

Product-to-Room Type Pairing Guide

The right RFID & Smart Card Solutions products for every hotel tier — from economy select service to ultra-luxury, matched by CardzGroup's product portfolio.

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HOTEL TIERS

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PRODUCTS MATCHED

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ROOM PAIRINGS

30+

HOTEL BRANDS



ECONOMY / BUDGET HOTELS

Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn, La Quinta, Best Western, ibis budget

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KEY CARD

MIFARE Ultralight

Standard Guest Room — Economy Tier

Chip: 13.56 MHz / 64 Bytes

Price: \$0.08 - \$0.15/card

Why this pairing: Lowest per-unit cost in the MIFARE family. Minimal memory is sufficient for single-purpose room access encoding. Economy chains prioritize cost-per-occupied-room, and Ultralight delivers the best volume economics at 10,000+ card orders.



ECONOMY

KEY CARD

T5577 LF Card

Standard Guest Room — Legacy Lock Systems

Chip: 125 kHz / 330 Bits

Price: \$0.10 - \$0.18/card

Why this pairing: Many budget properties operate older Saflok or Onity LF lock systems with no near-term migration budget. The T5577's multi-protocol emulation ensures compatibility without requiring lock hardware upgrades.



ECONOMY



MIDSCALE / SELECT-SERVICE

Courtyard by Marriott, Holiday Inn, Hyatt Place, Wyndham, Comfort Inn

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KEY CARD

MIFARE Classic 1K

Standard Guest Room — Midscale Tier

Chip: 13.56 MHz / 1 KB

Price: \$0.15 - \$0.25/card

Why this pairing: The global standard for hotel key cards. Midscale properties benefit from 1 KB memory that supports branded card printing with property logos, and the 16-sector architecture allows room access plus basic amenity encoding for fitness centers or parking gates.



MIDSCALE

PVC CARD

Gift & Loyalty PVC Card

Front Desk — Guest Rewards Program

Material: PVC 760 micron

Features: Mag stripe + barcode

Why this pairing: Select-service brands increasingly use physical loyalty cards as a tangible touchpoint. CMYK-printed PVC cards with magnetic stripe integrate with existing PMS loyalty modules and reinforce brand recognition at every check-in.



MIDSCALE



UPSCALE / FULL-SERVICE

Hilton, Marriott, Sheraton, Westin, Hyatt Regency, Crowne Plaza

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KEY CARD

MIFARE Classic 1K (Premium Print)

Deluxe Guest Room — Full-Service Property

Chip: 13.56 MHz / 1 KB

Finish: Metallic accent print

Why this pairing: Full-service properties require brand-standards-compliant key cards with premium print quality.



UPSCALE

KEY CARD

MIFARE Ultralight C

Suite / Club Level — Enhanced Security

Security: 3DES authentication

Memory: 192 Bytes

Why this pairing: Club-level and suite guests expect additional security. The 3DES mutual authentication prevents card cloning attacks that basic Ultralight or Classic 1K cards are susceptible to.



UPSCALE

cards with premium print quality. Metallic foil accents and Pantone-matched colors meet the design requirements of Marriott Design Standards and Hilton Brand Guidelines while maintaining Classic 1K compatibility with VingCard and Saflok locks.

or Classic 1K cards are vulnerable to, while keeping costs below DESFire for properties that need security without multi-application functionality.



LUXURY / BOUTIQUE

St. Regis, Ritz-Carlton, Four Seasons, Aman, Mandarin Oriental, Park Hyatt

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KEY CARD

MIFARE DESFire EV3

Presidential Suite — Luxury Tier

Security: **AES 128-bit**

Price: **\$0.80 - \$1.50/card**



LUXURY

Why this pairing: Luxury properties demand the highest security and multi-application capability. DESFire EV3 supports separate applications for room access, spa, minibar charges, loyalty, and elevator control on a single card. AES encryption meets the security audit requirements of ultra-luxury brands. Custom holographic and metallic finishes elevate the guest experience.

