Squeeeeeek No More

Squeeeeek No More®

- PATENTED -
THE FLOOR SQUEAK ELIMINATION SYSTEM FOR CARPETED, HARDWOOD, AND LINOLEUM FLOORS.

WARNING: This is engineered to work with the components provided. Any attempt to substitute parts can cause damage to the floor and may cause injury to the user.

WARNING: Always use safety glasses.

WARNING: Use in well lighted areas, use work lights if necessary.

WARNING: Keep out of reach of children, and store in a secure place.

THIS KIT CONTAINS:

- **An alignment and depth control fixture part 3240.**
- **50 special scored screws, part #3251.**
- **Square head driver bit with a stop, part #3261.**
- **Taped screw example for berber carpet.**
- **Joist finding screw #3255.**
- **Hardwood Floor Adaptor**
- **Instructions**

Tips on Squeaks:

Most squeaks in floors are caused by nails used in constructing the floor working loose and rubbing on the floorboard when you step on the area. Because of this the sooner you can eliminate the squeak the better. Young squeaks are much easier to correct than old timers, which have been allowed to grow.

Mechanical squeaks are caused by the floor rubbing on the cold air return or the floor flexing and rubbing on a pipe or electrical line. These are identified by a mechanical noise when you step on the area. Squeeeeek No More® can correct these in many cases by tightening the floor and by eliminating movement in the floor members.

Squeeeeek No More® Joist Finding Screw

The **Squeeeeek No More® Joist Finding Screw** is an easy to use tool that will find the exact location of your floor joists from above the floor. The screw is designed to work on carpeted plywood or chipboard floors.

The screw is ***not*** designed to find the joist under hardwood floors. Each plank in a hardwood floor has nails in it. The nails, in general, cause the squeaks. With hardwood floors, you need to drive the screws down into the plank that is visibly moving or where the noise is coming from, not necessarily into the joist.

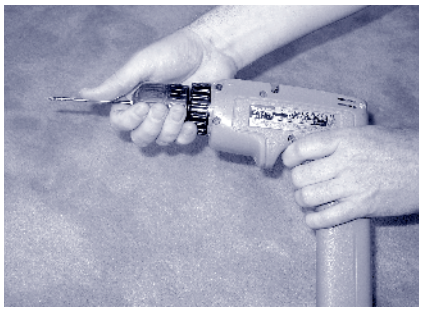
On plywood or chipboard floors, the nails are driven into the joist to hold the floor down. Over time, the nails loosen and allow the wood to move back and forth on the smooth shank portion of the nail. On this type of floor we use the Joist Finder, find the joist, and fasten the floor to the joist.

* When working on a berber or loop carpet cover the short section of thread with transparent tape similar to the taped example screw provided in the kit. This will prevent the screw thread from touching the carpet fiber and possibly pulling a strand. Pile carpet this is not necessary.

Tools Needed

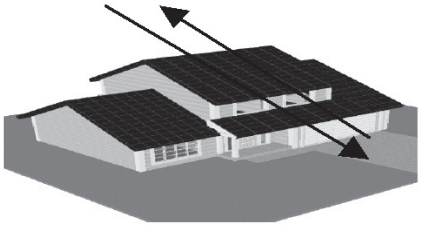
1. 4 1/2" Joist Finder Screw (provided)
2. Tape Measure
3. Power Drill

Step 1. Insert hex portion of the Joist Finding Screw into drill chuck and tighten.

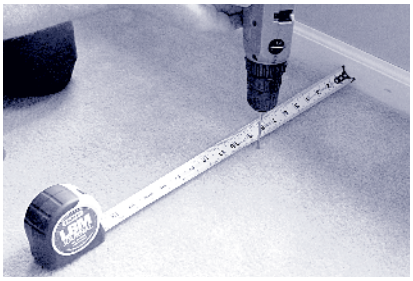


Step 2. Determine the direction of the floor joists. The joists almost always parallel the narrow dimension of the house.

Joist run the narrow dimensions



Step 3. Measure 9 inches from a wall that is parallel to the direction of the joist. This is a good starting point that should be very close to the joist. Or if you have a heat vent in the floor you can use that to find the joist. The vent is always between two joists. If you were to start next to the vent you will probably find the joist on the first or second attempt. Drive the Joist Finding Screw down into the floor 2 inches.



Step 4. Shift the drill into reverse. If the screw doesn't back out, the threads of the screw aren't in the joist. Lift the drill while you slowly reverse the drill, this will back the screw out. Move over an inch, moving away from the wall or the vent if you are using that, and drive it down again.

