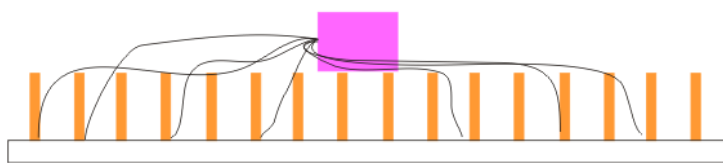
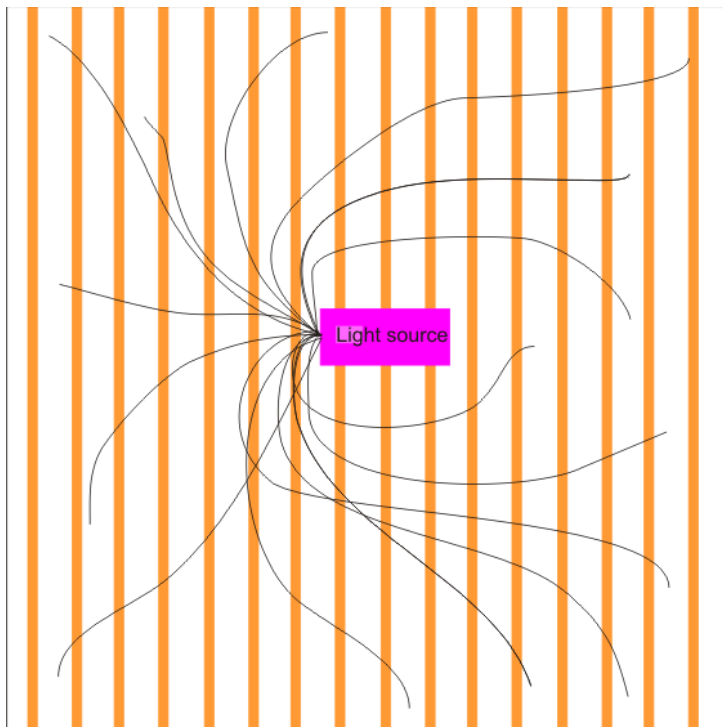


Installation of a star ceiling kit when access is available above the ceiling and the light source can be located centrally. Central location of the light source is the most economical in terms of fibre use.

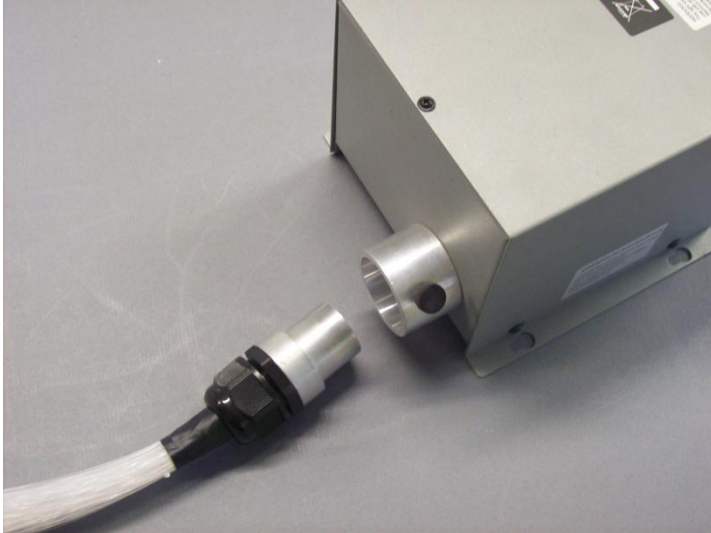


Centrally located light source.

Before you start drilling holes you need to decide on the star layout - either a random distribution or following a star chart (which can be easily found on the internet). It's important to avoid having too uniform a distribution of stars since this will look very flat and uninteresting.

Installation of a star ceiling is easiest if you have two people on the job – one below with the drill, and one in the attic fixing the fibres. Of course, you can drill from above, but it's harder to keep track of the overall look of the star distribution. Working on joists above plasterboard is potentially dangerous, so do take care. Drill from below with a 1.00mm drill bit while the helper in the loft either marks the position of the stars or feeds the fibre through the drilled holes as you go. Plasterboard is a pretty good acoustic insulator so you may need help with communications during this phase of the project. A walkie talkie or cellphone will help, or you can have another member of the team at the loft hatch relaying messages. Whoever is placing the fibres needs to remember to alternate between 0.75mm and 1mm fibres – our star ceiling kits generally have an equal mixture of the two fibre sizes.

It's not a bad idea to wire up the light source first, since this allows you to work with your fibres illuminated. This is more fun and will also help you to push the fibres through the small holes in the ceiling beneath you. It will also help you monitor the distribution of stars as you work, since you'll see each star's position very clearly. The aluminium "common end" ferrule which binds all the fibres together simply pushes into the optical port in the front of the light source. You can secure this in place if you want, by tightening the grub screw.



Common end ready to insert into the light source optical port.

