

CeilingLink Installation Tips

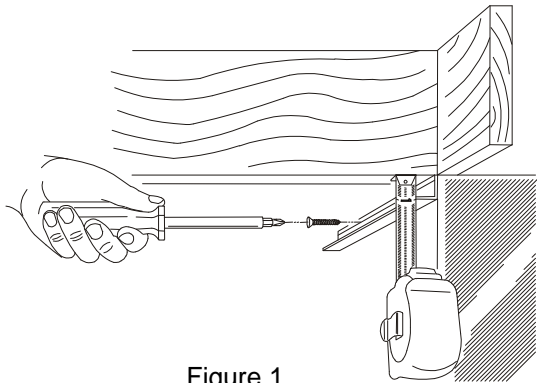


Figure 1

In general, install the perimeter L-Channel first, so that the bottom horizontal surface is 1-inch below the joists or furring that the CeilingLink top track will be attached to (Fig 1). Butt L-Channel pieces together to span lengths greater than 8-feet (Fig 2). Attach on 16 to 18-inch centers.

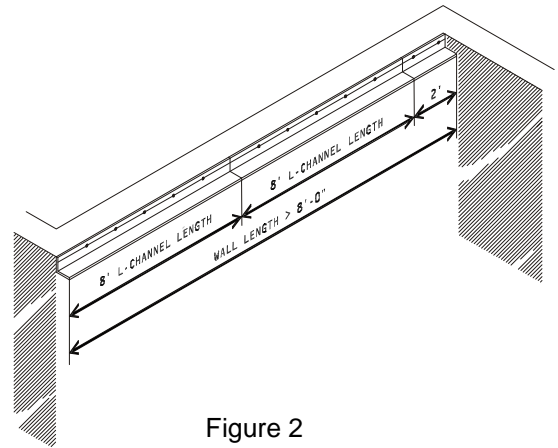
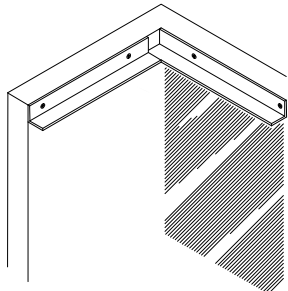
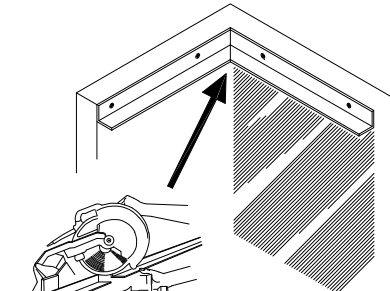


Figure 2

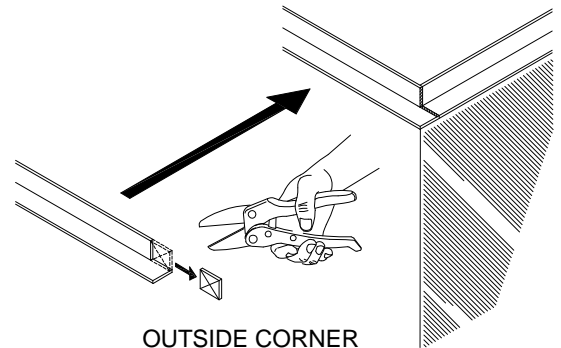
For corners, you can either butt the L-Channel pieces together (Fig 3), or cut 45s (Fig 4), depending on your tools. Getting 45s to fit together neatly can sometimes be tricky, so butting the pieces together is OK. On outside butted corners, you'll need to nip away a part of the vertical L-Channel that extends beyond the corner (Fig 5). Hand cutters, such as the anvil cutters that we recommend using (also called anvil pruners, available in the garden department of building supply stores), will make a clean cut (Figs 5 & 6).