Step 5. Continue these steps until the screw comes up on its own indicating that you have gone into the joist. At this point you can measure across the room to the other joists. **Floor joist are normally set on 16 inch centers.**

Instructions for using Squeeeeek No More®

1. The Squeeeeek No More® system will eliminate most squeaks under carpet, hardwood, vinyl and linoleum floors. There can be cases where all squeaks cannot be completely eliminated. This points to floor damage due to misapplication of the sub floor, water damage, structural damage, mechanical damage and other causes. These cases should be referred to a carpenter or floor professional to prevent further damage.
2. Normally more than one screw is needed. It is best add additional screws along the joist, spaced approximately 4 inches.
3. Always use safety glasses and use in well lighted areas.
4. Snap off the screw heads at the end of the project, and thoroughly inspect the area to insure all of the screw heads are removed.

Instructions for Berber Carpet

In general there are two types of carpeting Pile and Berber. Berber is made with a series of loops from one continuous strand of fiber. When working with Berber carpet use a screw that has its tip and thread covered with a transparent household tape, like the one provided in the kit. It is important to use a taped screw on Berber carpet because it shields the screw threads from grabbing the carpet fiber. After you tape the screws follow the instructions below.

Instructions for Carpeted Floors over Plywood or Chipboard

Locate the floor joist using the Joist Finding Screw. Then push the Alignment and Depth control fixture firmly into the carpet.

Place your weight around the fixture and drive the scored screw down as far as the fixture will allow it to go.

Place the screw gripper, on the alignment fixture, over the screw head. Then rock the fixture left to right snapping the head off. The screw breaks at the weak spot that is consistently set below the surface of the floor. Squeaks are gone and no damage is done the carpet.

How to Find the Joist in Hardwood Floors

If you have a stud sensor, use that to see if you can get an indication of the joist. If that works, pre-drill a hole at the joist through the hardwood with a 1/8 drill bit. Then drive the screw through the fixture, having the flat wide base against the floor. The screw will snap, 3/8 of an inch below the surface. Then fill with a matching wood filler.

If the stud sensor doesn't work, then near the wall on the floor, pre-drill a small hole down 2 ¼ inches, using a 3/32 drill bit. Take a straightened out paperclip and put it down the hole. If the paperclip goes down more than 2 ¼ inches, you are not in the joist. Move over an inch and do it again until the paperclip stops at 2 ¼ inches, indicating the joist.

The holes that are made are very small. Because they are close to the wall they will be very hard to see when concealed with filler.

Squeaks in Stairs

Stairs have three components: the stringer or carriage, the tread, and the riser. The stringer is the notched board to which the tread and riser are attached. The squeak is usually caused by the nails used to hold the tread to the stringer or riser becoming loose. To fix the squeak, place the alignment fixture over the connection between the stringer and the tread or the tread and the riser. Then drive the scored screw down as far as the fixture will allow it to go. Use the screw gripper to snap off the top of the screw.

Replacement Parts Available

Package of 50 screws, Part 3251	Package of 500 screws, Part 3253
Package of 250 screws, Part 3252	Driver Bit, Part 3261

Squeeeeek No More® is assembled in the U.S.A. by parts manufactured in the U.S.A. & Taiwan.

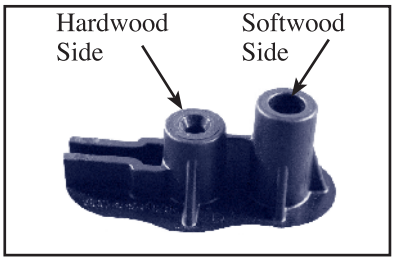
Squeeeeek No More® Hardwood Floor Adaptor

Squeaks can happen both at the joist and between the joist. If you are working on a floor over 50 years old, they generally are at the joist.

Fixture

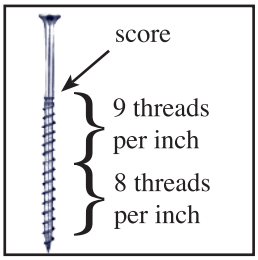
The Fixture Has Two Sides:

1. The hardwood side where the screw snaps off when it hits the top of the fixture.
2. The softwood side where the screw is driven down and then broken off manually.



Screw

The specially scored screw has a variable pitch. It starts at the tip with 8 threads per inch. One inch up it switches to 9 threads per inch. This change draws the wood together.

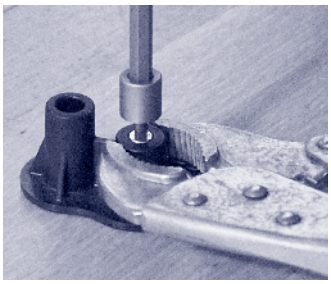


Finding the Correct Drill Bit

The scored screw is designed to snap when a certain amount of torque and pull are achieved. Because wood varies in density, we want to find the correct drill bit to use to pre-drill a pilot hole that will consistently give us that amount of torque.

