and with memory. Thus they have been able to examine this list of items and to redesign them in such a way that each element has retained the shadow of what preceded it, the deep imprint which we all carry around of how these things have appeared to us in their traditional, now almost invisible incarnations. Yet they have also created a new language, using the most familiar and mundane forms – simple bent bar, visible fixings, stainless steel plate, cross-head screws – and have created a consistent internal system and tectonic vocabulary which gives unity and coherence to the range whilst never denying the small imperfections which result from the handmade nature of the items.

With basics we hope we have manufactured a range which will become as generic as the pieces it attempts to begin to replace but will also have a similar ability and propensity to fade into architecture, to appear in the background and supply a moment of pleasure at those occasional junctures where we come into intimate physical contact with our buildings.

Edwin Heathcote

## the essence of things

“Every object has a history and if we consider them in perspective they may appear slightly different: it is in these slight differences that they show their meaning in regard to time. Differences may be introduced, varying materials or proportions, but what must remain is the ‘essence’ of the (object).”  
— Alvaro Siza.

Our main objective in designing this range of ironmongery was to satisfy an increasing need, in the building projects of our own studio, for simple objects that complete the ironmongery specification. Objects like catches, trickle vents, window stays and thumbturns form a basic requirement to most building projects and yet they are rarely considered in ‘designer’ ranges available in the current market.

It has been our concern that these objects, forming the very background of spaces, should express a great degree of moderation and be open enough in their expression to establish connections within their context. This is why we call the collection the basics range, considering that many specifiers like ourselves will be looking in the same way to achieve a carefully co-ordinated background of simple things.

We have sought to clarify the nature of each piece of ironmongery, asking ourselves what it is in essence. It has been important to us that each piece is familiar, it looks like what it is. This is because we believe that a quest for originality in form is a quest that ignores the essence of the object itself. Through fine adjustment and certain inconspicuous details we have sought to make a collection of unique objects which remains essentially familiar.

