The purpose of the aluminum plate is to precisely position fiber optic cables so that light from all of the stars on the plate can be directed to the spectrographs at one time. Each plate covers a three-degree patch of the sky.

- The holes marked with a square are for acquisition and guiding.
- Each plate has a number printed next to the tab. This number is associated with all the data captured by this particular plate.
- The two colors of lines on the plate are to separate the two halves of the observing run.
- Holes along the edge allow the plate to be clamped securely to the cartridge that is then attached to the back of the telescope.
- The holes that are circled are for the fiber optic cables that go to the spectroscope. Each of these holes corresponds to a target star.
- The color that the hole is circled with corresponds to the brightness of the target, blue being the brighttest, black is intermediate, and red is the dimmest. These colors also match the tubing on the fiber optic cables that is plugged into each hole.