The best way to find the correct size is to pre-drill down 2 ¼ inches with a 1/8 inch drill bit. You might want to do this in a closet or an out of the way spot. Drive the screw down through the hardwood side of the fixture, as far as the tool will allow. When the screw head hits the top of the fixture, the screw should snap **immediately**. If the screw doesn't snap at that point, **stop driving** the screw and reverse it out. The hole is too large for this particular wood. Now drive the screw back down using the softwood side, as far as the fixture and driver bit will allow. Take the fixture off the screw and snap the head of the screw off. To do this, grab the head of the screw with a set of pliers and rock back and forth. This will snap the screw at the score.

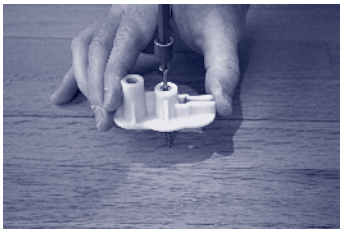
Repeat this procedure using a smaller, 7/64 drill bit. Keep moving down in bit size until the screw snaps off automatically. If you find that the screw still does not snap consistently, follow the instructions for use on softwoods.



If you drive the screw down and it doesn't snap, **do not** continue to drive the screw. It will strip the hole and you will not be able to reverse the screw to get it to back out. If this happens, grab and lock onto the fixture with locking pliers, like Vise Grips®. By lifting up on the pliers and slowly reversing the drill, the screw will come back out.

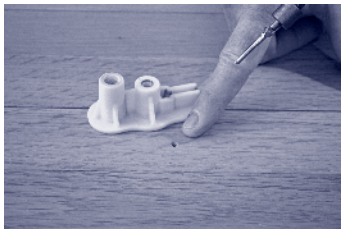
Steps for Hardwood Floors

Pre-drill a hole in the floor with the correct drill bit. See above instructions.



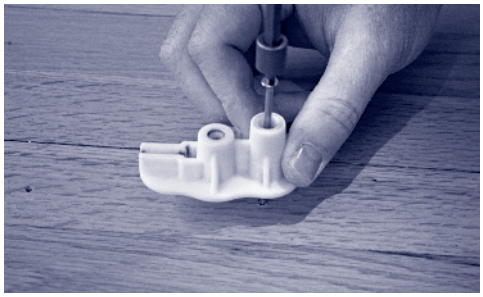
Drive a screw through the shorter opening in the fixture.

The head of the screw will hit the top of the fixture. The screw will then pull and snap at the score.

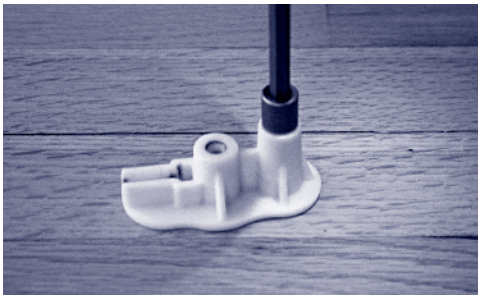


The score is now set 1/5 of an inch below the wood. Fill the hole with putty to finish.

Steps for Softwood Floors

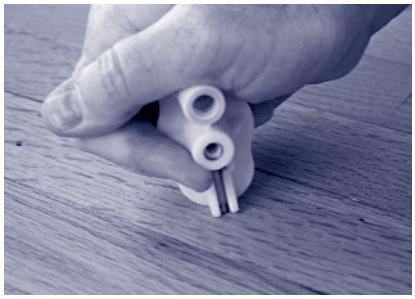


After pre-drilling a 1/8 inch hole down 2 1/4 inches, drive a screw through the taller opening in the fixture.

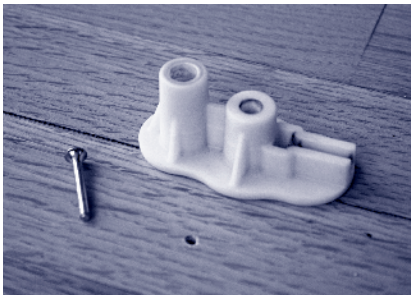


Drive the screw down as far as the fixture will allow.

Place the gripper portion of the fixture over the head of the screw.



Rock the fixture back and forth until the head of the screw snaps at the score.



The score is now set 1/5 of an inch below the wood. Fill the hole with putty to finish.

Steps for Linoleum Floors

In most linoleum floors you can find the floor joist with an electric stud sensor. The indications from the stud sensor may be weaker although you should be able to get a good idea where the joists are. Using a strong new battery may make the stud finder have a more consistent reading. In general, floor joists are 16 inches apart. Having a heat vent can help because the vent will be between two joists.

Once you find the joists, focus on the spot on the joist where the movement and squeaks are coming from. Then drive the screw through the shorter opening in the fixture.

The head of the screw will hit the top of the fixture. The screw will then pull and snap at the score.

The screw is now set 1/5 of an inch below the floor. Take a hammer and tap the small bump that is left to smooth out the hole and force the hole to fill over.