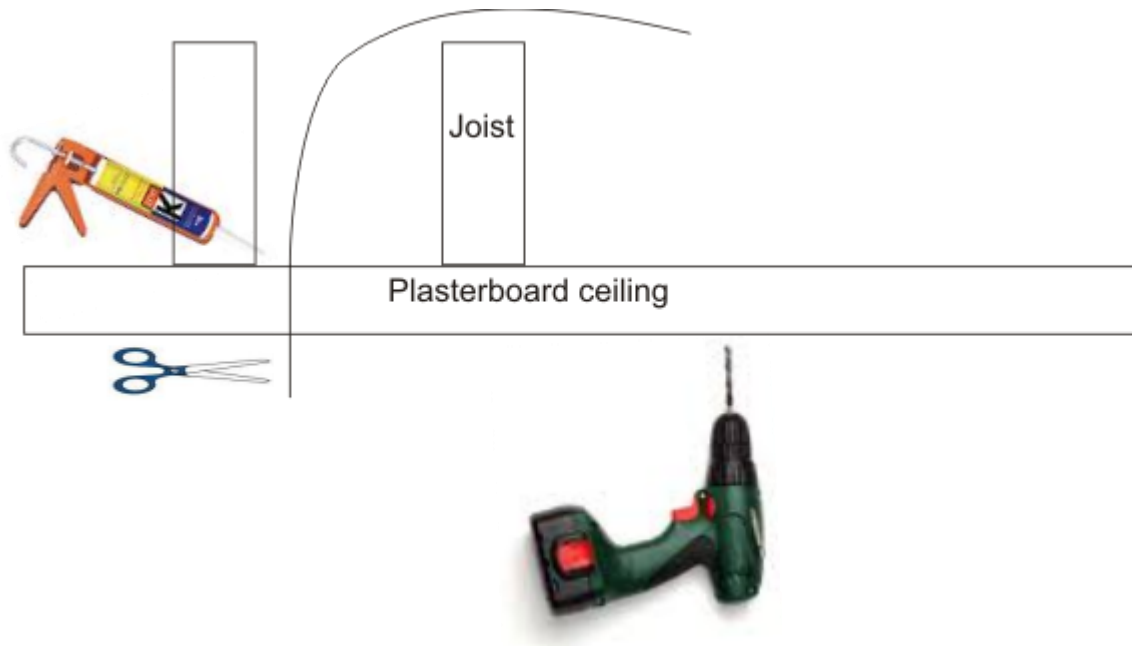
Your star ceiling will look much better with a range of different star brightnesses. So, you can create a handful of brighter stars by occasionally drilling a larger hole and putting two, or even three fibres in it.

When you unpack your kit you'll find that there are bundles of fibres of the same length in plastic sleeving to help stop tangles and protect the fibres until you're ready to start installing them. The 1.00mm and 0.75mm fibres supplied in our star kits are very flexible and will bend around joists and other obstructions easily.

Always remember that leading the fibre around obstructions will decrease the reach from the light source so take that into consideration when ordering your kit. Remember too, that you'll want to replace your insulation between the joists, so the fibres need to be slack enough to allow this, so don't stretch the fibres out too far from the light source – leave a few inches of slack.

If there's any likelihood of ever boarding out the attic then it might be an idea to drill holes in the joists and run the fibres through these, rather than over the top, or you can chase out a shallow groove in the top of the joist. In either case, be sensible about anything you do to your joists!

If one of our standard kits is not appropriate to your installation we can make a kit with custom fibre lengths and numbers. Just contact us to have a chat.



Push the fibres through the holes so you have a good few millimetres protruding and then secure the fibre from above with a dab of Silicone or our professional Acrylic adhesive.

When the adhesive has set, you can repaint the ceiling if you want. This will help to fill the drill holes and make the star field almost invisible when the fibres aren't lit. Of course, you don't have to repaint the ceiling – this is only really necessary if you have scuffed the ceiling during the installation.

You have a couple of options now when cutting the fibre. (Use ordinary sharp scissors or nail clippers to cut the fibre.)

Option 1. Cut the fibres off leaving several millimetres protruding, and clean off any paint that has stuck to the fibre with a blade or fine sandpaper. Cleaning the fibre like this will damage the optical coating allowing light to leak out of the sides. The resulting effect is a halo of light around the star.

Option 2. Trim the fibres a bit closer to the ceiling, but still leave a couple of millimetres. This will result in a less of a halo effect and more of a genuine star ceiling look, but still provide some scope for subsequent repainting.

Option 3. Cut the fibre as close to the ceiling as possible. This will give you a really authentic star point but future repainting will be more problematic, since you won't have any fibre left to trim back. You can still repaint, but you'll have more work to do afterwards, scraping the end of the fibre with fine sandpaper or a craft knife blade to remove paint from the end of each fibre.

In fact, if you've used silicone to fix your fibres in the first place, and haven't stretched the fibres too tightly from the light source, there's also the option of going back up into the attic, pulling the fibres clear from the hole, cleaning of the silicone and then reinserting the fibres.

Both the Tungsten Halogen and Metal Halide light sources are supplied with a standard UK 3 pin plug. In many installations your electrician will cut off the plug and wire the light source directly into the lighting circuit.

If you have a Tungsten Halogen light source, which has been modified with a separate feed to the colour wheel motor, the lead for the motor circuit can be wired to a separate switch or controlled via a plug-in or hard wired remote control giving you the ability to stop the colour wheel from rotating so as to display a static colour.

Technical info for tungsten halogen light source most commonly supplied with star ceiling kits:

230Volt

Maximum ambient temperature 40°C

3 pin plug fuse - 5 amp

Light source body fuse - 3.15 Amp

35 – 100 watt 12 volt halogen lamp (GU5 type)

Forced air cooling

Indoor use - may be used outdoors with suitable IP enclosure.



Orion fibre optic star kit

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