INSTALLATION GUIDE

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Panels

Drop-in/Lay-in Tiles for T-bar Grid

Product Overview

Read all instructions for installing Drop-In Panels before starting.

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Drop-in Panels are an out of the box, plug and play acoustic panel, with the fiber optic star ceiling experience built right in. Out of the box, they are ready to be dropped into any standard 15/16" grid ceiling.

The Panel System is designed for easy installation. Each star panel has it's own low voltage star engine built right in and only requires a 12v DC power connection. Up to 100 Star Panels may be daisy chained together which makes wiring and installation a snap.

Each install starts with a Driver (power supply) that is connected to a switched, or controlled line voltage circuit. From the Driver, a Leader Cable carries the low voltage power to the first Star panel. Jumper Cables then daisy chain the power from one panel to the next. For installations with more than 100 star panels, just keep adding additional Drivers and Leader Cables to the same switched circuit.

Design Overview

Plan your installation based on your design. These instructions are a general guideline and your installation requirements may vary based on your design and job site conditions.

Before Starting

Make sure all code requirements are fulfilled. If your home theater project is going to require an electrical permit, you will be subject to the local electrical code requirements. Though it's not always easy to tell if your project requires a permit, it is best to consult with your local permitting authority.

Electrical codes generally follow the National Electric Code (NEC), which is published by the National Fire Protections Association. The main purpose of the NEC is to prevent hazards to human health and safety from electrical shock, tendency to start or perpetuate a fire and production of toxic fumes when exposed to fire.

Star Panels are made with "Class A" fiberglass and covered in a "Class A" fabric finish. Wiring harnesses are made from CL2 and CL3 or higher rated materials. If installing in a plenum, installer must supply CL2P, CL3P, or CMP, and always confirm and conform to local codes before install.

Connecting the Driver

The plug-in Driver is a "table top" type of power supply, with an IEC connector for the input of the line voltage. The selected outlet for powering the Driver should be controlled from a remote switch or control system. Locate the Driver in a proper area that is accessible and within 30 feet of the first Star Panel. At this point, connect the leader cable and run that to the first panel.

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INSTALLATION GUIDE

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Panels

Drop-in/Lay-in Tiles

Installation Overview

1. Put on latex gloves to keep panels clean when handling
2. Orient first panel
3. Install Leader Cable into first panel
4. Turn on power to panel
5. Inspect to see that the stars turn on
6. Drop panel into metal ceiling grid
7. Panel installation complete
8. For additional panels, rotate each panel 90° so the star engine is facing a different direction, to randomize the star pattern
9. Use provided Jumper Cables to chain the next panel to the previous and repeat until all panels are installed

Installation Techniques

1. Use the supplied powder free latex gloves when handling the panels and always use care in protecting the panels' finish. Handle the panels along the edges as much as possible and keep hands clean to prevent finger marks on the faces of the panels.
2. Rest the Drop-In Panels into position by tilting them slightly, lifting them above the framework and letting them fall into place.
3. Each Panel is marked with a no cut zone on one side that indicates the orientation. Every gets rotated one quarter turn in order to provide a more random starry night experience.
4. Connect a jumper cable to the first panel and connect it to the next panel. Up to 25 Star panels can be connected to the 1-Amp Driver and 100 to the 4-Amp Driver. If you need more than 100 panels, then an additional driver and leader cable are required. Do not exceed the capacity of the switched circuit.

How to Cut a Drop-in Panel

Caution: Each panel has a "No Cut Out Zone." If necessary, rotate the panel in order to avoid the "No Cut Zone."

Sometimes cuts will need to occur to the panels to accommodate down lights, vents, sprinkler heads, speakers, etc. This process is easy. Always make any cuts on the face of the panel first in order to keep the proper orientation. Panels are made of fiberglass and a vinyl face making them easy to cut. Avoid the No Cut Zone by rotating the panel so any cuts fall outside that area.

Now Turn On The Switch And Gaze At The Stars. Relax And Enjoy!

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INSTALLATION GUIDE

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Panels

Surface Mounted Panels

Product Overview

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Surface Mount Panels are an out of the box, plug and play acoustic panel, with the fiber optic star ceiling experience built right in.

Our panels are designed for easy installation. Each star panel has its own low voltage Star Engine built right in and only requires a 12v DC power connection. Up to 100 star panels may be daisy chained together which makes wiring and installation a snap.

Each Star Panel system starts with a Driver (power supply) that is connected to a switched or controlled line voltage circuit. From the Driver, a Leader Cable carries the low voltage power to the Star Panels. Then Jumper Cables daisy chain the power from one panel to the next. For installations with more than 100 star panels, just keep adding additional Drivers and Leader Cables to the same switched circuit.

