

Innovative switch and sensor technology for safety, detection, signalling and control

Tapeswitch design and manufacture switches and pressure-sensitive sensor products for safety, detection and control applications. We also supply a range of complementary products. Whatever your specific switch or sensor design challenge, we can help you create a sophisticated, effective and reliable solution.

You can incorporate our switches directly in your own products, or ask us to create customised components to fit your product designs.

Based in the UK, we work with companies worldwide.

Patented ribbon switch technology

At the heart of many of our products you'll find our patented press-at-any-point Tapeswitch ribbon switch technology. Simple yet ingenious, the technology is endlessly adaptable. Whether you're looking to turn something on or off when it's pressed, touched or bumped, stood on, sat on or leant against, bent, twisted or driven over, we have the answer.

Proven track record

Our switches and sensors underpin applications everywhere from BAE Systems airbridges to the Warbuton's bakery production line, Skyjack's aerial work platforms, and the Warner Bros Harry Potter Tour.

Bespoke design and manufacture service

We provide a bespoke design and manufacture service here in our UK factory. Tell us what you're looking for, and our design engineers will work closely with you to create exactly what you need.

Standard components to your specification

Our standard components come with custom options so you can choose a design that matches your needs perfectly. No DIY tweaks needed. We take orders of any size and fulfillment is fast and efficient, because we supply direct from our own factory.

Market Sectors

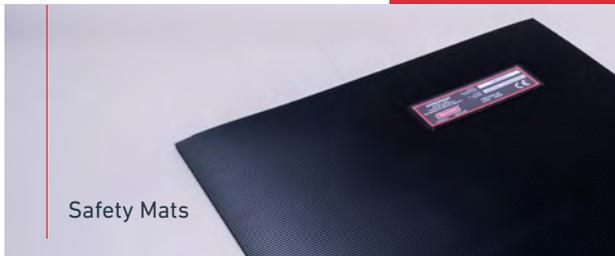
Tapeswitch provide products and services to a wide range of market sectors. The versatility of the Tapeswitch product and the way we operate allows us to manufacture one-off products to niche markets everyday. New technology allows us to be innovative with the product and continuously allow for development in new products.

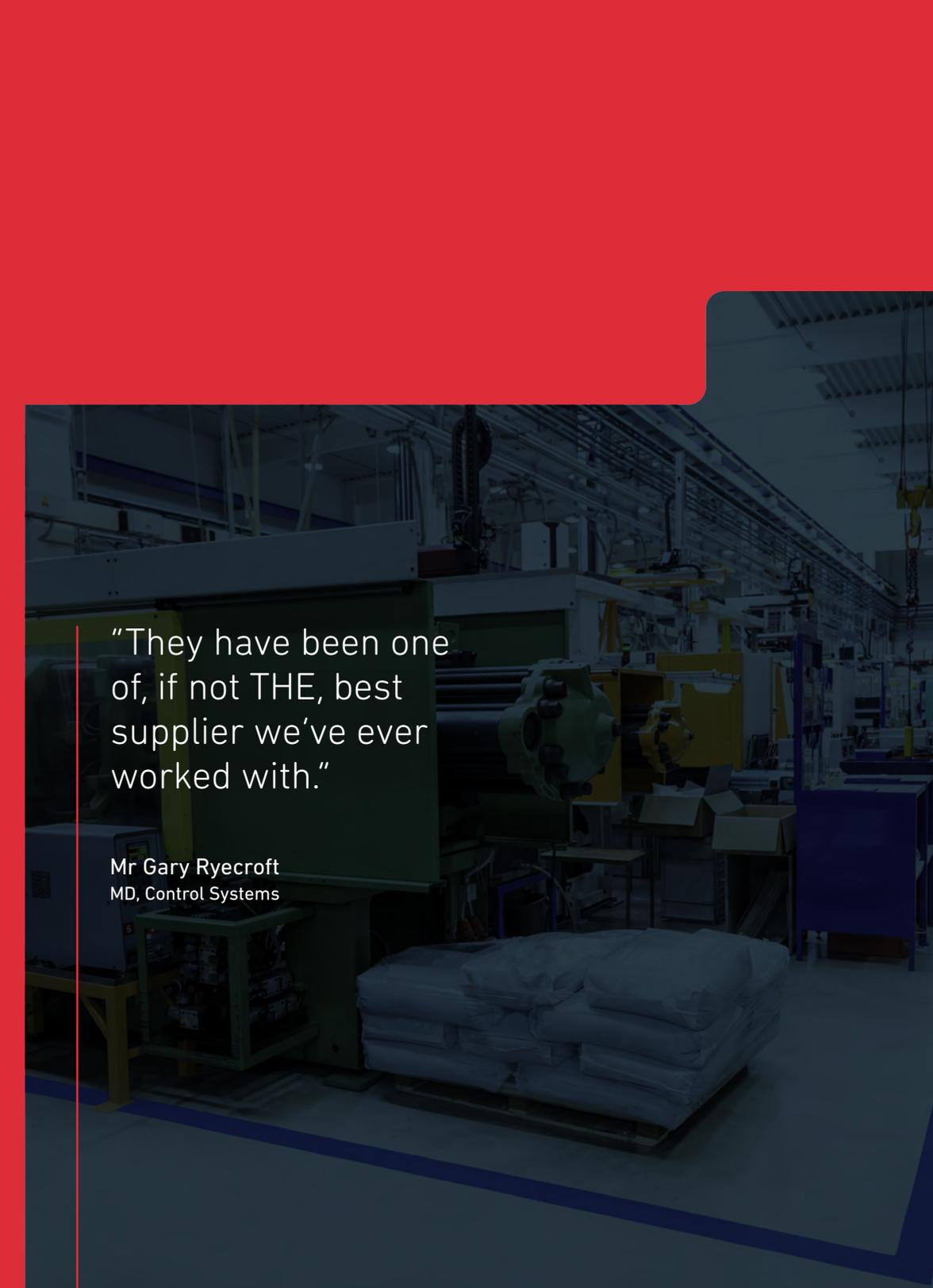
- Manufacturing
- Public Services
- Gates, Barriers & Doors
- Lifting & Handling
- Sports Timing
- Airports, Aviation & Aerospace
- Medical
- Commercial Vehicles

