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UK Soundproofing Specialists

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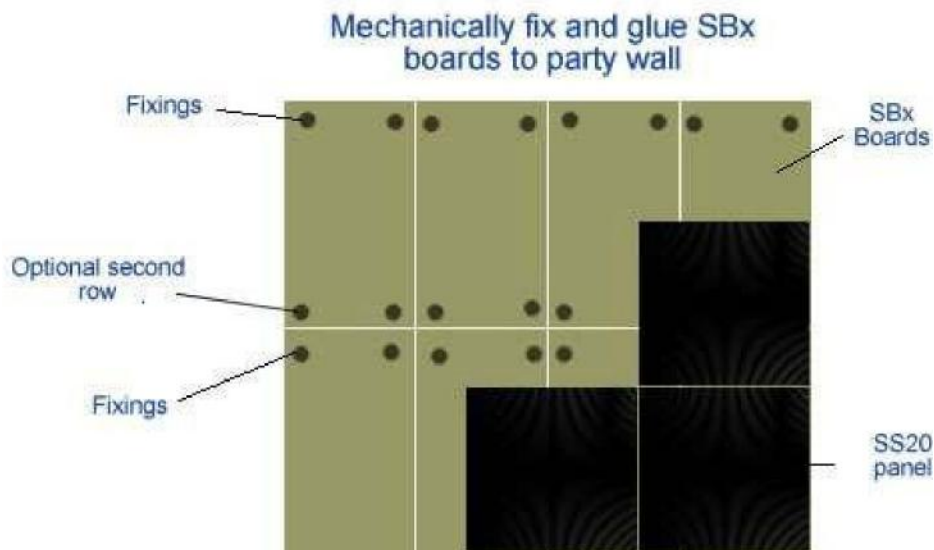
SM20 Panels with SBx upgrade

Fitting Instructions

Pre Installation Notes

In essence the fitting instructions for the SM20 panel with SBx upgrade are the same as for the SM20 panel installation, with the exception of the first stage. The SM20 installation is described below.

However we regard the most robust method of fixing is to glue and screw the SBx boards to the party wall first. The SBx board should be mechanically fixed near the corners and bonded with Sta-put adhesive. The easiest way of positioning raw plugs is to position the board. Pre-drill with a very fine drill bit at the corners, this marks the wall. Then drill in suitable raw plugs. Apply a generous layer of adhesive to the back of the board (this can be the Sta-put adhesive a gripfil / no nails or foam adhesive) Re present the board to the wall then screw through the board back into the raw plugs. The wall should have no movement whatsoever post this process.



General Fitting Instructions for SM20 panels

The SM20 panel is then added to this first layer using the glue in the same way as is described below. Generally 1 layer of plasterboard is used as the final layer. Although a second is possible. Depending on your space constraints..

If you are soundproofing a party wall be aware of the possibility of sound passing through wall below the level of the floor boards. To combat this you should consider using 100mm AMW60 filling the void under the floor immediately adjacent to the wall.

Another area where sound might be penetrating is through the party wall above the ceiling. While flanking transmission is an issue does not become so overly concerned with it that it puts you off doing the job in the first place. Ceiling improvement can be done post wall work if it proves to be a weak link.

Also make sure to fill any gaps and cracks. Obvious holes can be treated with sand cement mortar and small cracks filled with acoustic mastic. If you are able check the joists wall junction and fill any obvious hole with acoustic sealant.

As mentioned the wall to be treated needs to be smooth and free of loose wall paper or flaking paint. You should think about using a PVA solution to bond the wall if it looks in poor condition.

Skirting boards, dado rails and light fittings and power points have to be removed prior to applying the insulation. (We advise that a qualified electrician should carry out any work involving the removal and refitting of any electrical fittings). Before starting any work on electrical fittings, ensure the power is first turned off. When removing light switches and sockets, check there are no holes penetrating the wall behind each fitting. Where any are found, they must be sealed with either cement or acoustic sealant depending on the size of the hole. To facilitate refitting electrical fittings to the new surface after treatment, cut out a hole in the two layers of plasterboard in which the electrical fitting is to be fixed then glue the metal box of the fitting into the hole with Gripfill or similar adhesive.

If the party wall contains a fireplace that is not used then the ideal solution would be to brick up the opening and then treat the whole party wall with SM20 panels. Whilst this is ideal it is not often possible. From our experience we tend to find that it is the alcoves that are performing much worse than the chimney itself. This is due to the quality of original craftsmanship and the thickness of bricks used in the party wall originally.

Using the Sta-put Adhesive

Before using the Special Sta-put adhesive, read the directions on the back of the can then proceed as follows; Shake can well before using. For best results, the ambient temperature should be 70°F/21°C and properly conditioned. Note at higher ambient temperatures the tack time of Sta Put is much faster. We do not recommend fitting in temperatures above 82°F as fast tack times may result in poor bonding. Ensure all surfaces to be bonded are free from dirt, oil, grease, dust, and any other material that may affect the bond. Adjust the nozzle by turning to the largest spray pattern which is usually the third symbol to the right looking at the top of the can and near the base of the nozzle. Hold the can 6 to 8 inches away from surface and apply in even coats making sure the adhesive 'webs' across the surface. Take care not to use too much adhesive or you may run out before the end of the job.

