Easy Elegance™ Ceiling Panel  
Installation Instructions

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 1280BXA Deep Coffer panels or 3-in above 1282BXA Shallow Coffer 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 1280BXA 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 (items 1280BXA and 1282BXA) 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 Coffer panels is not recommended. We recommend using tegular edge mineral fiber drop ceiling panels, like Sahara™ Model #271 for all border cuts or finishing off your perimeter with drywall using our MBAC and DWAC clips installed on your 15/16-in grid.

Installation Instructions  
(Residential Use Only)

MATERIALS AND TOOLS

**Materials Needed:**
- 12-gauge Hanger Wires and Wire Fasteners
- 7300 or 7400 Prelude® Main Beams and Coordinating Tees
- UHDC Universal Clear Hold Down Clips
- 1280BXA or 1282BXA Easy Elegance™ Panels
- Tegular Acoustic Panels, Sahara™ Model #271 recommended
- Wall Moldings (7800R)

**Tools Needed:**
- Safety Glasses
- Cut-resistant Gloves
- Chalk Line
- Measuring Tape
- Hammer
- Pencil
- Utility Knife
- Metal Snips
- Carpenter’s Level or Laser Level
- Drill with Driver bit
- Ball of String
- Clamps (4–6)
**STEP 1: PLAN LAYOUT**

**Sample Room Panel Layout**

*See illustrations 1 & 6*

Start by determining the size of your border panels. Armstrong Ceilings recommends border panels are 1-ft or larger for a clean visual in your space. To achieve this visual, you will need to measure the room dimensions and determine how many full size panels will fit along the wall, starting with your main runner direction (mains always run opposite of the joists). This can be calculated by sectioning the length of your wall into 2-ft increments (full size panels) until you have a remainder less than 2-ft. Next, take your remainder and add 2-ft (one full size panel) and divide by 2 for equal panels on opposite sides. This number indicates your border panel size for your first wall. Repeat this process to determine the size of the border panel for the adjacent wall.

**Example:** The length of wall A is 15-ft 7-in. Section this wall into 2-ft increments, finding a remainder of 1-ft 7-in. Now add 2-ft for a total of 3-ft 7-in and divide by 2, to get 1-ft 9-1/2-in. This is the size of the border panel for Wall A.

The length for Wall B is 11-ft 3-in. Section this wall into 2-ft increments, finding a remainder of 1-ft 3-in. Now add 2-ft for a total of 3-ft 3-in, and divide by 2, to get 1-ft 7-1/2-in. This is the size of the border panel for Wall B.

Once you know the border panel size for the adjacent wall, locate the placement of the first main beam. This will be 2-ft plus the border panel size from the wall. For Wall B, our border panel size was 1-ft 7-1/2-in, plus 2-ft for a total of 3-ft 7-1/2-in. *See illustration 1*

The remainder of the main beams are installed on 4-ft centers from the first main beam.

Install 4-ft cross tees as shown in Illustration 1, then install 2-ft cross tees as shown in Illustration 6. *See illustrations 1 & 6*

**STEP 2: INSTALL WALL MOLDING**

*See illustration 2*

- Mark height desired for new ceiling (A). Reminder: You need 6-in of clearance above the face of your wall molding to install 1280BXA Deep Coffer panels or 3-in for 1282BXA Shallow Coffer panels.
- Add height of Wall Molding and mark a level line around 3 walls (B).
- Snap a connecting chalk line on the 4th wall.
- Nail Wall Molding to the wall studs (C). Use anchors as appropriate for wall type.
- If nailing molding directly to wall is not possible (for example, a solid concrete or stone wall), hang a section of main runner next to the wall as a substitute for regular wall molding (D).
**STEP 3: INSTALL SUSPENSION GRID**

Install fasteners and Hanger Wires  
*See illustration 3*
- Snap chalk lines for Main Beams 4-ft apart.
- Screw in Wire Fasteners 4-ft apart (B).
- Wrap Hanger Wire securely around itself 3 times (C).

Pre-bend hanger wires  
*See illustration 3*
- Measure up 7/8-in from the bottom of the molding. Drive nail into wall joist just above molding.
- Do the same on the other side of the room. Stretch a string from nail to nail along a row of wires (A).
- Swing hanger wire over to string and bend each one at 90° where they touch the string (B). Stretch additional strings to prebend other hanger wires, to help level entire ceiling.
- Remove Leveling Strings after prebending wires.

Trim the main beam  
*See illustration 4*
- Refer to your room layout. Trim end of first Main Beam (A) so that a Cross Tee slot on the Main Beam is the border panel distance from the wall (B). (In our example in Illustration 1, this is 3-ft 7-1/2-in from wall.)

