How to install the small ears on the distribution box

Overview

Get one-on-one help from Carlos and Scott https://geni.us. The fix is simple: when using an old work box, snap off the plaster ears with pliers or wire.

Key Takeaways

The small ears on a distribution box, also called mounting tabs or plaster ears, are used to secure the box to the wall surface and ensure proper alignment with the finished wall.

Understanding the Small Ears

The small ears are designed to sit flush against the wall surface, helping the distribution box or outlet align correctly with drywall or other wall finishes. They are primarily used in “new work” installations, where the box is mounted before the wall is finished, but can also be adjusted or removed for “old work” or metal boxes if necessary.

Tools and Materials Needed

Screwdriver or electric drillWire stripperScrews or expansion boltsLevel and marking penPersonal protective equipment (insulating gloves, safety glasses, slip-resistant shoes)Optional: Madison Bars or support clips for additional stability Step-by-Step InstallationMark the Installation Location: Choose a safe, accessible location away from water or flammable materials. Mark the position of the distribution box on the wall. Prepare the Wall: Drill holes for screws or expansion bolts according to the box's mounting points.

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Insert the bolts if required. Position the Box: Align the distribution box so the small ears sit flush against the wall surface. For new work, the ears should rest directly on the drywall or wallboard.

Secure the Ears: Tighten screws through the ears into the wall studs or mounting surface. If the ears are too long or interfere with the wall surface, they can be carefully bent or removed at the scoring line using pliers. Install the Box: Ensure the box is level and stable.

Use additional support clips or Madison Bars if the wall is finished or the box needs extra stability. Wire Preparation and Connection: Strip the insulation from wires, connect line, neutral, and ground wires to the corresponding terminals, and secure them with screws. Final Checks: Dress and route wires neatly, secure with cable ties, and leave space for heat dissipation.

Perform an insulation resistance test before reconnecting power.

Tips

Always follow safety protocols and turn off the main power before installation. For old work or metal boxes, consider removing or adjusting the ears to prevent gaps between the box and wall. Label circuits clearly for future maintenance and troubleshooting.

By following these steps, the small ears will properly secure the distribution box, ensuring a safe and professional installation.

Article Content

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The plaster ears are there for plaster or sheetrock. It keeps the device up against the wall rather than having no support when the box is set back a 1/4" or so. The tabs get broken off when

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Small distribution box installation steps

The steps to install a small distribution box include selecting a suitable location, installing the base, placing the distribution box, connecting the

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Miniconda Miniconda is a free, miniature installation of Anaconda Distribution that includes only conda, Python, the packages they both depend on, and a small number of other useful packages. See the

How to Install a Distribution Box—A Comprehensive Instruction

Whether you are an electrical contractor or a construction brigade, knowing how to properly and safely install distribution boxes is the basis of ensuring the safe operation of the entire

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