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Our Products





"They have been one of, if not THE, best supplier we've ever worked with."

Mr Gary Rycroft
MD, Control Systems



Ribbon Switches

Tapeswitch ribbon switches are pressure-sensitive strips providing a press-at-any-point, momentary, normally-open contact. Based on our patented ribbon switch technology, the switches are simple, reliable and durable (tested to over 3 million operations). This makes them a popular choice for pressure-actuated switches and sensing devices in applications ranging from signalling to safety to timing systems (our 121BP is used at cycling events worldwide).

A ribbon switch for every application

Choose from a broad range of pressure sensitivities, sheathing materials, end-termination seals, exterior colours, profiles and lead-wire combinations. If you need to bend the switch around a corner, expose it to chemicals or submerge it under water, there's a design to suit.

We can supply ribbon switches factory-sealed in any length and with either 2-wire non-safety, 4-wire fail-safe or 2-wire EOL fail-safe options. Control units are supplied separately – talk to our technical team about these.

Need a bespoke design? We'll work with you to create a switch that matches your product goals and allows you to produce clever design solutions for your customers.



Ribbon Switches

Why choose a Tapeswitch ribbon switch?

Trusted and established product

- Proven reliability and longevity (TÜV approved)
- Simple but effective technology
- Easy installation
- Supplied direct from UK manufacturer

Advice from knowledgeable technical team

- Easy ordering
- Speedy support
- Extensive range of designs

Multiple profile and colour choices

- Coating materials for harsh environments
- Choice of cable, connection and mounting options
- Custom configurations as standard

Designs for almost any activation mechanism

- Corner applications
- Different sensitivities

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Typical Applications

Special needs

Motorised furniture
(e.g. baths/chairs/worktops)

Transportation

Driver alerts

Local authorities

Alarm systems

Factory automation

Product detection

Sports timing

Cycling or swimming events





Sensing Edges

Tapeswitch sensing edges are pressure-sensitive safety edges typically mounted on the leading edge of a moving object to stop the object and provide cushioning in the event of an impact. If you need extra protection for vulnerable equipment, people or both, we can provide a reliable and durable sensing edge that meets your specific requirements and gives you peace of mind.