Hang the first main beam  
*See illustration 6*
- Stretch a guide string from one end of the room to the other 1/2-in past the center of the first main and below the bottom of the wall molding.

**Example:** If the first main should be 3-ft 7-1/2-in from the wall, measure out 3-ft 8-in from the wall at each end of the room and stretch the string from one end of the room to the other.
- Place the cut end of the main on the wall molding and insert a hanger wire into a hole in the main directly under the wire fastener so the wire is plumb and wrap the wire around itself at least three times.
- Insert any other wires into the main and wrap the wire around itself at least three times.

Cut Border Cross Tees  
*See illustration 5*
- Find the location of the first border cross tee. (Border panel distance from end of main beam).
- Place the end of the white face of the cross tee against the edge of the wall molding at the side and cut the cross tee where it crosses the guide string (B).
- Insert the uncut end of the cross tee into the main and rest the cut end of the tee on the molding (A-1, Illus. 7).
• The far edge of the main should be directly above the string.
• If you are using hook end cross tees, measure from the wall to the string and cut the cross tee to that length. The string will then line up with the near edge of the main.
• Cut the second cross tee to length and insert it.
• Temporarily fasten the tees to the wall molding so they do not move using clamp.
• Illustration 6 shows an example of a completely installed grid system.

Squaring the Grid
See illustration 5
• Now install the first section of the second row of mains after cutting off one end so a cross tee slot is the border panel distance from the end.
• Install two four foot cross tees between the two mains in line with the first two border tees (C).
• Measure across the diagonals of the 2-ft x 4-ft opening. The measurements will be the same if the grid is square. If the measurements are not the same, shorten one of the mains until the diagonals are equal.

Install Grid
See illustration 7
• Complete the rows of mains joining the ends.
• Finish cutting border cross tees between the wall and the first row of mains.
• Use the left-over ends of the mains to start other rows of mains if your room requires them.
• If you have additional rows of mains to install, stretch a second string from one side of the room to the other aligning it with the first 4 foot cross tee as shown (D).
• This second string will be your guide for cutting the remaining rows of mains. Just measure from the end wall to the string to determine the distance for the first cross tee slot you will use.
• You must line up cross tee slots for the grid to be square!
• Measure and cut border cross tees at the other side of the room.
See illustration 5

STEP 4: INSTALL COFFERS
See illustration 8
• Cut coffer panels that will integrate with lighting; leave 1/8-in gap between panel and recessed lighting.
• Install lights (need height extension when using 1280BXA panels).
  – 2 1/2-in above grid line for 1280BXA deep coffer panels
  – 7/16-in above grid line for 1282BXA shallow coffer panels
• Cut acoustic border panels, using tegular edge cutter tool.
Easy Elegance™ Ceiling Panel Installation Instructions

- Drop 1280BXA or 1282BXA into center section and tegular acoustic panels into the border.
- Install UHDC Universal Hold Down Clips as necessary to keep panels from shifting (possible near doors/windows).

**Easy Elegance™ Coffers FAQ’s**

**Can I paint Armstrong® Easy Elegance Coffers?**
- All Armstrong Easy Elegance products can be painted with latex paint before installation. Make sure that your ceiling panels are clean and dry, and experiment on a sample with your paint of choice before painting the ceiling in its entirety. Field painting will void the warranty.

**Are Armstrong Easy Elegance Coffers fire rated?**
- All Armstrong Easy Elegance products meet residential building codes for safety. While we do not recommend for commercial use, local code officials can provide guidance.

**Are your ceiling tiles moisture resistant?**
- Our rigid PVC ceiling tiles are extremely moisture resistant. In fact, they are unaffected by humidity, and will not absorb water at all. They are moisture, mold and mildew resistant.

**Can I mount Armstrong Easy Elegance Coffers directly to my ceiling?**
- Our lightweight designs are made exclusively for grid mount/drop ceiling applications.

**Will air flow cause my tiles to lift out of the ceiling grid?**
- For normal installations, most designs do not require hold down clips. Hold down clips are only required in extreme conditions. If there is a rapid change in the air pressure above and below the tiles, they may move. You can purchase hold down clips (Item #UHDC) if you feel that you will need them for your ceiling tile installation.

**Where can I find black grid?**
- You can purchase a 24-in x 24-in black Suspended Ceiling Installation Kit (model #G3578L). Each kit includes everything you need to install 64-sq ft of panels.

**How do I maintain my panels?**
- Simply wipe clean with a damp cloth.

For additional information on installing coffer ceilings, including special installation tips, please visit our website at ceilings.com or call customer service at 1 877 ARMSTRONG (276-7876).

For warranty information, please visit ceilings.com