MySqueakyFloors.com – User Guide
For: Squeeeeek-No-More Kit (#3233)
"For Squeaky Floors Under Carpet"

Please Read Before Using Product

3233 - Squeeeeek No More Kit

The Squeeeeek No More kit contains a plastic molded alignment and depth control fixture, 50 specially scored 3-inch x 1/8-inch diameter screws, a customized driver bit to regulate the depth at which to drive the screw, a taped screw example for Berber or looped carpet, and two joist-finding screws to help find the joist from above.

Squeeeeek No More works so well because the 3/16-inch coarse thread of the special screw prevents it from being wrapped in carpet nap and because the score on the neck of the screw allows it to snap off below the surface of the floor.



Basic Instructions:

- When working with Berber or looped carpeting, first cover the short section of each screw's thread with transparent tape like the sample included with the kit. This will prevent the screw's thread from touching the carpet fibers and possibly pulling a strand. This step is not necessary with pile carpets.
- Find exactly where the floor squeaks by having a second person walk about; mark the location of the squeak(s) with masking tape.

- Next, locate the floor joist. Joists almost always run parallel to the narrow dimension of the house and are normally set 16 inches on center. Measure 9 inches from the wall that is parallel to the direction of the joist. This is a good starting point that should be on the joist or close to it. Use the Joist Finding Screw included in the kit and drive it down 2 inches into the floor. If the screw comes up on its own when you reverse the drill, you have found the joist. Of course, it's a lot easier to find joists from the underside (ceiling or crawlspace).
- Once you have located the joist(s), push the alignment and depth control fixture firmly into the carpet as shown above in the first photo.
- Next, place your weight around the fixture, and drive the screw down as far as the fixture will allow as shown in the second photo.
- Then, place the screw gripper on the alignment fixture over the screw head and then rock the fixture from left to right, snapping off 1-inch of the screw's shank which breaks at the weak spot that is just below the surface of the floor as shown in photo three.
- Normally, more than one screw is needed in each area. Therefore, it is best to add additional screws along the joist spaced about 4 inches apart.

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.

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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 Squeeeeek-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 Before Using The Squeeeeek No More Kit

It's important that you understand your floor construction and isolate the squeaks. The kit has a proven track record and works as designed. These tips go beyond the instructions included with the kit. The biggest mistake most individuals make is that they get in a hurry to use the kit. Those who used the kit successfully are those who took their time and did their homework.

Where do squeaks come from? An estimated 85 percent of all squeaks come from the top of the floor joist and the underside of the subfloor. In most cases there's no glue between the joists and the subfloor and nails were used rather than screws. If nails were used, they most likely were not ring shank nails. Over time, regular nails will pop upward, causing the bottom side of the subfloor to rub on the top surface of the floor joist and on the shank of the nail—and a squeak is born!

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Squeaks can come from around floor ductwork. Squeaks can be created if one (or more) of the floor joists crowns downward rather than upward. Squeaks can be found in the field, i.e., the areas between joists. Squeaks could also come from between the subfloor and the underlayment or at the joints where they meet in double-floor construction. In single-floor construction, the squeaks could come from where the subfloor's joints meet or between hardwood and the subfloor. Normally in single-floor construction T&G sheet goods are used—squeaks could also come from the T&G joints.

Subfloors could be constructed using plywood sheets or 1x materials fastened on an angle to the tops of the floor joists. Normally 1x materials have spaces up to 1-inch between them, so if you are using the kit, it's possible that you could install a screw into one of these open areas. Because the fastener has nothing to grab on to, it will not work properly. This is one situation where it's really important to understand your floor's construction.

Where should you start? First spend time to isolate the squeaks. Once they are located and marked with painters' blue masking tape, locate your joists and the direction they run.

Next check to see if the squeaks you marked are in the same area as the floor joists (most likely they are). Now you are ready to use the kit. Begin by installing the screws directly over and into the floor joists. It is better to spread your screws apart, and the spread will be determined by the squeaks you located. If after doing this there are still squeaks, then begin again to isolate the squeaks. It's possible they are now within the field (between floor joists).

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.

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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.

The driver mode has a clutch system designed to safely install screws without stripping or breaking off heads. The clutch prevents the tool from drilling, from installing 3-inch screws, and from snapping the screws as designed. Therefore, you want to set the cordless drill/driver to the drill mode to turn off the driver mode and inactivate the clutch. This setting will give you the full torque of the tool (i.e., no clutch) required to install this kit. HERE'S THE 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.

TROUBLESHOOT: When a screw breaks above the carpet

If a screw breaks prematurely, it is possible that the screw tip hit another fastener (nail, screws, or staple) in the subfloor or a knot in the subfloor or framing member (joist). Unfortunately, this can happen and it's not the fault of the product. To get the screw out place a locking piers on the remaining portion of the screw and turning the screw counter-clockwise to back the screw out.