Design Overview

Plan your installation based on your design. These instructions are general guidelines, and your installation requirements may vary based on your design and job site conditions.

Before Starting

Make sure all code requirements are fulfilled. If your home theater project is going to require an electrical permit, you will be subject to the local electrical code requirements. Though it's not always easy to tell if your project requires a permit, it is best to consult with your local permitting authority.

Electrical codes generally follow the National Electric Code (NEC), which is published by the National Fire Protections Association. The main purpose of the NEC is to prevent hazards to human health and safety from electrical shock, tendency to start or perpetuate a fire and production of toxic fumes when exposed to fire.

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Surface Mount Panel are made with "Class A" fiberglass and covered in a "Class A" fabric finish. Wiring harnesses are made from CL2 and CL3 or higher rated materials. If installing in a plenum, installer must supply CL2P, CL3P, or CMP, and always confirm and conform to local codes before install.

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INSTALLATION GUIDE

AlphaSorb® Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Panels

Surface Mounted Panels

Quick Installation Overview

1. Put on Latex Gloves to keep panels clean
2. Orient first panel
3. Install Leader Cable
4. Screw Rotofast Snap-On Anchors into back of the panels using Rotofast Driver Tool
5. Insert marking plugs into the Snap-On Anchors
6. Mark mounting locations
7. Screw ratchets to wall at marked locations
8. Turn on power to panel
9. Inspect to see that Stars turn on
10. Reposition panels
11. Firmly push panel onto ratchets to complete mounting
12. Panel installation complete
13. Repeat steps 4–12 with additional panels after using Jumper Cable to attach to previous panel

Measure Twice, Install Once

Square up the room. Just because it looks square, doesn't mean that it is square. Measure twice because all the panels are aligned off of the first panel The first panel's alignment in the room is critical. Being a little out of square with the first panel could mean you are way out of square when you get to the end of the room, so take your time squaring up the first panel. Using masking tape, pencil marks, and chalk lines will also assist in keeping your installation square and true. Locate where your first panel will be installed.

Running the Power

Based on site conditions and project design, generally you will have two options for the power. The recommended way is using a Remote Driver and pre-installing a Leader Cable, or pre-wire an 22 AWG wire. Another option is to order the optional "Cloud Mount" anchors, and hang the panels from the ceiling by chain (note that this will require at least 4 or more inches of total height and may not be an option for low ceilings.) This allows the installer to plug the Driver to a ceiling outlet and locate the Driver on top of the panel.

Remote Driver — Recommended Method

The plug-in Driver is a "table top" type of power supply, with an I.E.C. connector for the input of the line voltage. The selected outlet for powering the Driver should be controlled from a remote switch, or control system. Locate the Driver in a proper equipment area that is accessible and within 30 feet of the Leader Cable and start daisy chaining the panels together, (not to exceed 100 panels) using the supplied Jumper Cables. Your leader cable should not be longer than 30 feet. Consult with ISC if a longer leader cable is required.

Mounting the First Panel — Rotofast Snap-On Anchors — Standard

See included Rotofast Snap On Anchor Install Guide with pictures for how to mount panels.

Option 2 — Cloud Mount

For Cloud Anchor Installation, use the same process as above, however install the "eye hook" in the ceiling, and screw the cloud anchor into the back of the panel, hang with the desired chain length.

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Surface Mounted Panels

Panel Orientation

Each panel is marked with a no cut zone on one side that indicates the panel's orientation. The Black Fabric on the face is directional so you need to make sure the no cut zones are lined up either North/South or East/West — not a mix of the two.

Ideally every panel can be the same or rotated 180° in order to provide a more random starry night experience but with the fabric orientation consistent. If the fabric orientation isn't consistent you might notice some panels appear lighter black in color and appear not to match.

Installing Additional Panels

Leave the plugs coming out of the star engine hanging off the side so you can connect the next panel. Connect a Jumper Cable to the installed panel and run it to the location of the next panel's star engine. Because of the flat design of the jumper cable, you can "sandwich" the Jumper Cables between the ceiling and panels, or run them along the 2" light cove on the side of all Surface Mount Panels. You may find that using white gaffers tape, glue dots, or double sided tape is helpful in organizing the Jumper Cables during Installation.

Up to 100 Star Panels can be connected together in a single power source. If your installation requires more than 100 Panels, then you would need to add an additional Driver and Leader Cable.

Adding Optional Perimeter Lighting

Mount LED Lighting Strips on the sides of the panels light cove where you want the light to originate. Spanners are used to provide a bridge between panels for the Lighting. Spanners can be installed after the panels have been mounted.

Now turn on the switch and gaze at the Stars. Relax and Enjoy!

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