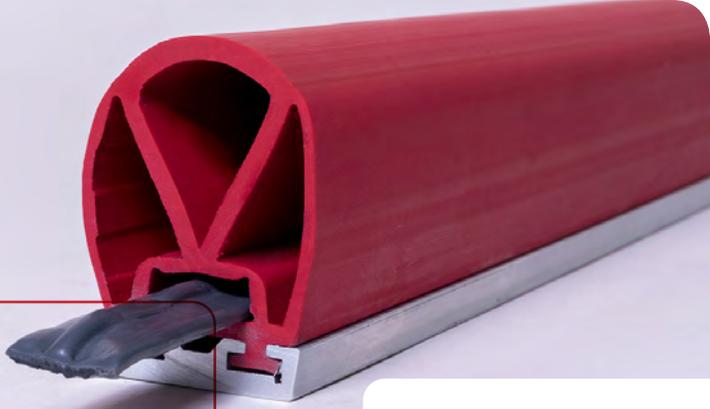
Standard designs, custom configurations

We can configure each of our standard designs in a wide variety of ways. This means you get a customised product that's easy to install and performs perfectly, meeting your exact specifications.

If we don't already have a design that matches your specifications, we can make one that does.

Looking for larger sensing edges or greater customisation?

We also offer a range of bumpers, and can provide a full design and manufacture service using our in-house design, 3D print and moulding capabilities.



Sensing Edges

Why choose a Tapeswitch sensing edge?

Trusted and established product

- Proven reliability and longevity
- Simple but effective technology
- Easy installation

Supplied direct from UK manufacturer

- Advice from knowledgeable technical team
- Easy ordering
- Speedy support

Extensive range of designs

- Multiple profiles and colour choices
- Specialist materials for harsh environments
- Choice of mounting channel options

Custom configurations as standard

- Special shapes
- Mitred corners
- Different sensitivities

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Typical Applications

Personnel lifts

Sliding doors

Conveyor systems

Dumbwaiter doors

Disabled facilities

Medical tables





Safety Mats

Our safety mats protect people working in hazardous areas. With extensive experience in safety mat manufacturing, we're able to offer a completely bespoke product with a fast turnaround.

Options cover primary and secondary guarding scenarios, and we can supply mats as either:

- A trip device, triggering a signal when a person enters the danger area
- A presence-sensing device, staying activated for as long as the person is inside the danger area
- A combined trip and presence-sensing device

Available options include mats designed to stop machines and protect operators, and mats that stop machines where an operator is required for safety, but the operator is no longer present.

We also create multizone pressure mats for sending directional commands and signals to multiple pieces of equipment.

Whether you want to build in safety at the installation of a new machine or are looking to retrofit a mat to an existing piece of equipment, we can provide exactly what's needed.



Safety Mats

Why choose a Tapeswitch safety mat?

Each mat is made to order

- No compromises, no on-site adaptations
- Custom shapes, sizes, logo printing
- Multiple technical options

Trusted and established UK manufacturer

- Speak directly to experienced designers
- Fast turnaround time
- Speedy support

Proven quality and reliability

- Field tested for over 40 years
- Individually manufactured by expert team
- Designs for even the harshest conditions

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Typical Applications

Machinery safety

Interactive

- Play zones
- Theme parks
- Advertising

Access control

- Banks
- Intruder alert
- Transport doors



Bumpers

We design and manufacture pressure-sensitive moulded safety bumpers that provide collision protection for equipment and people. Tapeswitch bumpers are ideal wherever you need soft cushioning and extra over-travel.

With a range of standard sizes plus in-house design, 3D print and moulding capability, we can supply bumpers to almost any specification. As a result, you'll find our bumpers in action everywhere from air bridges to automatic guided vehicles. Whether you're looking to design a bumper into a new product or retrofit one to an existing piece of equipment, we can provide exactly what's needed.

Standard profiles, custom configurations

A wide range of bumper profiles are available as standard, each with a variety of custom configuration options. Configurable elements include housing material, switch position, mounting channel and colour.

Custom moulded bumpers

Need a bespoke approach? We can design and manufacture custom-moulded bumpers that match your specific needs. Our experienced design engineers will work in partnership with you, applying practical problem-solving expertise and innovative thinking to your design challenges.

With in-house industrial 3D printers, advanced moulding equipment and a highly-skilled manufacturing team, we can make bumpers of any shape and to the most demanding of specifications.



Bumpers

Why choose a Tapeswitch bumper?

