

Installation Notes for *Heavy-Plastered Wall and Ceiling Finishes*

When installing Stealth Acoustics speaker panels into walls or ceilings finished with an extra-heavy troweled-on layer of plaster or similar material over the wallboard, proper positioning of the unfinished speaker panel face relative to the face of the unfinished wallboard is critical. Typically, this type of installation calls for 5/8" wallboard with a 1/8" layer of finishing plaster applied with a hand trowel to the face of the wallboard, resulting in a finished wall 3/4" thick.

Stealth Acoustics speakers are designed to match 1/2" (12.7 mm) wallboard with one provided thick shim or 5/8" (15.87 mm) or thicker wallboard if additional thick shims are utilized. With the added wall thickness created by a plaster coat, it is necessary to move the speaker panel face outward so that the extra plaster layer does not build-up over the face of the panel. To move the panel face outward, additional shim material must be taped to the back of the Stealth Acoustics speaker panel where they attach to the studs. In the 5/8" wallboard example above, this requires using two 1/8" shim strips or the equivalent - 1/4" total – taped to each side of the rear of the speaker panel. Install shims as required to register the panel properly, based on actual wallboard thickness. Stealth Acoustics offers a "Shim Kit" accessory package containing extra shims. Contact Stealth Acoustics if you need a shim kit.

In all cases, the speakers should be primed prior to any skim coat or texture application to ensure strong adhesion and it is important to keep the plaster, or any joint compound, as thin as possible on the face of the speaker panel. *IN NO CASE SHOULD THE JOINT COMPOUND ON THE CENTRAL PANEL FACE BE BUILT-UP TO MORE THAN 1/32"-1/16" (.79 - 1.5MM) AS EXCESSIVE JOINT COMPOUND WILL REDUCE THE HIGH-FREQUENCY OUTPUT OF THE SPEAKER.* (the active area of the speaker panel is inside of the dashed line around the perimeter of the panel instruction overlay). *Please note that Stealth Acoustics will not provide warranty coverage for cracking or speaker performance failures due to excessive buildup of plaster applied to the active area of the speaker panel.*

If the plaster being applied to the wall or ceiling contains the final color of the finish, we recommend that once the instruction overlay label is removed, the Stealth speaker panel then be primed with a latex primer using the same color as the finishing plaster before the plaster is applied. This will allow the plaster being applied to the active area to be very thin, yet obtain the proper color.

When a plaster finish *does not* contain the finish color and the installation calls for latex paint to be applied over the plaster to obtain the final finish color, a very *light skim coat* of plaster may be troweled over the face of the speaker panel and sanded to obtain a flat finish. The skim process should maintain a plaster coat no thicker than 1/32"-1/16". For optimum speaker performance, 2 to 3 coats of paint should then be applied to the face of the speaker.