FASTER. EASIER. BETTER.

The ACOUSTIBuilt™ seamless acoustical ceiling system provides the clean monolithic visual of a drywall ceiling with Total Acoustics® & Sustain® performance. ACOUSTIBuilt combines excellent acoustical performance and sustainability attributes with efficient installation in wall-to-wall and cloud applications for any space.

Performance

- Excellent acoustical performance of up to NRC 0.80 and CAC 46
- Use ACOUSTIBuilt for wall-to-wall, cloud, sloped, or soffit applications
- Smooth non-directional, monolithic, drywall-like visual (Level 4 equivalent finish)
- Add a hint of color, tailored to your design palette

Armstrong Drywall Grid Systems

Code Compliance You Can Trust

Meets:
- ASTM C1858
- ASTM C635
- ASTM C645
- ASTM C754
- ASTM C840
- ASTM E3090
- ICC Evaluation Service Report ESR-1289
- City of LA – RR 25348
- IBC categories D, E, and F single layer drywall ceilings are exempt from lateral force bracing requirements, regardless of room size
- Miami-Dade County, Florida wind uplift – NOA No. 19-0911.08 – 03/17/2021
- Miami-Dade County, Florida impact testing – NOA No. 19-0911.02 – 10/07/2020
- Consult local codes for specific requirements
- Locking Angle Mechanism creates repeatable accurate spacing for corrections to molding

For more information, call 877 276-7876
- Quick, easy panel installation using Armstrong® Drywall Grid System
- Faster and easier to install & repair than acoustical plaster at a lower cost
Installation Training – Contact your ACOUSTIBuilt™ Installation Specialist or Armstrong Techline to schedule a virtual introduction followed by a hands on training session before starting an installation. For complete installation details review the installation instructions and watch the installation video.

Estimating Labor – We recommend estimating labor for ACOUSTIBuilt 15% higher than a Level 5 drywall ceiling.

Spray Equipment – Specific air-atomizing equipment is required to finish ACOUSTIBuilt properly. All spray equipment can be sourced via Pittsburgh Spray Equipment: www.pittsburghsprayequip.com

Finishing Materials – Fiberglass mesh tape at joints, paper tape at corners, setting-type joint compound, and pre-mixed topping compounds, and fine grit sandpaper for hand or power sanding is required.

Finishing Process – ACOUSTIBuilt panels are made of mineral fiber and finish slightly different than drywall. All Fasteners must be over-filled, then sanded flat.

Inspection – Prior to spraying the finished ceiling, inspection of flatness with low-angle light is critical to achieve a perfect final appearance in all lighting conditions.

Spraying – Proper spray pattern, application rate, and uniformity are critical. Be sure to order an ACOUSTIBUILT Fine Texture Finish Calibration Sample available from the Armstrong Sample Center as a guide to achieve a perfect installation.

This Guide is NOT a replacement for the complete set of ACOUSTIBuilt installation instructions. Contact your local Armstrong Representative or Armstrong Ceilings Techline for any installation questions.
• Lay out ACOUSTiBuilt™ panels running parallel to cross tees (not main beams).
• Install Armstrong® Drywall Grid with 4’ or 6’ cross tees, spaced 16” on center (not 24”).

• ACOUSTiBuilt panels are more fragile than drywall. Store panels in a safe place and handle them with care.
• Panels are tapered on all four sides. Don’t cut off the tapered edges except at walls.
• Install panels parallel to cross-tees, and stagger rows by 29”.

• Square the grid within 1/8” over a 48” x 48” module and level within 1/4” in 10’.
• ACOUSTiBuilt panels are 7/8” thick, pay close attention when setting grid and sprinkler head elevations.

• Fasten panels to the grid with 1-5/8” fine-thread self-drilling drywall screws and Grip-Plate® washers from Armstrong Ceilings.
• Space screws 14-1/2” inches along the length of the panels, and 16” across the width.
• Use an impact driver or drill driver (not a drywall gun) to install the screws. Drive screws no deeper than necessary.

Layout Example:
Joint compound behaves differently on mineral fiber. There are nuances to the finishing process, including required materials, prefilling all fasteners, using an 8" knife on both topping coats, and overfilling the field fasteners. These key differences enable a flat finish free of surface defects. Less pressure and more care are needed.

1. Pre-fill all fasteners with **two coats** of **setting-type compound**.

2. Tape the joints with **fiberglass mesh tape** (paper for corners).

3. Apply **setting-type compound** over the tape. Pull the compound tight to allow room for the topping coats using **4" wide finish knife**.

