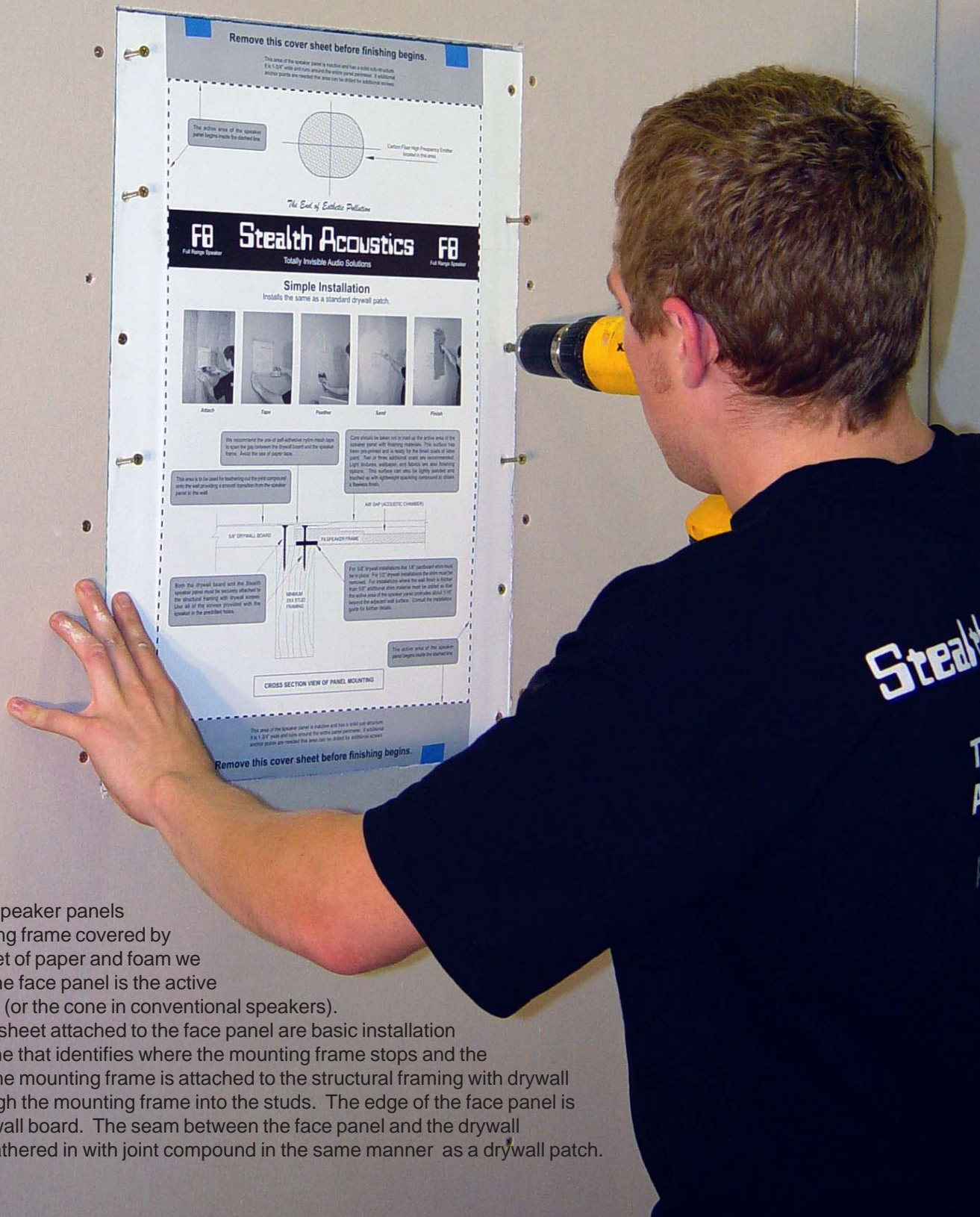


# Installation Instructions

# Stealth Acoustics

## Totally Invisible In-wall Speakers



All Stealth Acoustics speaker panels are built with a mounting frame covered by a 3/16" multilayer sheet of paper and foam we call the face panel. The face panel is the active surface of the speaker (or the cone in conventional speakers).

On a protective cover sheet attached to the face panel are basic installation steps and a dashed line that identifies where the mounting frame stops and the active area begins. The mounting frame is attached to the structural framing with drywall screws secured through the mounting frame into the studs. The edge of the face panel is tapered similar to drywall board. The seam between the face panel and the drywall board is taped and feathered in with joint compound in the same manner as a drywall patch.



### 1. Install Place Saver at Pre-wire.



### Place Savers:

In new construction, Place Savers should be installed when the job is pre-wired. Installing the Place Saver instead of the actual speaker reserves the exact space for the speaker without subjecting the speaker panel to the construction environment. Exposing the unfinished speaker to long periods of high humidity, as sometimes found on a job site, should be avoided.