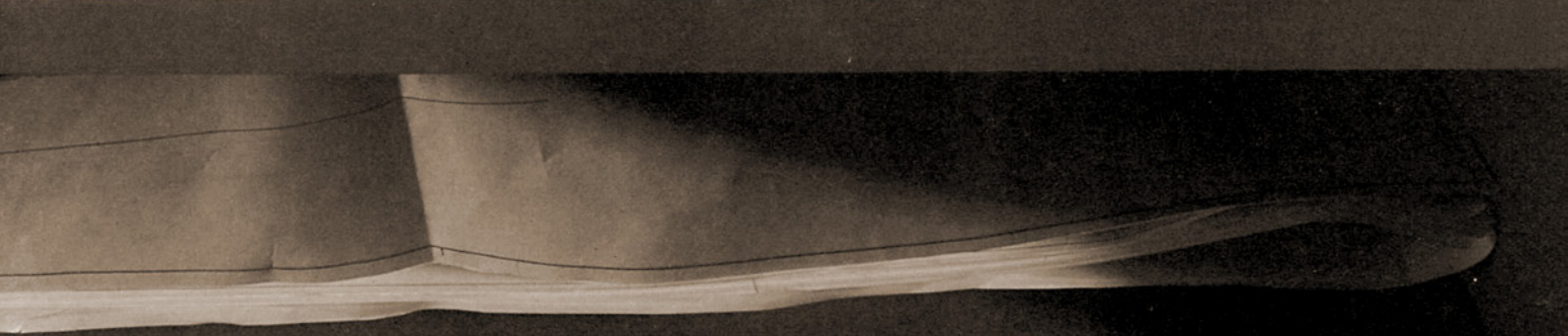
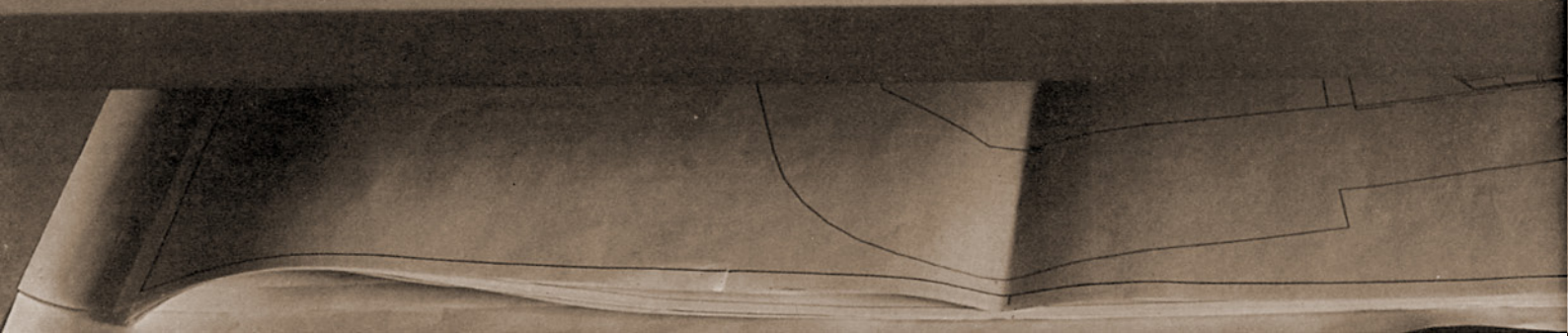
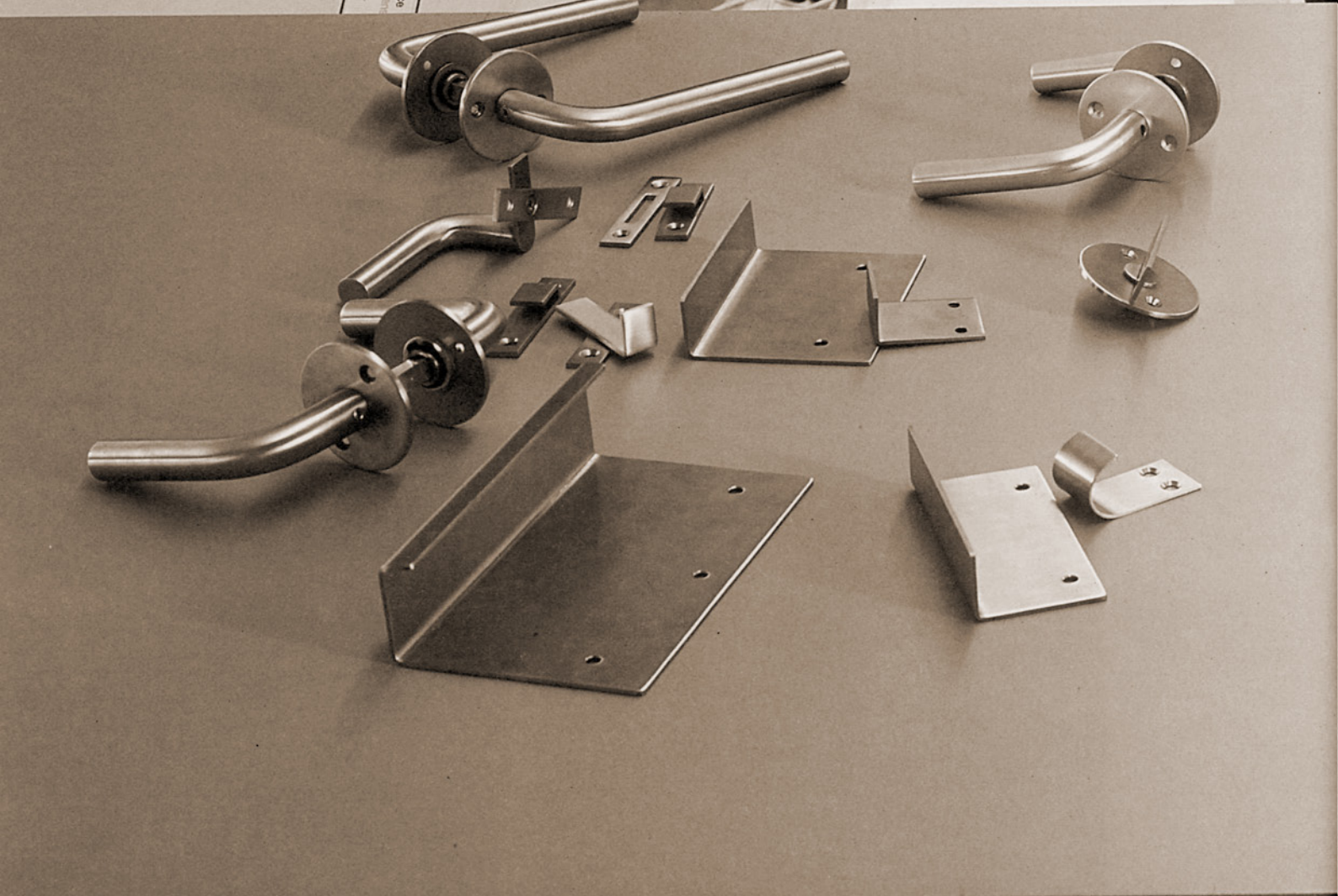
We enjoyed the notion that each piece would have a utilitarian character and the feeling that it had been made by hand. By expressing each element of the assembly, using simple welding and bending techniques and accepting the vagaries of polishing and finishing, we hope we have achieved a ‘carefully careless’<sup>1</sup> quality.