Trusted and established products

- Proven protection for high value equipment
- Effective and reliable technologies
- High performance materials

Convenient UK base

- Advice from knowledgeable technical team
- Easy ordering and fulfilment
- Speedy support

Configurable standard range

- Multiple profiles, colour choices, and mounting channel options
- Specialist materials for harsh environments
- Easy installation

Custom designs

- Partnership working with design engineers
- Practical knowledge, innovative ideas
- In-house manufacturing

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Typical Applications

Automotive

Materials Handling

Paper/printing/packaging

Hospitals

Freight

Aerospace





Control Units

Tapeswitch control units have been specifically designed to be used with our full range of pressure-sensitive products.

All Tapeswitch control unit output relays are energised when the sensor device is clear (not actuated). When the sensor device is actuated the output relays are de-energised. This ensures that...

Tapeswitch offer a range of control units with various levels of safety integrity. All control units can provide constant monitoring of the sensor device. In the event of a failure within the sensor or its cable (open or short circuit) the safety control unit automatically detects the failure and, depending on the selected operational mode, will carry out a remote manual reset, an auto-reset or a self-contained manual reset.

Tapeswitch Control Units operate with a choice of input voltages, 24VDC, 110 and mains.

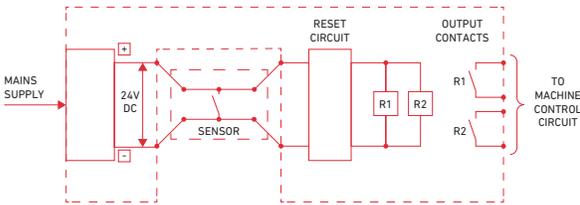




Control Units



Fail-safe wiring principle



Features & Benefits

Complete fail-safe system

EN-13849

Variety of enclosure styles

Choice of input controls

Technical Spec

	Type	Safety Standard	Supply Voltage	Mounting Option	Reset Mode	Output Contacts
PRSU/4	Safety	EN13489-PLd	24Vdc	DIN Rail	Manual/auto	3xN/O, 2A@240V
PSSR-2	Safety	EN13489-PLd	24Vdc	DIN Rail	Manual/auto	2xN/O, 1xN/C 5A@240V ac
PSSU/1	Safety	EN13489-PLd	110/230Vac	DIN Rail	Manual	2xN/O, 2A@240V
PSSU/3	Safety	EN13489-PLd	110/230Vac	Surface Mounted	Manual	2xN/O, 2A@240V
PSSU/2	Safety	EN13489-PLd	24Vdc	DIN Rail	Manual	2xN/O, 2A@240V
PSSW	Safety	EN13489-PLc	12/24Vdc + 3Vdc	Surface Mounted		
SRUS	Safety	EN13489-PLe	24Vdc	DIN Rail	Manual/auto	3xN/O, 6A@240V dc

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Case Study Fleet Service Limited

"Tapeswitch? They're good people to deal with."

Graham Beeston, MD of Fleet Services Limited (FSL), explains why, for more than a decade, he's been placing Tapeswitch products at the heart of the company's security vehicle conversions.

"An integral part of the design"

Not all security vehicles start life as security vehicles. FSL is one of only a handful of security vehicle conversion specialists in the UK, turning regular road vehicles (of varying types) into bomb and ballistic-proof vehicles designed to transport large amounts of money safely and securely.

"We're vehicle convertors, specialists in high security, high value transport," explains FSL MD Graham Beston. "We convert vehicles from the ground up, including locking systems, armour plating, bulletproof (ballistic) glass, security etc. We started in vehicle maintenance, and still maintain the vehicles we make."

No vehicle relies on a single level of security. There's a four-stage entry system, for example, one stage of which is a pressure sensitive floor, so the occupancy can always be assessed remotely. "We needed a floor that would let us know if someone is present in that area. We were recommended to speak to Tapeswitch and have been working with them over a decade. We use this system all the time - it has become an integral part of the design."



Working with Tapeswitch

“Tapeswitch are reactive to any problem,” says Graham. “That’s important to us because each van’s flooring is bespoke to accommodate different layouts, shapes, colours etc so there are often changes. They’re good to deal with.”

Graham’s philosophy when it comes to suppliers is simple: “If the job’s right, we don’t move. We don’t buy on price; we buy service & quality. If the service is right, the quality is right – and in this industry, quality is absolutely everything. We’re very happy with what we’ve got.”

Graham values the fact that Tapeswitch is close by – “I’m a big believer in buying local” – but there’s a practical element behind the local loyalty. “If we have a problem, we can sit down and solve it. Sometimes we’re only able to give Tapeswitch short notice but, because they’re local, they can drop it off quickly.”

