Fiber Optic Star Ceiling Installation Guide

** Best prices on the web + free shipping **

http://www.starceiling123.com

As stated in our **Installation Ideas** document, a star ceiling is basically comprised of two main components:

1) **Illuminator** (Light source)
2) **Fiber optic strands** (End Glow)

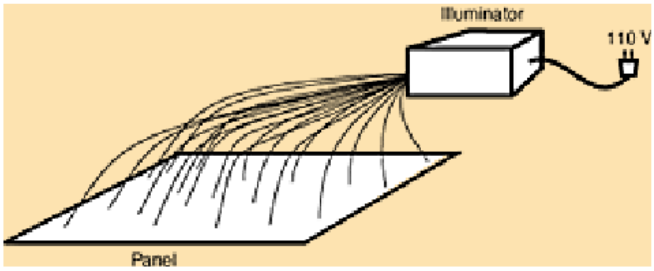
***** We also sell a variety of different Star Ceiling Kits that contain both products in one convenient package.**

- How you implement the star ceiling is totally up to you and dependent on the room constraints. Check our **Installation Ideas** document which contains a very helpful flowchart to get you started.

- You can use your existing ceiling (drywall) if you have access to the room above, you can create your own fiber optic star panel and mount it to the ceiling, or you can take advantage of one of our pre-wired **Fiber Optic Star Panel Kits**. These kits are designed for and fit directly into a drop ceiling grid. If you already have a drop ceiling then this is the easiest way to go.

- With the exception of our Fiber Optic Star Panel Kits, all other options will consist of designing and wiring your own ceiling. It's actually a very fun project and extremely rewarding when complete.

- To get started follow these basic techniques:



1. **Laying out your stars**

    a. **Arrange your stars in a cluster of 3-6 stars per sq. ft**. More stars doesn't always mean it will look better. We use 4 stars per sq. ft. in our pre-wired panels. We find that looks the best and gives the most realistic look.

    b. *Optional* **- Add constellations to your project**. We offer a variety of free **Constellation stencils** to help you out if decide to go this route. Visit our Help Center to learn more.

    c. *Optional* **- Add one or more shooting stars to your project**. We offer a **Shooting Star Module** that creates many different light effects. Found in our **Fiber Optic Illuminators** section.

2. Selecting and running the fiber optics

a. **End glow fiber optic strands** are required for a fiber optic star ceiling.
   - 0.75 mm, 1.0 mm, 1.5 mm fiber optics tend to look the best.
   - Our biggest seller is the **StarPak 48** which contains 3 different sized fiber optics in a 48 strand bundle. It's the quickest way to give the look of different sized stars.
   - We also sell other various sized jacketed strands (**EG8, EG12, EG25, EG50**) and **Fiber Optic Spools**. EG8 has 8 strands of fiber; EG12 has 12 strands, etc. There really isn't a right or wrong size and it generally works out fairly close in price. It all depends on the preference of the installer.
   - As stated in the previous section, **Star Ceiling Kits** already contain end glow fiber optics.
   - With the exception of fiber spools, end glow fiber is sold by the linear foot.
   - Our **Fiber Optic Calculator** is very helpful in determining the amount of fiber required for your project.
   - Fiber is then cut to the desired length for each run from the ceiling to the stars on the ceiling.

b. **Drill or poke holes through the material you are using for your star ceiling** (drywall, foam panel, etc.).

c. **Insert the fiber optic ends into the holes created in the previous step.**

d. **Secure the fiber from the backside with adhesive.** Gorilla Glue (found at most hardware stores) is our choice and really holds the fibers well.

e. **Once secure, trim the fibers on the finished side leaving them exposed about an eighth of an inch.**

3. Selecting and connecting the fibers to the Light source (illuminator)

a. Choosing the right **Illuminator** can be a little confusing since there are many different models available. We sell LED, Halogen, and Metal Halide illuminators.
   - LED is more suited for enclosed installations because it doesn't produce any heat. Very long lasting bulbs and safe.
   - We offer a couple different illuminators and the only real difference between them is the amount of fiber they can hold, if they have a steady on feature, and the ability to produce colors. They all create a twinkling/shimmering effect.
   - Our **Fiber Optic Calculator** is very helpful when it comes to figuring out the number of illuminators that are required for your project.
   - A **Star Ceiling Kit** is probably the easiest route to go if you have a normal sized project.

b. Place your illuminator in the desired location and provide a power source.

- All of our illuminators use standard household power.
- Our **LED Twinkle Illuminator** can be ordered with an optional battery power source.
- X10 products are a good solution for challenging electrical situations.
- Remote controllers come with many of our units. The remote is used to turn the illuminator on/off and turn the twinkle wheel on/off.

c. Insert the fiber ends into the Illuminator.
   - Strip off the jacketing for last 4-5 inches of all the fiber runs.
   - Insert the bare fiber ends into the illuminator.
   - Secure the fibers by tightening the connector on the illuminator.

You are done if you used your existing ceiling as your canvas. Sit back and enjoy your new fiber optic star ceiling.

If you created a custom star panel you will now need to attach it to the ceiling. The following steps are detailed in our **Custom Star Panel Ideas** document:

- You will need 2-3 inches of space between the top of the panel and the existing ceiling for the fiber runs and the illuminator.
- Create a simple box frame out of wood and attach it to the ceiling.
- Attach your fiber panel to the box frame.
- Dress up the edge with a decorative crown molding and it will look great.