The design of each piece has undergone a process of reduction through drawing and prototyping and it has shown us that the true nature of the object can only be assessed through the making and holding of it. The high degree of contact throughout with the principals and metalworkers at izé has allowed this process of navigation to take place and their knowledge of industrial production and enthusiasm for what we were seeking has contributed significantly to the range now complete.

Jonathan Sergison and Stephen Bates

1. The expression ‘carefully careless’ was coined by the Architectural historian Robert Maxwell in “Sweet disorder and the carefully careless”, Architectural Design, April 1971







**Trickle vent**

Reference code: SBW01 (SSS)

Length: 383 mm  
Width: 30 mm  
Depth: 6.5 mm



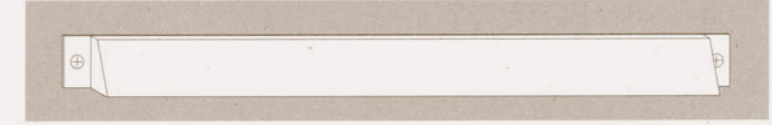
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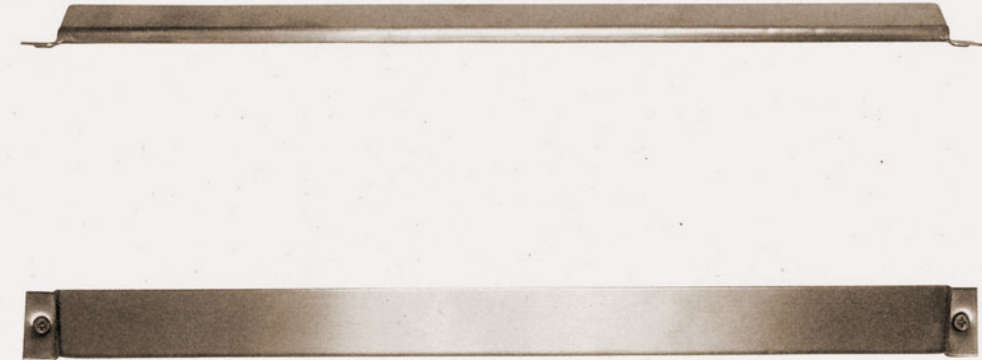
**Trickle vent canopy**

Reference code: SBW02 (SSS)