BUTTED CORNER
Figure 3



MITERED CORNER
Figure 4



OUTSIDE CORNER
Figure 5

You can use either C-Channel, or 1x1 blocking or 1x2 furring to provide a vertical mounting surface for L-Channel if your walls are difficult to attach to (concrete or concrete blocks--Fig 7), or if you have an opening like a stairwell into the ceiling area (Fig 8). You can also use CeilingLink top track/bottom runner as a wall perimeter, although using CeilingLink this way is not as economical as using L-Channel or C-Channel.

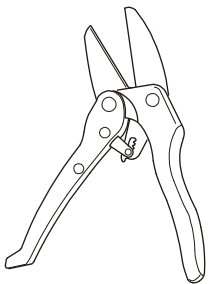


Figure 6

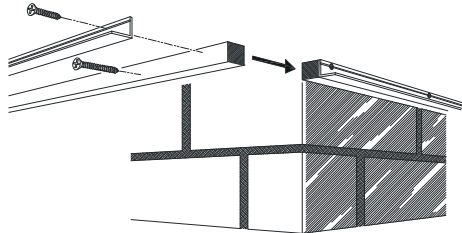


Figure 7

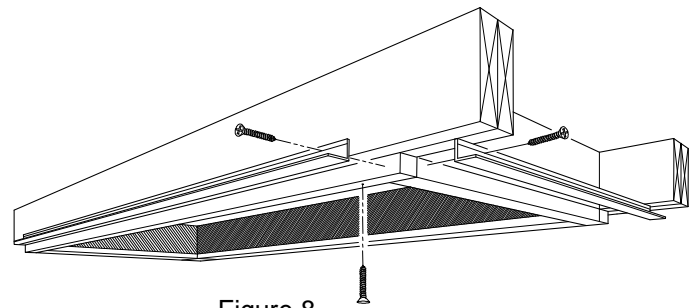
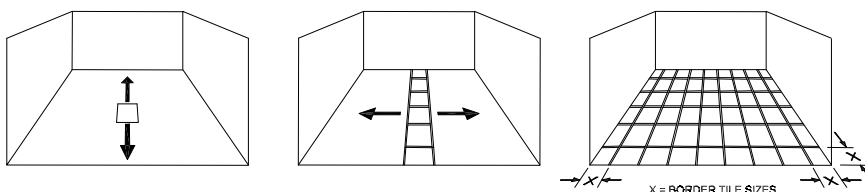


Figure 8

Center full rows of ceiling panels so that the width of border panels on either side (Fig 9) is 12" or greater in width. Either a panel or a CeilingLink grid row will be in the center of the space. To minimize distortion, don't over-tighten screws when fastening L-Channel or CeilingLink top track (Fig 10).



1

2

3

Figure 9

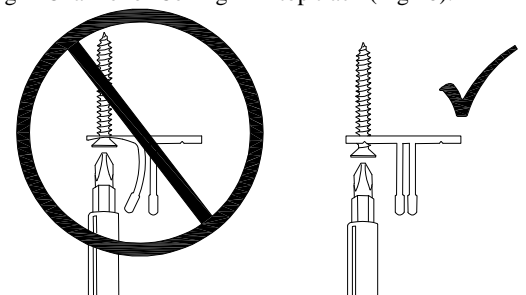


Figure 10

When measuring or marking (with chalkline or laser or tight string) for the 24 1/8-inch centers for the top track, measure from edge to edge (i.e. left edge to left edge, or right to right—not left to right) and align the top track to that edge instead of trying to infer the center (Fig 11). The top track does not have to be installed perfectly straight because the bottom runner corrects minor vertical & horizontal variances in the top track. Install bottom runners so that the butt joint between two lengths overlaps the top track joints (Fig 12).