With Place Savers installed, installation of the speaker panel can take place after the drywall has been hung. The Place Saver is sized slightly larger than the speaker panel to insure the opening in the drywall will easily accept the speaker.

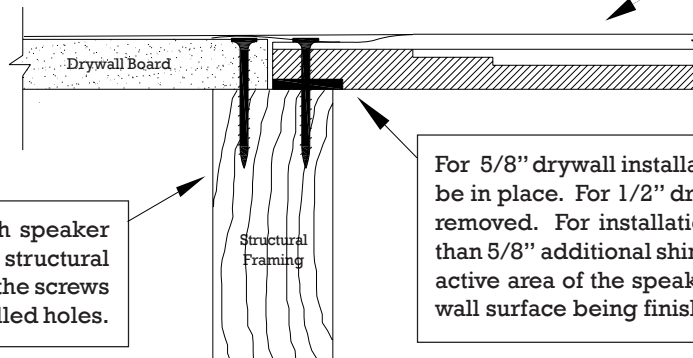
### 2. Remove the Place Saver after drywall has been hung.



This area is to be used for feathering out the joint compound onto the wall providing a smooth transition from the speaker panel to the wall.

Care should be taken not to load up the active area of the speaker panel. This surface has been pre-primed and is ready for the finish coats of latex paint. Two or three additional coats are recommended. Light textures, wallpaper, and fabrics are also finishing options. This surface can also be lightly sanded and touched up with lightweight spackling compound to obtain a flawless finish.

### Cross Section View



Both the drywall board and the Stealth speaker panel must be securely attached to the structural framing with drywall screws. Use all of the screws provided with the speaker in the predrilled holes.

For 5/8" drywall installations this 1/8" cardboard shim must be in place. For 1/2" drywall installations the shim must be removed. For installations where the wall finish is thicker than 5/8" additional shim material must be added so that the active area of the speaker panel is about 1/16" beyond the wall surface being finished to.

### 3. Screw to structural framing.



### Installing Speaker:

Attach the speaker panels directly to the structural framing using the provided screws. The panels have been pre-drilled with the proper number of holes. Be sure that all of the screws are installed and that they hold securely to the framing. **Do not use nails.**

The Cover Sheet identifies where the key components are located and where the active area of the panel begins. Remove the cover sheet prior to step 5.

### 4. Remove cover sheet.



**5. Check panel face alignment with wall.**



**Checking Panel Alignment:**

Stealth speaker panels are designed to be placed so that the face of the panel is 1/16" beyond the finished surface of the dry-wall. This allows room for the joint compound to be feathered from the panel out onto the wall. This will keep joint compound out of the active area of the panel. By placing a straight edge across the face of the panel there should be a 1/16" gap between the straight edge and the wall.

**Taping the speaker panel:**

The edges of the Stealth speaker panel are tapered similar to a piece of drywall board. This is done to allow room for the tape and joint compound needed to blend the panel into the wall. We recommend using self adhesive nylon mesh tape.

**6. Tape seam between panel and wall.**



**For use with 1/2" or 5/8" wallboard.**

Stealth Acoustics speaker panels are designed to work with either 1/2" or 5/8" wallboard. 1/8" deep notches on the rear sides of the mounting frame allows the panel to match 1/2" wallboard. When the speaker is used with 5/8" wallboard the notches are filled with 1/8" shims provided with the speaker.

**What about cracking?**

This is a common concern and frequently asked question. The short answer is NO. There will be no cracking. There is no movement around the perimeter of the speaker panel. If the speaker panel and the wallboard it is adjoining are both properly secured to the framing, and the joint is properly taped and finished, there will be no cracking.

**7. Feather panel to the wall.**



**Feathering to the wall:**

Feathering the speaker panel to the wall is done with standard drywall joint compound in the same manner any other drywall joint is treated. In this case, it is important that enough joint compound be applied to make a very gradual transition from the surface of the wall board to the face of the speaker panel. It will normally take at least a 12" fan of joint compound around the perimeter of the panel to create a seamless transition.

**Sanding:**

Sanding is the last important step before the painting begins. This can make or break the quality of the installation. When sanding, imperfections in the application of the joint compound appear. It usually takes a second or third application of joint compound and sanding to smooth the material and create a seamless finish.

**8. Sand smooth.**





## 9. *Finish wall*



### **Painting and Finishing:**

Once the feathering is complete the panel is ready for painting. Stealth Acoustic speaker panels are engineered for optimum audio performance with 4 coats of latex paint applied to the surface. A light-spray on “orange peel” texture can be applied or even light wallpaper. Heavy knock down or trowel finishes, are not recommended.

*\*For use with additional wall finishes, contact Stealth Acoustics.*