Length: 383 mm  
Width: 30 mm  
Depth : 19 mm



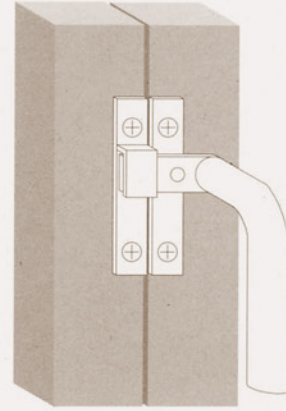
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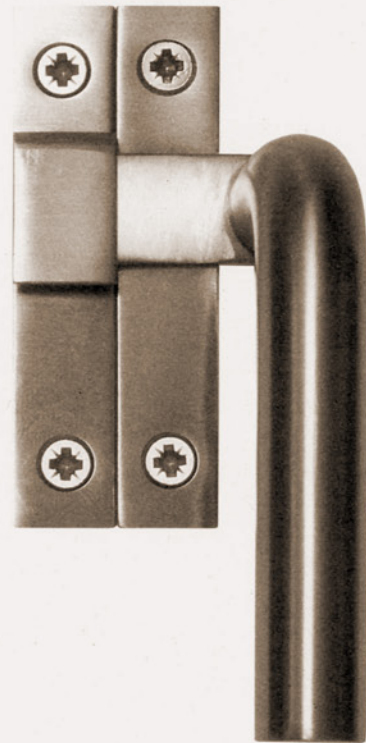
**Window handle casement  
with surface mounted catch**

Reference code: SBW03 (SSS)

Backplate length: 69 mm  
Backplate width: 14 mm  
Handle projection: 47 mm



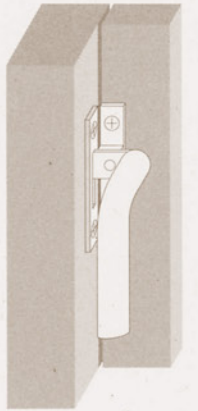
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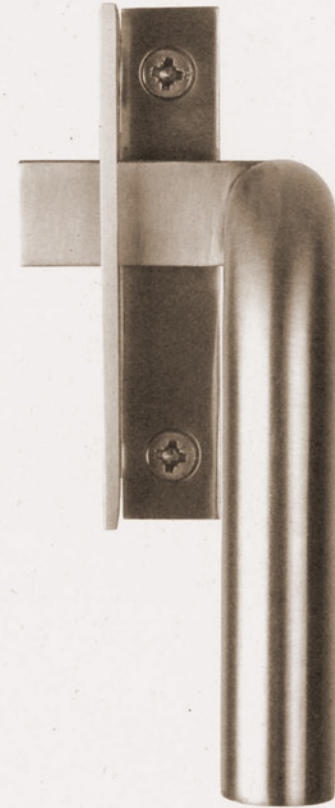
**Window handle casement  
with surface rebated catch**

Reference code: SBW04 (SSS)

Backplate length: 69 mm  
Backplate width: 14 mm  
Handle projection: 47 mm



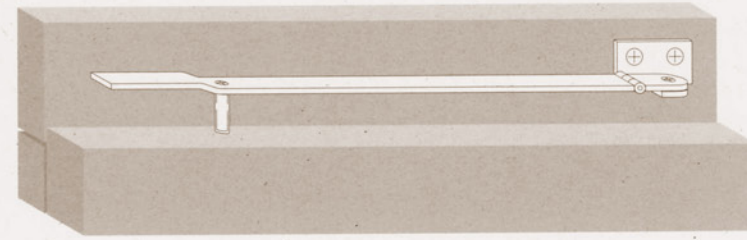
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**Window stay**

Reference code: SBW05 (SSS)

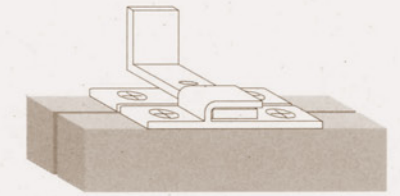
Length: 275 mm  
Width: 25 mm  
Depth: 15 mm



**Sash catch**

Reference code: SBW06 (SSS)

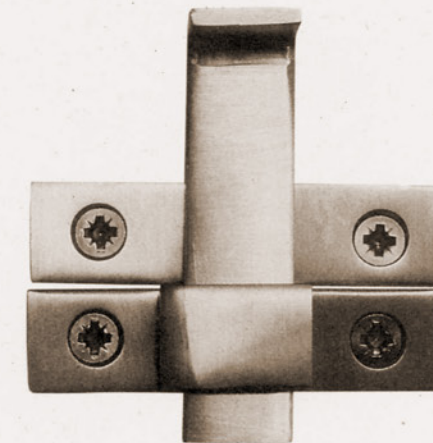
Backplate length: 55 mm  
Backplate width: 14 mm  
Projection: 21 mm



