The Paten





The paten is one of the three sacred vessels (chalice, ciborium, paten). It is a small shallow plate or disc of precious metal, the same material as the chalice. The bread is placed upon the paten at Mass in preparation for consecration. After consecration and the Fraction, the Sacred Host is again placed on the paten where it will remain until the priest consumes it as the Body of Christ

Patens ensure that any particles of the host that may have broken away are contained. The priest or deacon purifies the paten over the chalice, and then the chalice is purified with water, which is drunk by the priest or deacon, thus consuming any particles of the Body of Christ.

It must be large enough to cover the chalice.
Hardly any ornamentation is used or permitted.





Sources: newadvent.org; catholicculture.org; lincolndiocese.org