4. Apply a coat of **pre-mixed topping compound** to field fasteners.

5. Apply a coat of **pre-mixed topping compound** to joints.

6. Overfill all field fastener areas with **pre-mixed topping compound**.
7. Apply a final coat of **pre-mixed topping compound** to joints using **max 8" wide finish knife**.

8. Sand all finished areas flat with **fine grit sand paper**. Inspect frequently with critical light and a straight edge tool. Use care to avoid damaging the panel facing.

**NOTE:** Power sanders are permitted with **220 grit or finer sand paper** at the **lowest RPM setting**.

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**Inspection with critical (low angle) lighting after finishing is key – touch up as required.**

- **Position the inspection light as close to the ceiling as possible (within 6 inches), and shine light across the ceiling from one wall towards the opposite wall.**
- **Eliminate other light sources. Close shades to minimize sunlight.**
- **Inspect the ceiling for defects, such as fastener dimples, ridges within or at the edges of seams, and humps or cavities in the seams.**
- **Use a straight edge to identify the exact location and type of defect.**
- **Work your way around the entire ceiling, shining the inspection light on the entire ceiling surface, from all four directions.**

**This step is CRITICAL to find and repair any imperfections before spraying the acoustically transparent finish.**

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SPRAY EQUIPMENT

Specific air-atomizing equipment is required to finish ACOUSTIBuilt™ properly. All spray equipment can be sourced via Pittsburgh Spray Equipment (Search: Acoustical Ceiling Coating Outfit). Visit https://pittsburghsprayequip.com/

Complete equipment schematic and setup details are included in the installation instructions. Proper spray pattern and application rates are essential to ensure proper acoustical performance of the system.

Order an ACOUSTIBuilt Fine-Texture Finish Calibration Sample from the Armstrong Sample Team and match finish layers to the sample to ensure proper acoustical performance.

SPRAY THE CEILING

**Inspect & Mask** – Confirm all finishing is flat and smooth. Mask off site & fixtures from overspray.

**Prep Finish.** Mix finish until the consistency is uniform. Mix in any settling at the bottom (about 5 minutes). Filter through a 10-20 mesh strainer to remove any large debris.

**Calibrate Spray.** Set your starting pressures and test your spray pattern on cardboard. Adjust as needed to produce the spray pattern. Overlap by 50% and compare to the ACOUSTIBuilt Fine-Texture Finish Calibration Sample.

**Calibrate Spray.**

Spray Pattern close-up

- Apply the finish in 4 coats following the Fine-Texture Finish Calibration Sample.
- Alternate spray directions and allow at least 40 minutes for drying between coats.
- The joint compound should disappear after the 4th coat. Apply another coat to the visible areas if needed.
- Brush off any lose texture from the dry ceiling with a knockdown trowel.

To create a uniform appearance, ensure each coat has fully dried before spraying the next. Apply evenly; start and stop spraying with the gun pointed away from the ceiling. Overlap each pass by 50%.

This Guide is NOT a replacement for the complete set of ACOUSTIBuilt installation instructions. Contact your local Armstrong Representative or Armstrong Ceilings Techline for any installation questions.
ACOUSTIBuilt™ can be patched or repaired as needed. Patched areas are completely covered with joint compound eliminating acoustical absorption performance in the repaired area.

1. Cut away and replace the damaged area with a piece of drywall or an ACOUSTIBuilt panel. Support the patch with new framing and screws as needed. (Be sure to set the new piece of patched material slightly recessed from the surrounding ceiling.)

2. Sand the texture finish smooth around the perimeter of the patch. Apply mesh tape and joint compound to finish the patched area flat with the surrounding ceiling. Inspect with critical light and a straight-edge tool.

3. Apply approximately four light coats of fine-texture finish for ACOUSTIBuilt with a hand-held HVLP sprayer or the standard ACOUSTIBuilt spray equipment.

4. Strain the finish, calibrate the spray pattern, and allow dry-time between coats as described in the installation instructions.

5. Apply approximately four light coats of fine-texture finish for ACOUSTIBuilt with a hand-held HVLP sprayer or the standard ACOUSTIBuilt spray equipment.

Feather the final coat of fine-texture finish into the surrounding area until the appearance is uniform with the rest of the ceiling.
877 276-7876
Customer Service Representatives
7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday

TechLine – Technical information, detail drawings, CAD design assistance, installation information, other technical services – 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. FAX 1 800 572 8324 or email: techline@armstrongceilings.com

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