

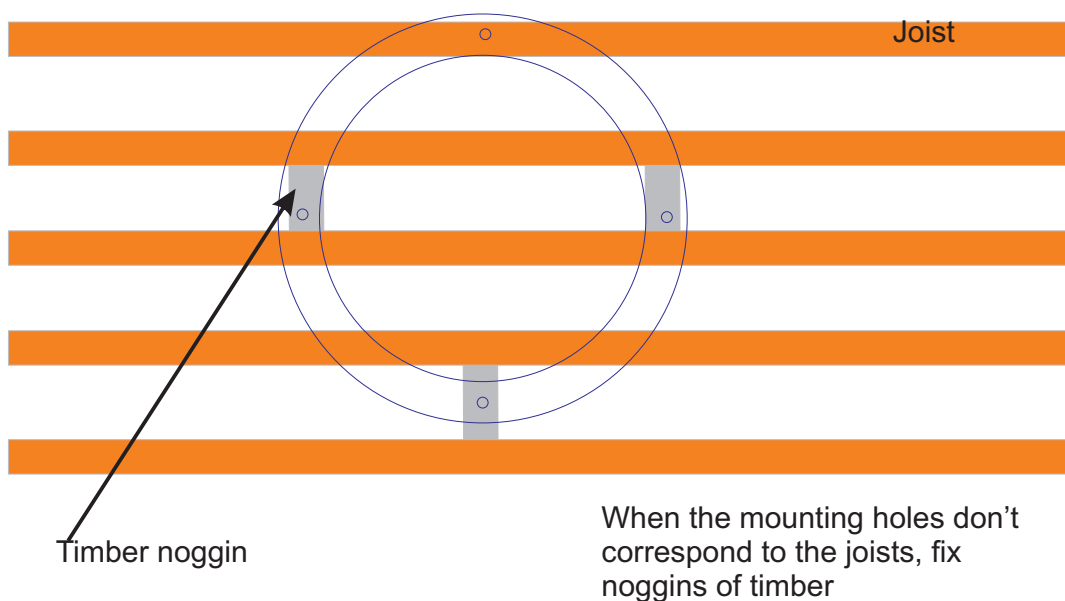
Installation Instructions for your Galaxy star ceiling

Our first piece of advice when it comes to installing a Galaxy is that you should hire a plasterboard jack – a piece of equipment designed for lifting panels of plasterboard up to the ceiling. This will allow you to position the Galaxy precisely and also avoid getting any grubby fingerprints around the rim of the disk. It is possible to install the Galaxy just using two reasonably fit pairs of hands – we've done it – but, really, get the plasterboard jack and make life easy for yourself!

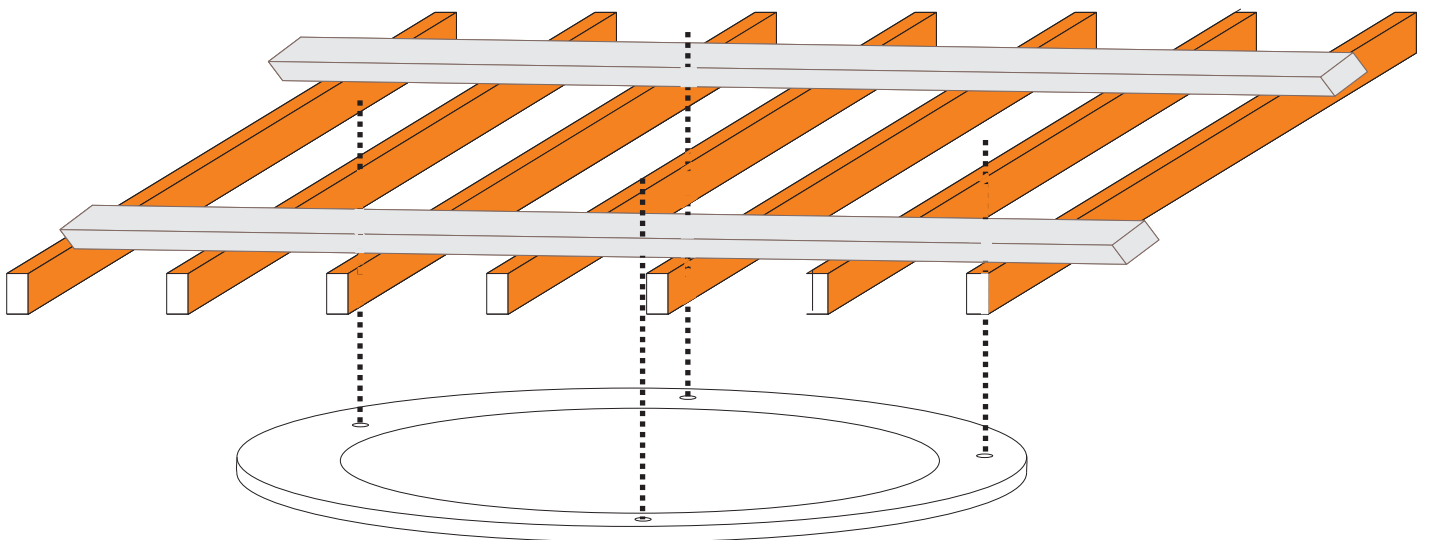
The Galaxy is designed to fasten to the ceiling with just four big screws, bolts, steel wire or sections of threaded bar. The Galaxy is supplied with screws to fix the rim tiles to the disk, but NOT with the main fixing screws. The reason we don't supply the main fixing screws is that we want you to think hard about the fixing requirements appropriate for your own ceiling construction. The last thing we'd want is for you to use supplied screws in an inappropriate fixing solution, simply because they were handy.