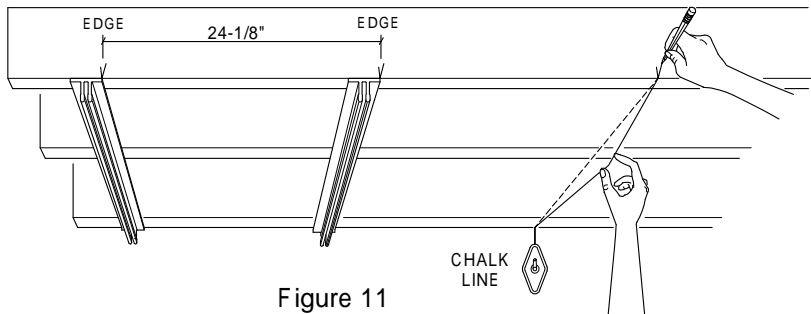


Figure 11

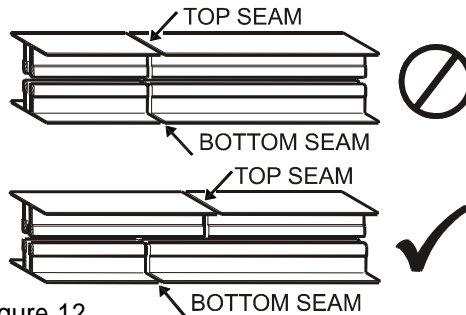


Figure 12

We recommend using 1-inch drywall screws to attach the top track of CeilingLink to joists or furring. The slight indentation, about 1/8-inch from the outside edges of the top track, is where to start the tip of the drywall screw. A little pressure will force the screw thru the plastic; it is not necessary to tighten the screw all the way down, as doing this will deform the plastic (Fig 10). Install screws on 16-inch centers on opposite sides of the top track (Fig 13). Some users put screws on both sides. After installing two adjoining rows of top track & bottom runner, slide a row of panels in from one end to see how they fit (Fig 14).

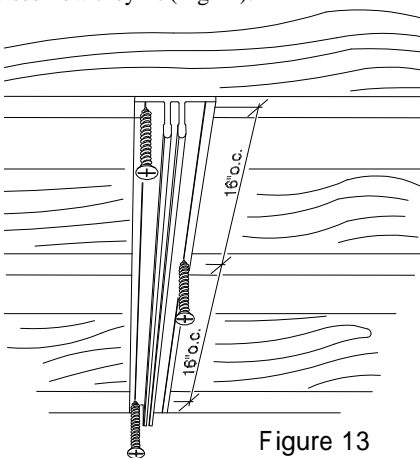


Figure 13

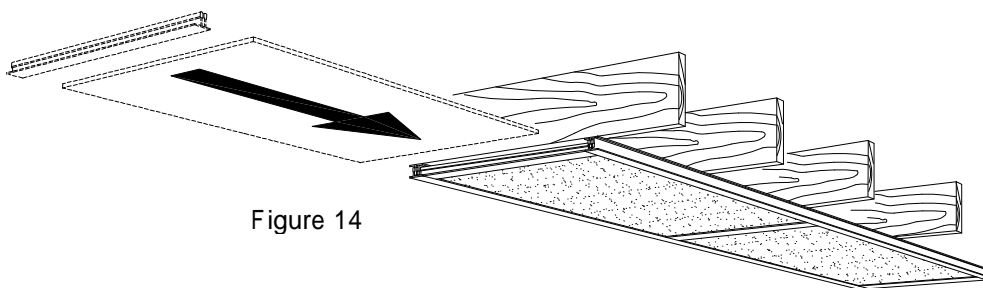


Figure 14

Cross-tees (23 3/4-inch—same as panel width) are cut from the same lengths used for top tracks/bottom runners, and act as spacers between panels. Cross-tees are bottoms only; no top is required. You can use hand cutters (Fig 6) or a saw to cut cross tees (Fig 15). A small putty or spackle knife can help "shoehorn" the last panel into place (Fig 16). If necessary, you can trim the last panel so that only 1/4-inch rests on the perimeter L-Channel.