1:2



1:1

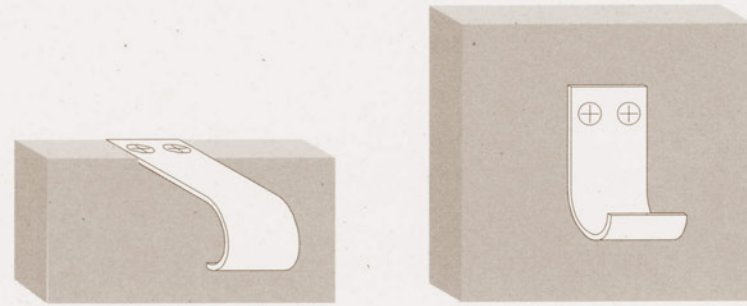




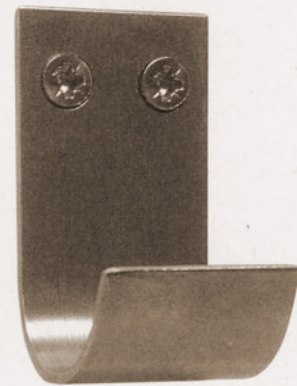
**Sash window lift/hook**

Reference code: SBH01 (SSS)

Length: 47 mm  
Width: 25 mm  
Projection: 24 mm



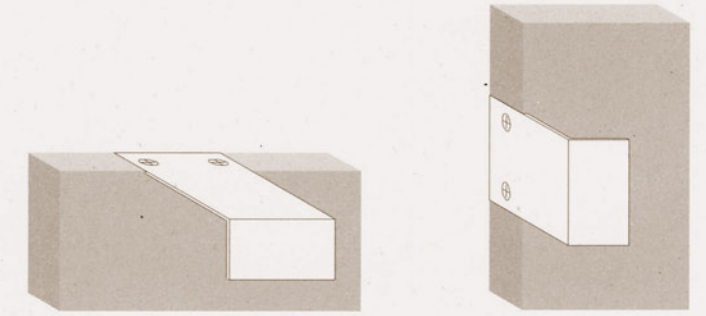
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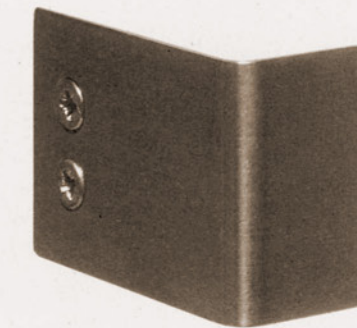
**Cupboard/drawer pull handle**

Reference code: SBC01 (SSS)

Length: 44 mm  
Width: 35 mm  
Projection: 20 mm



1:1





**Small door pull handle**

Reference code: SBP01 (SSS)

Length: 45 mm  
Width: 100 mm  
Projection: 26 mm



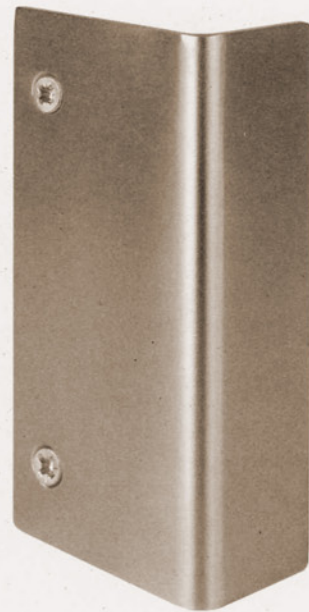
**Large door pull handle**

Reference code: SBP02 (SSS)

Length: 70 mm  
Width: 100 mm  
Projection: 26 mm



1:1.5



1:1.5





Large door pull handle

Reference code: SBP03 (SSS)