Do not hold closer than 6 inches or 'wet' the surface. It is important a web pattern is obtained and at least 80% of the surface is covered. One surface should be sprayed vertically and the other horizontally. Do not concentrate in one spot or allow to puddle. Once both surfaces have been coated, bond the sound insulation directly to the wall with a firm, even pressure. Tack time can vary depending on climate conditions and may well be shorter or none at all if it is warm. In warm conditions, the adhesive may go off before bonding commences if too much time is taken before bonding the two surfaces together so don't delay. It is important that good pressure is applied to ensure a firm bond is obtained. A roller may help. Although our adhesive is low odor, it is still advised that where the work is being conducted is well ventilated with a window open if possible. The adhesive should be stored at normal room temperatures of 15° - 21°C.

Occasionally, for various reasons, problems may be encountered bonding the product to the wall. When this occurs, mechanical fixings can be used in addition to the adhesive as follows: If fixing to plasterboard faced timber stud, additional normal wire nails hammered well into the insulation so the heads are below the panel surface work well. In these cases use only sufficient nails to secure the insulation effectively. When fixing to masonry walls nail guns can be used to shot fire nails through the insulation or alternatively, masonry nails combined with battens can be used but these must be removed when the adhesive has cured.

Installing Panels

Check the panels before installation removing any bits of loose paper that may still be stuck from the manufacturing process. Remove any dust make sure panels are dry. Now proceed as follows: The sound insulation is applied as soon as the wall is suitably prepared. Ensure the wall is dry and free of dust or grease and the surface to be treated is flat and sound.. Adjust the spray of the adhesive by turning the nozzle (See above)

Bond the SM20 panel to the pre-glued area of the wall and apply with a firm pressure over the entire panel to ensure it is properly bonded over its entire surface. You should apply the SM20 in rows and work upwards. Starting in a bottom corner. The application of the spray adhesive also applies to the plasterboard.

Make sure you do all necessary cuts to allow for corners and electrical fittings before using the adhesive as it goes off very quickly. Care must be taken to ensure there are no unnecessary gaps between the joints of the sound insulation. Any holes or spaces can be filled with acoustic sealant. When each wall has been covered with the SM20 acoustic panels, no further treatment should continue until the adhesive has sufficiently cured. However if it is warm over 70 degrees the curing is fast and work can continue the same day. We recommend using two layers of 12.5 mm acoustic plasterboard with this solution although you can use 15mm or even 19mm planc.

Cut the acoustic plasterboard to the correct height between the ceiling and floor allowing a small gap at both bottom and top before applying the adhesive. When each board has been treated with the contact adhesive,(the cheaper variety supplied is fine for bonding plasterboard to plasterboard), place it into position onto the soundproofed wall ensuring a small gap is left where the board meets the floor, walls and ceiling. Proceed with more boards across the entire wall and again, leave a small gap where the last board is cut in. There should now be a small gap 3mm or sol around the perimeter of the plasterboard where the boards meet the floor, ceiling and walls. It is easier to use thin packing pieces to achieve this, which can be removed when the adhesive has cured. This gap should then be filled with acoustic mastic.

Repeat the process for the second layer of plasterboard but this time overlapping the joints of the first layer. It may be necessary to support the plasterboard until the adhesive has sufficiently set. If you run out of adhesive at this point you can use any common spray tack adhesive or Unibond wallboard adhesive to add the final layer of plasterboard. It is imperative however that you use Sta-PUT for the SM20 layer

When the adhesive has cured, the soundproofed wall can be finished by plaster skimming or as desired. However, if plastering, be sure to maintain the small gap around the edges. This can be achieved with the edge of the trowel. When finished, the skirting board can be reapplied with adhesive or plasterboard screws. All screws used must be designed for plasterboard and must NOT bridge the insulation. Nails must never be used. Skirting boards should be fixed with a small gap beneath and in each corner to ensure the wall remains "floating". All gaps can be filled with flexible acoustic sealant before decorating.

Fitting of shelves, cupboards and radiators etc should not commence until the adhesive has fully cured and at least a week after the plasterboard has been bonded. Be sure to use only the correct screws and plugs designed for use with plasterboard and be careful not to penetrate the insulation through to the structural wall.

Guidance on Cutting SBx boards (Next Page)

SBx Board Cutting



Measure and mark cutting line

Process on stable work surface - adhere to occupational safety!



Cut boards

Jigsaw with metal or ceramic saw blade.
circular hand saw with "Widia" blade and suction.
If necessary, refill sand after cutting.



Mask boards

Only mask cut edges with Wolf Tape.
Leave at least 2cm of the Wolf Tape on the corners.

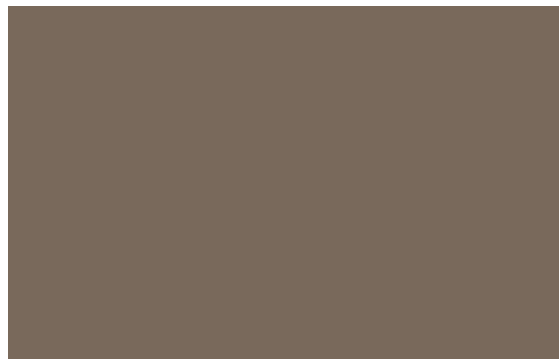


Cover corners

Fold the remaining tape on the corners down
and press the excess tape on the sides down
onto the board surface.



Push down the tape along the length of the board
Press down the Wolf Tape remaining on the side
lengthwise.



Done