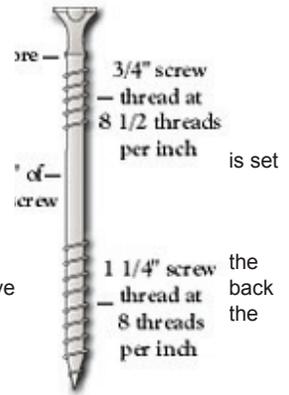


Counter Snap Pro Kit (#3170) "AT-THE-JOIST Screws"

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The Counter-Snap screw, when driven through the fixture, pulls the floor tight to the joist and then snaps at the score on the screw that 1/4-inch below the surface of the wood or linoleum. The small hole in hardwood floors can be easily filled with wood filler. In linoleum floors the flooring will come back over itself to almost totally conceal the hole.

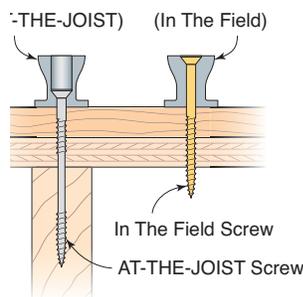
The key to stopping squeaks with this fastening system is to find the floor joist, which is necessary for two reasons. Floor squeaks, for most part, occur at the joist. The joist is where the nails are located and those nails, over time, will loosen which allows the wood to move and forth on the smooth shank of the nail. The second reason is because the screw needs all the threads on the shank to pull to force screw to snap at the score.

Linoleum Floors

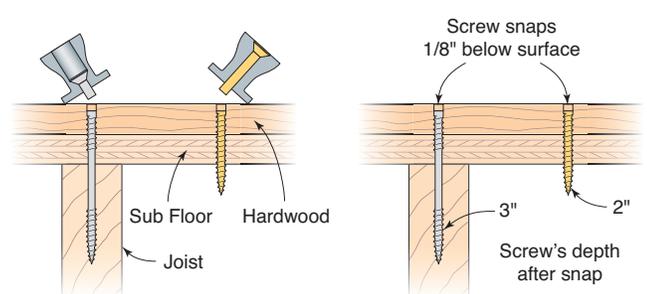
In most linoleum floors you can locate floor joists using an electric stud sensor. The indications from the stud sensor may be weak, but you should still be able to get a good idea where the joists are located. In general, floor joists are 16 inches apart, and your stud sensor should indicate this. The presence of a heat vent can help because the vent will be between two joists.

Once you find the joist, focus on the spot on the joist where movement and squeaks are centered. Then drive the screw through the fixture, having the flat wide base against the floor. The head will hit the bottom of the fixture and snap. Note: don't pre-drill the spot where you will drive the screw because that will remove some material that is needed to expand over and conceal the hole. Using a hammer, tap the small bump that remains to smooth out the hole and force the hole to fill over.

Counter Snap Fixtures



Screw Snaps!



Hardwood Floors

If you have a stud sensor, use it to try to locate the joist. Once you find the joist, pre-drill a hole at the joist through the hardwood with a 7/64th-inch or 1/8th-inch drill bit (or 3/32nd-inch for softwood) to prevent wood from splitting. Then drive the screw through the fixture, having the flat wide base against the floor. If it is in the joist, the screw will snap 1/4-inch below the surface. Fill the hole with a matching wood filler.

If the stud sensor doesn't work, then near the wall on the floor pre-drill a small hole, 3/32nd-inch or smaller, down an inch and a half. Then straighten a paper clip out to 2 inches in length and push it through the hole. If the paper clip goes down more than 1 1/2 inches, you have missed the joist. Move over an inch and repeat the process, repeating as necessary until the paper clip stops at 1 1/2 inches, which indicates the presence of a joist. The drill holes are very small and, because they are close to the wall, will be difficult to see when concealed with filler.

After you find the joist, measure to find the other joists; 16 inches is the common standard for separation.

Note: If the screw doesn't break, then the screw is not in the joist.

Stair Use:

Stairs have three components: stringers, treads, and risers. The stringer is the notched support to which the tread and riser are attached. When stairs are located between two walls, two stringers are used, each fastened to a wall on each side of the width of the steps. If a third stringer is used, it will be located down the center of the steps. Normally, the nails that hold the tread and riser to the stringer and attach the riser to the backside of the tread will break or come loose over time, causing squeaking. In most cases it's the nails that attach the riser to the backside of the tread that will snap. If this is the case, the only way to fix the squeak is from the backside. If this side is covered, for example, with drywall or lath and plaster, it will have to be removed to provide access. Use screws to reattach the riser to the backside of the tread.

If nails have worked themselves up from the face of the tread or out from the face of the riser, then pull them completely out and use the Counter Snap kit to install screws back into the same holes. If the stairs are carpeted, place the alignment fixture from the Squeeeeeek-No-More kit as close as possible to the sidewall and drive a screw through the tread into the stringer. If the screw spins within the alignment fixture, it means the screw didn't hit the stringer. The screw needs solid material in order for the screw top to snap off. If the screw didn't hit the stringer, use the Joist-Finding Screw to find the notched portion of the stringer.

Normally the tread has a 1-inch overhang over the riser and the riser is normally only 3/4-inch thick, providing a very narrow area in which to place screws, so it's important to measure the tread overhang, the thickness of the pad (if used), and the thickness of the carpet. I recommend using the Joist-Finding Screw to help target the center of the riser's top edge before placing the alignment fixture. Once you find the top edge of the riser, drive the screw(s) through the tread's face and into the riser. If needed, use the screw gripper to snap off the top of the screw if it doesn't automatically snap off on its own.

TROUBLESHOOT: When a screw only goes in partway or doesn't break off

In most cases when a screw goes only partway into the floor, it's due to incorrect tool use. If you are using a cordless drill/driver and cannot install the screw into the floor all the way, most likely the tool is not set up properly for use with this kit. Other possible causes could be that the cordless drill/driver doesn't have enough volts (power) or its battery is not fully charged. A 12-volt cordless drill/driver (or larger) is recommended for use with this kit.

A cordless drill is really a drill/driver, which means it was designed for use as a drill when set up in the drill mode. When used as a driver, it is designed to put in screws safely so as not to break off the head of the screw if the torque setting is correctly set. Unfortunately, the torque setting will not help with this kit when it comes to setting a screw to the full depth of the screw (3 inches) or for snapping the screw at the score mark.

To set the torque setting, locate the plastic multiple torque-setting ring at the base of the drill/driver just before the base of the chuck. It has icons of screws or numbers and an icon of a drill bit. Set the drill/driver so the indicator points to the drill bit icon. **BOTTOM LINE:** Put the cordless drill/driver in the drill mode when using this kit.

TROUBLESHOOT: When a screw spins

The main reason why a screw spins and will not snap or back out is because the screw's threads are in a void (space) in the subfloor or are not in contact with a solid framing member such as a floor joist. To remove the screw when it spins, grab the shank of the screw with a pair of pliers and pull up at the same time as you back out the screw.

Another reason why a screw spins is because the screw may have broken below the intentional score marks where the screw is supposed to break. It is the upper portion of the screw that will be spinning. Again, grab the shank of the screw with a pair of pliers and pull up at the same time as the screw is being backed out.