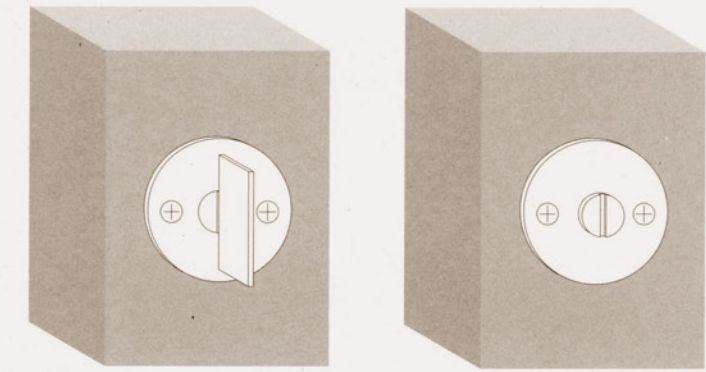
Length: 85 mm  
Width: 150 mm  
Projection: 38 mm



Thumb-turn and emergency release

Reference code: SBT01 (SSS)

Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 20 mm



1:1.5



1:1

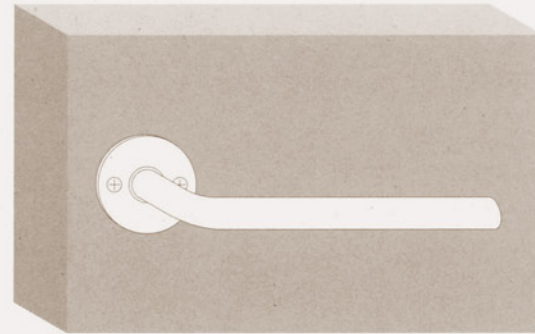




**Door lever handle**

Reference code: SBL01 (SSS/SAA)

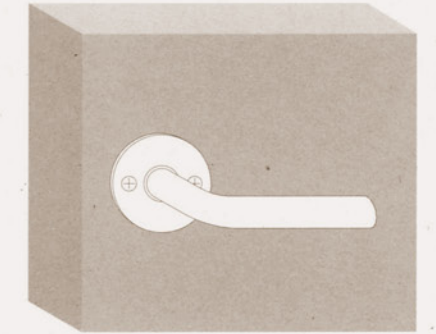
Handle length: 158 mm  
Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 58 mm



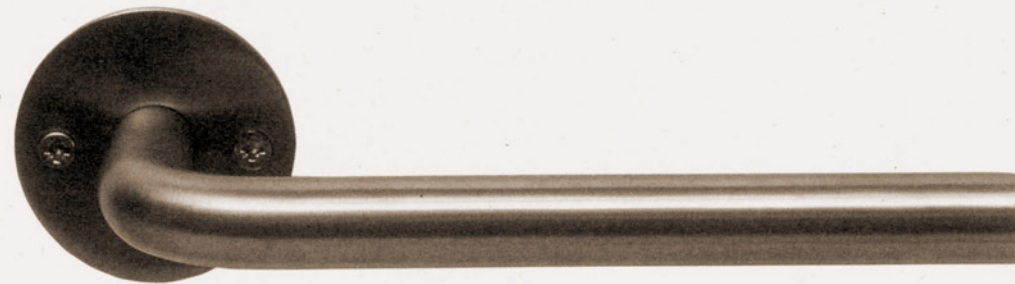
**Window/door handle**

Reference code: SBL07 (SSS/SAA)

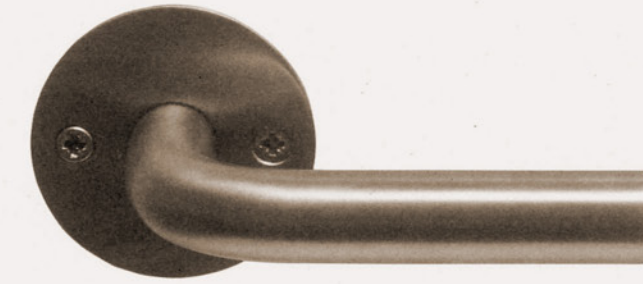
Handle length: 88 mm  
Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 53 mm



