

Shopify Swatches Setup Checklist

Native swatches plus the code for the gaps they leave. Built by Kaspian Fuad, Shopify developer.

Native vs code: decide first

Product-page color

Use native swatches. Free, built in.

Collection cards

Native does not render these. Code it.

Non-color options

Native path is color-only. Code it.

Native setup (product page)

Assign a category

e.g. Shirts, with a Color metafield.

Add color entries

Set a color or image per value.

Variant picker block

Choose Circle or Square in the editor.

Where native stops

Product grid cards

No swatches, ever.

Filter sidebar only

Collection swatches live in filters.

Vintage themes

No Variant picker block.

Read the swatch data

product_option_value

.swatch returns color or image.

Returns nil

When no color or image is saved.

Reuse, do not rebuild

Extend Shopify, do not fight it.

Accessible picker

fieldset + legend

Name the group Color (WCAG H71).

Radio inputs

Free keyboard and arrow support.

Visually hidden name

Screen readers announce the color.

State, not color alone

Selected

A border, not just a color (WCAG 1.4.1).

Focus

Visible ring on focus (WCAG 2.4.7).

Sold out

A diagonal line, plus availability check.

Collection-card swatches

Loop the color option

Print one chip per value.

role=img + aria-label

List the color names for readers.

Cap and count

Show 6, then a plus-N marker.

Fallback color map

When swatch is empty

Map the name to a hex.

downcase the key

Match Navy, navy, NAVY the same.

Default gray

Never render a blank chip.

App cost check

Swatch King

\$14.90 to \$99.90 a month by plan.

Easify Premium

\$19.99 a month for swatches.

In-theme code

\$0 and no extra JavaScript.

Verify in 5 minutes

Keyboard tab

Focus ring moves chip to chip.

Card render

Chips under each product card.

CrUX grader

Blocking time holds or drops.