

# Recessed profiles

## Recessed profiles for LED strips and other linear solutions

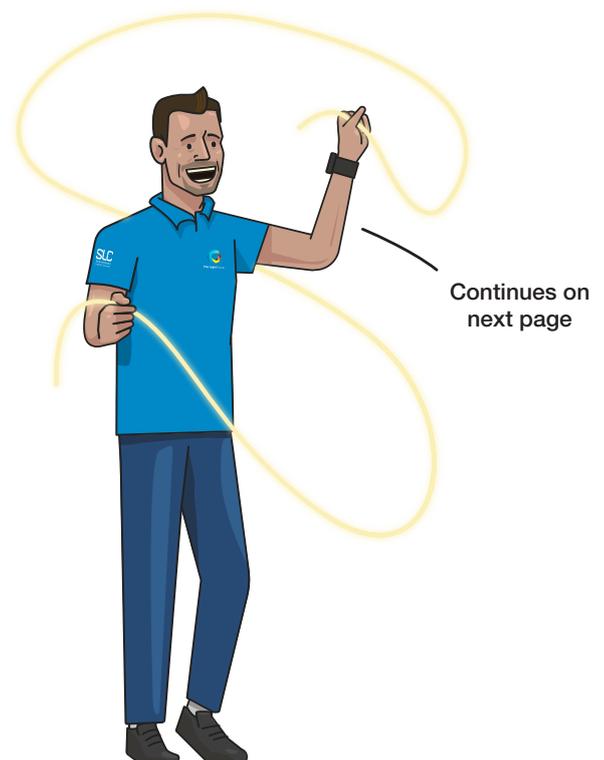
Drawing on our extensive experience and expertise, this guide provides essential information for installing recessed channels for LED strips.

Each project or room where a recessed profile will be used is unique. Therefore, we always recommend consulting with the carpenter and painter on your project to ensure that everyone agrees on the best solution. In many cases, it may be easier for the carpenter to fit the gypsum board to an opening in the ceiling or wall, rather than having the electrician come in later and make the opening with a Fein cutter.

Good communication with the carpenter and painter is crucial when installing recessed profiles. Listen to them and use their advice along with our guide.

