Installation Frequently Asked Questions

**Design Considerations**

**Clearance:** Easy Elegance™ ceiling panels are a drop/suspended ceiling, using Armstrong Prelude® 15/16-in Grid. You will need to have approximately 6-in of clearance above the grid face to install 1280 Deep Coffer panels and 3-in above 1282 Shallow Coffer panels and only 2.5-in above for Flat panels.

**Lighting:** Easy Elegance panels work with most modern light fixtures. Leave a 1/8-in gap between recessed light housing and panel. Additionally, the 1280 panel is 2.5-in tall, so light fixtures may require a height extension component to provide clearance above the panel when installed. Consult local electrical code or lighting fixture manufacturer for all light fixture requirements.

**Heat Source:** Do not install Easy Elegance products in direct contact with open flame or a heat source that can exceed 130 degrees fahrenheit. Most recessed lighting options will meet this requirement, especially modern CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lighting) and LED lights.

**Cutting Panels for Border/Perimeter:** Cutting 1280 and 1282 Coffer panels is not recommended. We recommend using Flat panels for all border cuts or finishing off your perimeter with drywall using our MBAC and DWAC clips installed on your 15/16-in grid.

**Directional Installation:** Flat panels must be installed directionally. Arrows on the back of the panels will show the proper orientation.

**Perimeter Installation Options**

**Option A: Drywall Perimeter**
**Parts needed:** 7300 Prelude® Main Beams and coordinating Cross Tees, MBAC Clip, DWAC Clip, and CHDC Clear Hold down Clip, 1280 or 1282, 1/2" or 5/8" drywall, angle molding, hanger wires and wire fasteners, square edge drywall casing bead (J-channel), Type S 1-1/4" screws, spackle, drywall tape, and paint.

1 – Install your square and level suspension system: angle molding, hanger wires and Prelude® grid with extra wires for lights. Consult local electrical code or lighting fixture manufacturer for all light fixture requirements. Detailed installation directions available on ceilings.com.

2 – Cut coffer panels that will integrate with lighting; leave 1/8" gap between panel and recessed lighting housing. The light fixture trim will cover the gap.

3 – Install lights (need height extensions when using 1280 Deep Coffer panels)
   - 2 1/2" above grid line for 1280 Deep Coffer panels
   - 7/16" above grid line for 1282 Shallow Coffer panels

4 – Install DWAC at transition from ceiling panels to drywall and MBAC Clips at 8” intervals on the mains and tees that will support the drywall as shown in image.

5 – Cut Drywall and screw in place (overlap by 1/16”). Border should not exceed 24” to wall

6 – Finish drywall (bead edge, spackle, sand, and paint)

7 – Drop panels into place

8 – Install CHDC clear hold down clip as necessary to keep panels from shifting (possible near doors/windows)

*continued on back*
Option B: Flat Panel Perimeter

Parts needed: Easy Elegance™ Flat panels, and 1280 or 1282 Coffered panels, 7300 Prelude® Main Beams and coordinating tees, CHDC Clear Hold Down Clips, angle molding, hanger wires and wire fasteners.

1 – Install your square and level suspension system: angle molding, hanger wires and Prelude® grid with extra wires for lights. Consult local electrical code or lighting fixture manufacturer for all light fixture requirements. Detailed installation directions available on ceilings.com

2 – Cut Coffer panels that will integrate with lighting; leave 1/8" gap between panel and recessed lighting.

3 – Install lights (need height extension when using 1280 panels)
   - 2 1/2" above grid line for 1280 Deep Coffer panels
   - 7/16" above grid line for 1282 Shallow Coffer panels

4 – Cut Flat perimeter panels, using a utility knife

5 – Drop 1280 or 1282 into center section and Flat panels into the border

6 – Install CHDC Clear Hold Down Clip as necessary to keep panels from shifting (possible near doors/windows)

If you have ceiling questions, call: **1-877-ARMSTRONG (276-7876)**

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