1:1.5



1:1.5

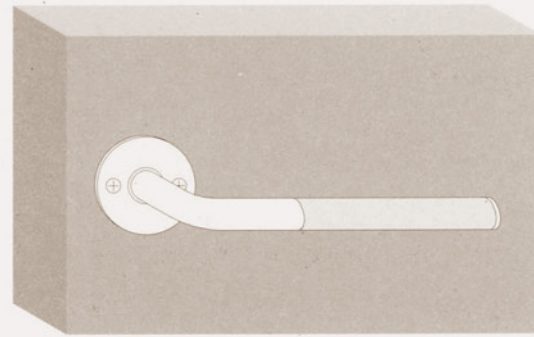




Door lever handle, oak grip

Reference code: SBL03 (SSS)

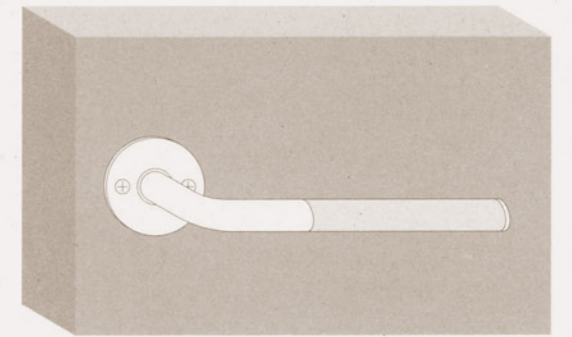
Handle length: 158 mm  
Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 58 mm



Door lever handle, wenge grip

Reference code: SBL02 (SSS)

Handle length: 158 mm  
Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 58 mm



1:1.5



1:1.5

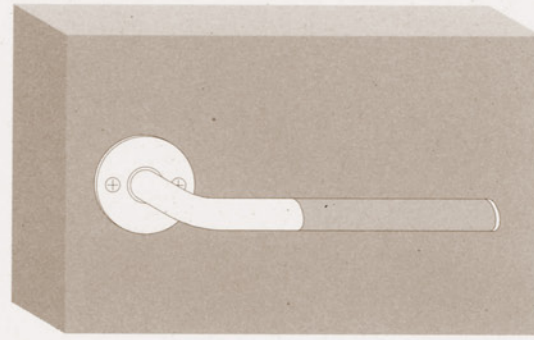




**Door lever handle, patinated brass grip**

Reference code: SBL04 (SSS)

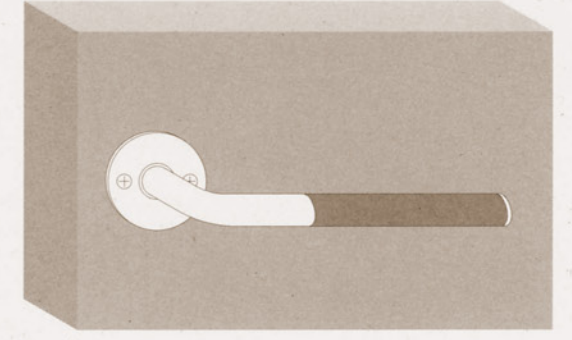
Handle length: 158 mm  
Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 58 mm



**Door lever handle, leather grip**

Reference code: SBL05 (SSS)

Handle length: 158 mm  
Rose diameter: 50 mm  
Projection: 58 mm



1:1.5



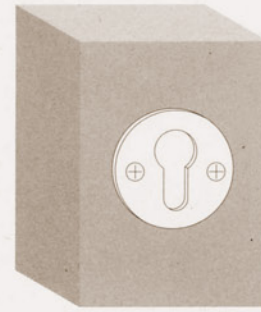
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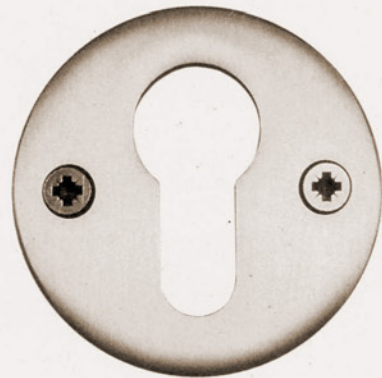
Escutcheon plate

Reference code: SBE01 (SSS/SAA)

Rose diameter: 50 mm



1:1



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SSS Satin Stainless Steel  
SAA Satin Anodised Aluminium

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