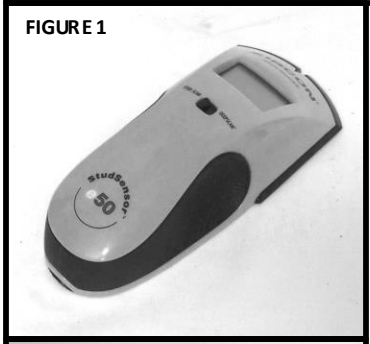
Checking Above the Ceiling Before You Cut.

FIGURE 1



Mounting a blind-mount speaker enclosure or blind-mount speaker system always involves cutting a hole in an existing drywall or plaster ceiling. It is important to check above the ceiling to make sure there are no obstructions that will prevent the installation before cutting a large hole in an existing ceiling that would be difficult to patch. There are many methods that experienced installers use to check the ceiling for obstructions. Two of those methods are given in this instruction sheet.

For Both Methods:

Before cutting blindly into an existing ceiling, it's always best to use an electronic stud finder (shown in FIGURE 1) to make sure you determine where the metal framing, floor joists for the floor above, or trusses are located above the finished ceiling. Use the stud finder (as shown in FIGURE 2) to locate an apparently unobstructed area of the ceiling.

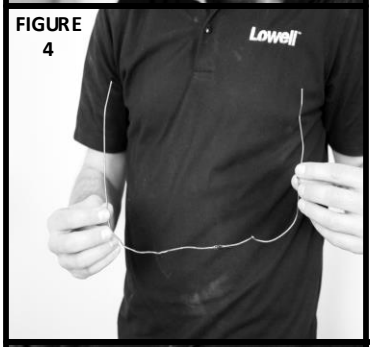
FIGURE 2

Method 1:

Drill a small pilot hole at the center of your proposed speaker location as shown in FIGURE 3. Find a piece of stiff wire or an unfolded metal coat hanger. Bend the wire in a U-shape (as shown in FIGURE 4). The leg of the "U" that you will place above the ceiling should be cut so it is as wide as the radius of the speaker enclosure you will be installing. Place a piece of electrical tape on the hanger to indicate how deep the speaker enclosure will protrude above the finished ceiling (as shown in FIGURE 5). Slide the wire through the hole and spin it around in a full circle while slowly pushing it upward to the tape marked on the wire. If you hit any obstructions as you rotate the wire, patch the hole you drilled in the ceiling and move to an alternate location. If you don't detect any obstructions, you can confidently cut the large speaker mounting hole.

FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4



Method 2:

Miniature video scopes (shown in FIGURE 7) have made checking above an existing ceiling even easier. Perform the steps shown in FIGURE 1, 2, and 3 above. Insert the scope through the hole and check for any obstructions above the ceiling (as shown in FIGURE 8). To find one of these devices, check on Amazon or Google "Video Inspection Scope" or "Borescope".

FIGURE 5

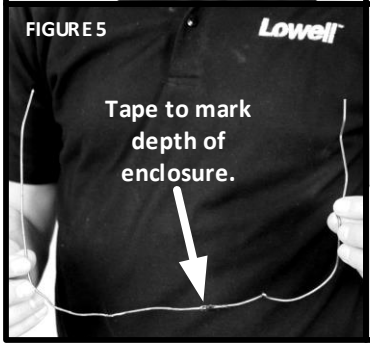


FIGURE 6

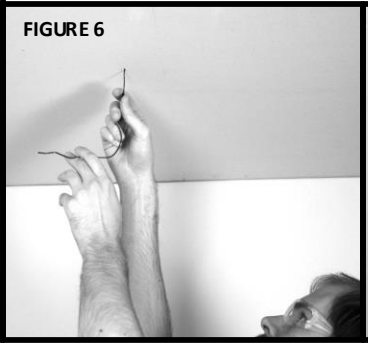


FIGURE 7

FIGURE 8

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