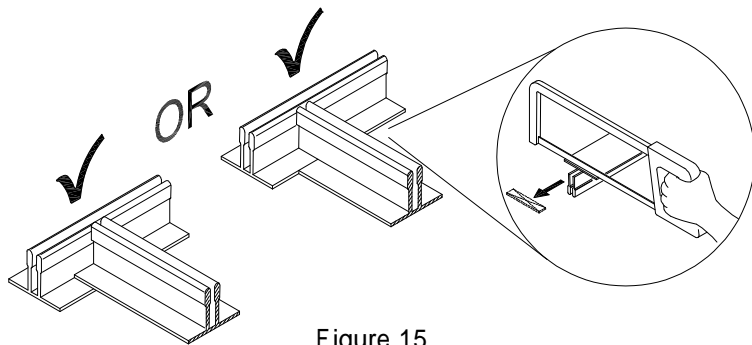


Figure 15

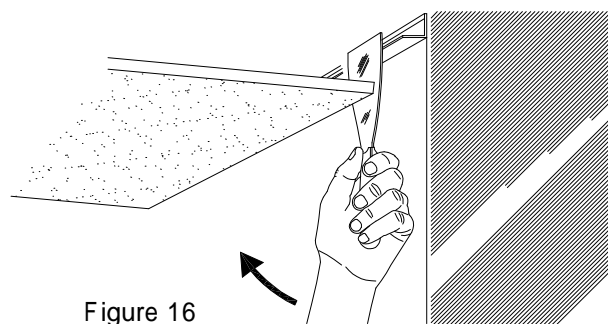


Figure 16

Don't forget the common sense advice to measure twice and cut once. Ductwork and other utilities are usually covered with soffits (drywall box-abouts). You can get below some utilities by installing 1x2 or 2x2 furring to existing joists or beams and attaching CeilingLink to the furring. Although CeilingLink is not designed to make soffits, a few of our more creative customers have done this (Fig 17). If you are planning to attach CeilingLink or L-Channel directly to ductwork (using self-tapping sheet metal screws, for example), we recommend that the support system for the ductwork be secured using drywall screws if it is currently secured with nails (Fig 18).

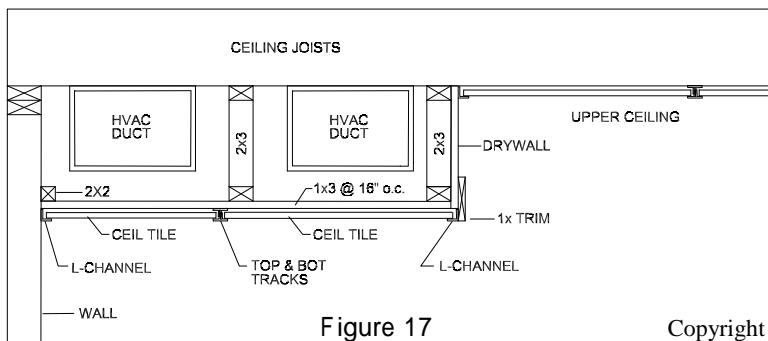


Figure 17

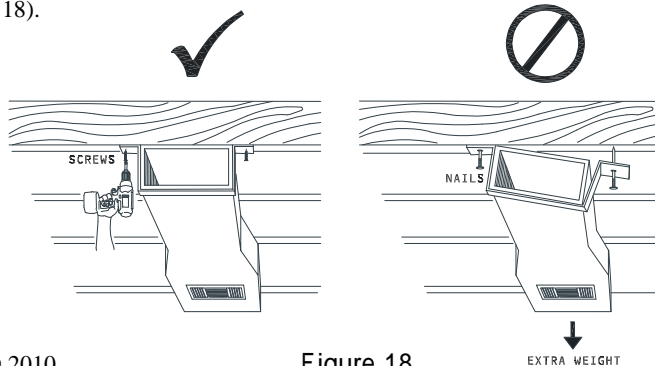


Figure 18