We're not trying to save ourselves a few pennies, but to ensure your safety! Whatever fixing system you do use, do be sure to use the big washers supplied.

The fixing holes in the disk are a metre apart. If this doesn't coincide with your joist spacings you may need to secure a timber noggin to the side of one or both joists to produce a spacing that does work.



Another option might be to brace the Galaxy against a pair of wooden planks laid crosswise over the joists, using threaded rods to attach the disk to these planks.



The rim tiles are numbered, with corresponding marks in the recesses in the rim.

For added authenticity, you may also take the trouble to orientate the Galaxy correctly. Compass headings can be found engraved at various points around the edge of the disk itself (not the rim, in other words).

Normally the halogen light source will sit immediately above the disk. If you need to locate the light source beyond the reach of the fibre optic tail, it is possible for us to make up extension harnesses.

The Galaxy is supplied finished with a matt white primer coat with the fibres projecting from the face of the disk slightly. There's a good reason for this: it gives you the option of painting any elements without obscuring the fibre ends. Or, in other words, if you do paint the disk at all you'll need to cut the fibres so that the ends are not obscured with paint. The Galaxy can be installed using the primer as a finished matt surface coating.

Electrical installation is very easy. If the Galaxy is displacing an existing ceiling pendant light fitting simply connect that existing supply to the LED's transformer. Depending on how handy you are with a screwdriver, this should take just two or three minutes.

The Galaxy has about 450 fibre optic stars and it is possible that during shipping and installation a few of these may become disconnected. Unless these are important stars and affect the shape of a major constellation, our advice is not to worry about them. Although the stars in the Galaxy are all in their correct locations the number of stars shown is essentially arbitrary, so a few more or less does not matter.

If you do have any "missing" stars and want to repair them, you'll need to very carefully remove the plastic backing sheet and locate the loose fibre which has pulled free from its star or snapped, and then reinsert it. This may require drilling out the hole in the star with a very fine drill. This repair process is not particularly time-consuming or complicated, but since there are hundreds of fine fibres at the back of the disk it should be done very carefully.

The fibres will cut with nail clippers or sharp scissors. When cutting them you can choose between two effects: cut the fibres as flush as possible with the disk surface and you'll get sharp pinpricks of light; cut the fibres a millimetre or two above the surface and you'll get a little halo of reflected light around each star.

The very finest (0.25mm) fibres may appear impossibly fine to you, but don't worry – they'll shine brightly enough, and the mixture of bright and less bright fibres is an important part of the overall look of the Galaxy, and of its authenticity.

Experience has shown that judicious use of colour in the stars themselves also adds to the effect. A dab of red paint or nail varnish on the end of Betelgeuse in Orion and Aldebaran in Taurus will filter the light as it emerges from the fibre, and although this will probably be a bit more red than is visible to the naked eye, it's still a nice touch. You might also add a dab of yellow or slightly orange paint to the following with some justification: Nihal in Lepus, Pollux in Gemini and Polaris in Ursa Minor. Enif in Pegasus can also have a dab of this colour as can the star at the bottom left of the Great Square in Pegasus. Also, the star in Aries immediately below the letter e in the Aries caption, the star in Draco's right eye and the star at the shoulder of Canis Minor.