### Important points to consider:

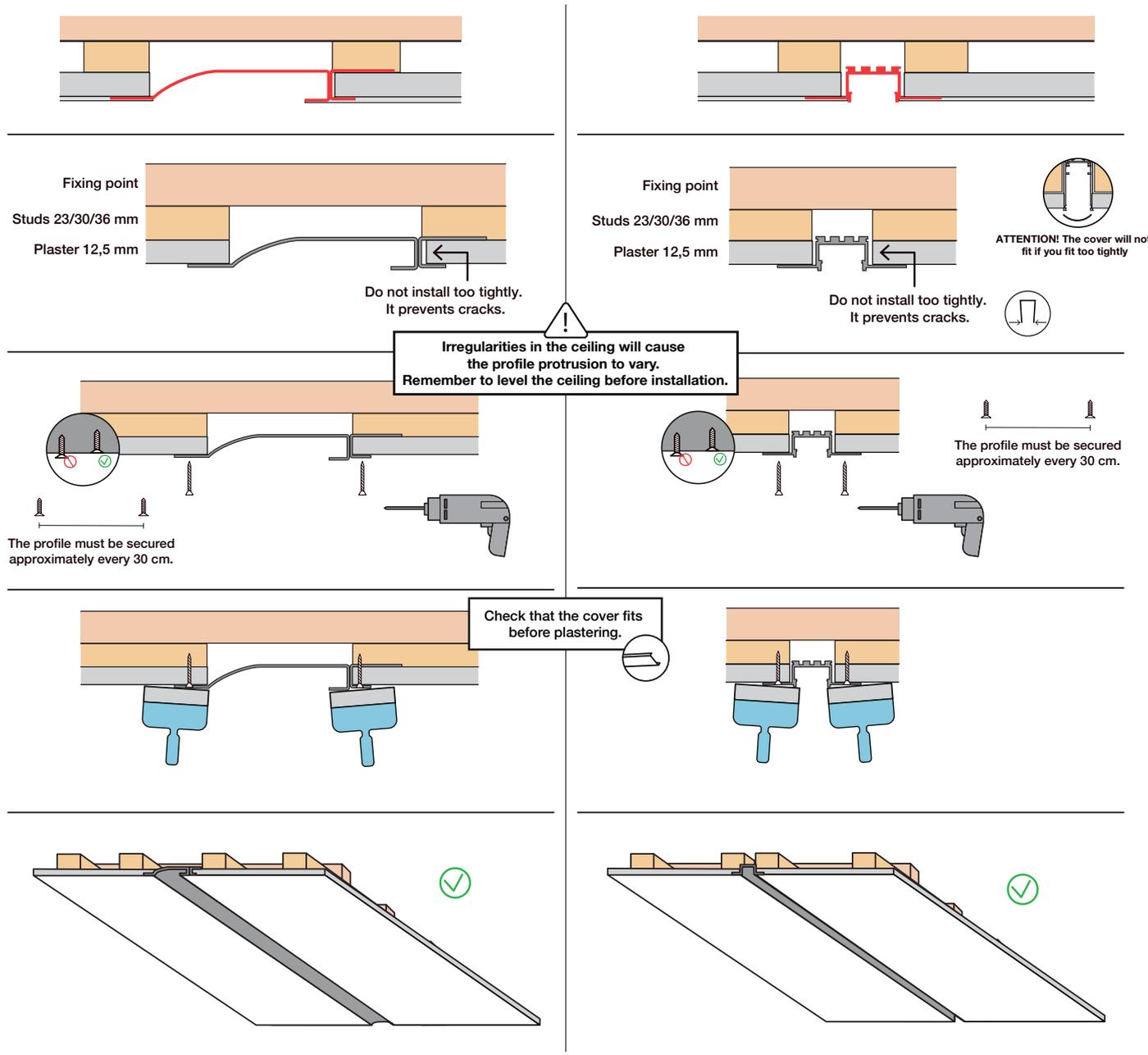
- The profile to be plastered in often becomes the weakest point if it is not built in with battens (maintain a 5-10 mm distance from the profile to the battens) and fastened just as securely as a gypsum board (20-30 cm between screws on each side of the profile).
- A U-profile can also act as a “spring” in the wall or ceiling, meaning the profile “gives” due to movement in the structure. This can result in the opening for the cover being 1-2 mm smaller after plastering and painting, making it impossible to fit the cover. To avoid this, do not build too closely with wood around the profile, and it helps to install a temporary cover in the profile before plastering.
- If there is a risk that the structure of the ceiling or wall might be weakened, consult the carpenter on the project to find the right solution.
- It is important to level the ceiling and/or wall before installing gypsum and profiles.
- Do not use damp or too “massive” materials for backing the screws behind the gypsum. If using fiberboard as a screw anchor, it should not be wider than 20-30 cm. Large wooden surfaces tend to create cracks in gypsum joints.
- To achieve a finer joint/transition from the recessed profile to the gypsum, some painters use a paper strip in the transitions between the gypsum and the profile. Our experience is that this is not always necessary, but we defer to the painter’s recommendation. They are the experts in this field.
- In older buildings, the joists in the ceiling may be more flexible than in a new building. If there is significant flexibility in the ceiling, reconsider the chosen solution. Sometimes it might be more sensible to use a surface-mounted profile instead of a recessed one.
- Many recessed profiles do not have joints, corners, or end caps. In transitions where cracks may occur, we recommend sealing, but ensure that there is a piece of gypsum or something solid behind it to apply the sealant against.
- Many solutions can reveal imperfections on the wall or ceiling, especially with tiles. Discuss with the relevant trades in advance so they are prepared. For example, the tiler can install tiles with a work lamp that will shine from the same angle as the finished installed LED strip solution, minimizing the visibility of imperfections.
- In 9 out of 10 projects, “settling cracks” will appear in a building during the first year. Sometimes they appear after a week, and other times after a year. A recessed profile is also susceptible to this, especially if it is installed in the wall-to-ceiling transition. If a lot of wood is used, which is a “living” material, and over a year it is exposed to significant temperature fluctuations and varying humidity levels. This causes cracks to appear, not only in connection with a recessed profile but in many places throughout the room or building.
- We always recommend taking photos during the build and installation process and obtaining some form of written confirmation from other trades if they have accepted or provided input on the solution. This makes everything much easier if something goes wrong later.



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The Light Group wishes you luck, and feel free to send us some nice environmental photos when the entire room is completely finished!

# Examples of installation of recessed profiles



## IMPORTANT!

### Examples of what may cause cracks around a LED strip profile:

1. It is not properly fastened/screwed/glued securely with gypsum on both sides of the profile.
2. There is movement or "settling" in the structure/joists and due to flexibility in the ceiling or wall.
3. Drying throughout the year (e.g., wood heating and large temperature differences).
4. Poor adhesion for plaster/glue, such as dust on the gypsum not being wiped off after cutting the groove for the profile.

An aluminum or steel profile will never be the reason for cracks in plaster/paint. However, since transitions between this and the gypsum **CAN** sometimes become the weakest point in the ceiling or on the wall, this is often where the crack appears, and people tend to first think that the recessed profile is "to blame."

A crack that occurs is due to the work done (or not done) around the profile installation, or movements that occur in the surrounding structure. The latter is difficult to do anything about other than trying to re-plaster and paint.

If you have any questions about this guide, please contact us.



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