KEY FOB

Leather RFID Key Fob

VIP Suite — Bespoke Guest Credential

Material: **PU Leather + DESFire**

Branding: **Laser engraved**



LUXURY

Why this pairing: Boutique and luxury hotels differentiate through unique guest touchpoints. A leather key fob with the property's monogram creates a keepsake-quality credential that VIP guests appreciate. Some luxury brands offer these as a welcome gift that doubles as a room key.



RESORTS & THEME PARKS

Disney Resorts, Universal Hotels, Sandals, Club Med, Great Wolf Lodge

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WRISTBAND

Silicone RFID Wristband

Pool / Beach / Water Park Access

Waterproof: **IP68**

Chip: **MIFARE 1K / NTAG213**



RESORT

Why this pairing: Resorts need a form factor guests can wear in pools, beaches, and water parks without removing it. Silicone wristbands serve as room key, pool access, and cashless payment credential in one waterproof wearable. Reusable for multi-day stays.

WRISTBAND

Fabric RFID Wristband

All-Inclusive Resort / Multi-Day Event

Material: **Woven polyester**

Closure: **Tamper-proof slider**



RESORT

Why this pairing: Fabric wristbands with locking closures prevent unauthorized transfer between guests. Full-color sublimation printing turns the wristband into a brand marketing piece. Ideal for all-inclusive properties where the wristband validates meal and beverage entitlements.



CONVENTION HOTELS

Marriott Marquis, Hilton Convention Center, Gaylord Hotels, Las Vegas Strip

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KEY CARD

MIFARE Ultralight (High Volume)

Standard Room — High Turnover Convention

Volume: **25,000+ per order**

Turnaround: **5-7 days**



CONVENTION

Why this pairing: Convention hotels cycle through thousands of key cards weekly during peak event seasons. Ultralight's low cost per unit makes high-volume ordering economical, and CardzGroup's fast turnaround ensures properties never run out during back-to-back conferences.

PVC CARD

Event Credential PVC Card

Conference Badge — Branded Event Access

Features: **RFID + lanyard slot**

Print: **Quick-turn thermal**



CONVENTION

Why this pairing: Convention hotels that host events need branded credentials for attendee access control. RFID-enabled event badges double as room keys and can track session attendance. Quick-turnaround thermal personalization handles last-minute registrations on-site.



KEY CARD

MIFARE Classic 1K (Heavy Duty)

Suite — 30+ Day Extended Stay

Thickness: **810 micron (reinforced)**

Durability: **200K+ read cycles**

Why this pairing: Extended-stay guests use their key card daily for 30-180+ days. Thicker 810-micron PVC with reinforced lamination resists bending, cracking, and wear from wallets, pockets, and daily use. Longer encoding life reduces card replacement costs during extended stays.



KEY FOB

ABS RFID Key Fob

Long-Term Guest — Keyring Attachment

Material: **ABS Plastic** Chip: **MIFARE 1K**



Why this pairing: Long-stay guests treat the property like home. A key fob they can add to their personal keyring is more convenient than carrying a card for months. ABS housing survives daily pocket carry, and the compact form factor makes it harder to leave behind in a room.

Cross-Tier Product Compatibility

Products from CardzGroup that work effectively across multiple hotel tiers, offering procurement flexibility and volume pricing advantages.

MIFARE Classic 1K

The industry workhorse. Compatible with virtually all modern hotel lock systems across every tier. Properties can standardize on a single chip type from economy through upscale, simplifying procurement and maximizing volume discounts.

ECONOMY MIDSCALE UPSCALE

MIFARE DESFire EV2/EV3

Premium multi-application platform that scales from upscale to ultra-luxury. Properties upgrading their lock systems should invest in DESFire to future-proof their credential infrastructure for mobile key, IoT, and multi-purpose access scenarios.

UPSCALE LUXURY

Custom Printing & Encoding

CardzGroup's personalization services apply across all hotel tiers. From basic one-color economy cards to metallic foil luxury cards, the same production line delivers brand-compliant output with Pantone matching and lock-specific encoding.

ECONOMY MIDSCALE UPSCALE LUXURY

Silicone RFID Wristbands

Waterproof wristbands serve resort environments across all price tiers. Budget water parks, mid-range beach hotels, and luxury island resorts all benefit from a credential guests can wear in wet environments without card damage.

MIDSCALE UPSCALE LUXURY RESORT