“It’s about quality.” Every vehicle needs regular maintenance, but Graham values the fact that Tapeswitch’s products are one thing less to worry about.

“When we build the vans we maintain them for ten years. So if I can fit a product (like Tapeswitch’s) and never have to touch it again, then all’s good.”

Often, the products Graham uses, such as the pressure sensitive floor mats, are developed with other even more demanding industries in mind – but he’s happy to accept the higher specification. “If it’s robust enough to be run over by a forklift truck, it will certainly cope with a man standing on it.

“Tapeswitch? They’re good people and I’m happy with them.”

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Case Study

Teejay Tronics

“Tapeswitch are my number one choice. I wouldn't use anyone else.”

When print or machinery lines go down, Greater Manchester relies on Tim Howells of Teejay Tronics. And Tim relies on Tapeswitch products.

Tim Howells is an independent service engineer based in Bolton, repairing all manner of machines across Greater Manchester, particularly in the printing and metalworking industries. He's particularly active in safety systems, so when press-brake machines, power presses or guillotines need photoelectric guards, safety mats or safety edges, he's the man to call. And for more than two decades, Tim has chosen Tapeswitch products.

Safety standards

“Sometimes we're working with new installations,” he explains. “Sometimes we're dealing with existing machines where the safety needs bringing up to date. And sometimes a machine may come in from overseas and doesn't meet UK safety standards. It's our job to ensure it does.”



Working with Tapeswitch

"Tapeswitch are my number one choice. I wouldn't use anyone else," Tim says, enthusiastically. "Product quality and availability are both excellent. Turnaround is very good. I may come across products by other manufacturers on site but I'll replace them all with Tapeswitch."

When Tim is called to a breakdown, he relies on Tapeswitch to help him deliver exceptional service standards. "Recently a client needed a safety edge for a hand-fed platen which had broken down," he explains. "Now this is a manufactured part - totally customised - and it was a 3m piece which is quite large for a platen. Yet I was able to phone Tapeswitch and it was ready at the end of the next day to collect - that's a really impressive turnaround."

"It's the same story with safety mats," he continues. "These are totally bespoke - we might need any size or shape - and yet lead time is usually just a week."

A supplier of choice. For Tim, quality, price and lead time are all important, but in a breakdown situation, it's speed of service and lead time that matter most. That's why he continues to trust Tapeswitch.

"I've always found Tapeswitch to be the most competitive on prices. They have the best lead times, are very flexible and in my view, if you fit them, you don't get problems afterwards."

Talk to us about your guards, safety mats or safety edges now.

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Case Study

Control Station

“They have been one of, if not THE, best supplier we’ve ever worked with.”

For Gary Rycroft, MD of Leeds-based electronics solutions provider Control Systems, the Tapeswitch relationship spans two decades and two businesses.

Creating a market leader

In 2005, a change in legislation meant a sea change in the safety standards required in electronic doors. Gary’s company designed and manufactured electronic door control equipment, and one of the key requirements of the new legislation was that any garage door should be able to detect contact with an obstruction, stop and return to its original position.

Gary worked with Tapeswitch to develop a safety device that could be fitted to the leading edge of the garage door to detect if something or somebody was in the way. So successful was it that it became the UK’s market-leading product, leading Gary to sell the company in 200* and launch Control Station.



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Control Station

Even though his company's market has changed and developed (moving into a diverse range of sectors including panic switches, mobile platforms and transport), Gary still works proactively with Tapeswitch.

"One of our current projects concerns the mobile elevated working platforms (MEWPS or scissor lifts) used to load and unload aircraft," he explains. "Tapeswitch have designed the bumper switch which communicates with the electronic control box we built into the lift.

Working together we've also designed a 20-tonne door stop mechanism for Airbus, which stops the door within 4mm of an aircraft. And we've recently completed a project at a tram depot in Bergen (Norway). In fact, we've been working together in depots all over the world."

The backbone of Control Station Control Systems has become the "backbone" of lots of companies and organisations, designing and installing their products in fire stations, aircraft hangers, tram and rail depots and more. The company is also behind the loading bay control panels of stores across the UK ("there's not a major high street retailer that hasn't used our products.")

And the backbone of Control Systems? "I've known Tapeswitch for about 16 years now," recalls Gary. "They're the only ribbon switch manufacturer we work with. They have been one of, if not THE, best supplier we've ever worked with. Everyone is polite, professional and well mannered. They're reliable, and they're a dream to deal with. First class."

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