

Lath and Plaster

APPLICATION NOTE

REV. 1.1 | 15-07-2022



Introduction

Lath and plaster is a building technique used to finish interior walls and ceilings consisting of narrow strips of wood (laths) which are nailed across wall studs or ceiling joists and then coated in plaster. It is a more time consuming and expensive technique compared to gypsum-based dry lining and is now seldom (if ever) used in new construction projects, but is still commonly found in listed and historic buildings undergoing renovation.



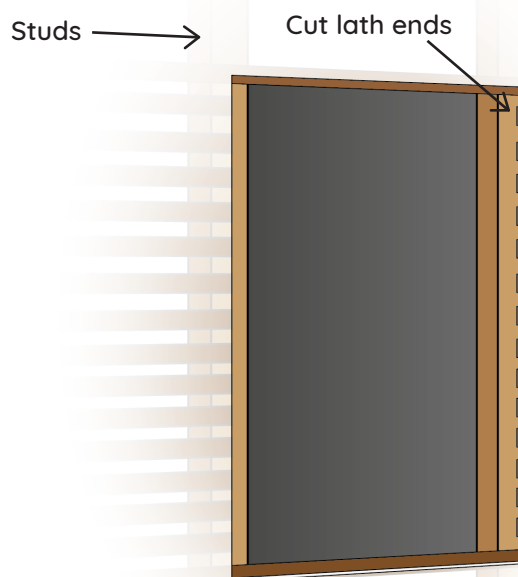
Despite being an old technique, there are a number of reasons lath and plaster might be retained instead of being replaced with more modern gypsum-based dry lining: Lath and plaster walls and ceilings are heavier and thicker than standard gypsum counterparts, giving better sound isolation between rooms and better thermal performance. Re-using existing construction and minimising waste is much more ecologically friendly and in many cases there may indeed be conservation orders / listed status enforced on properties with this type of construction which stipulates that the construction type must not be changed.

Amina loudspeakers have been installed into lath and plaster walls countless times as there is clearly a strong synergy between invisible speakers and historic properties where a period and/or authentic look is desired or required. Through these installations we have refined the standard installation process to optimize it for lathe and plaster applications.

Instructions

Carefully remove lathe and plaster back to the centre line of two adjoining rafters/studs in the area the speaker is to be located. The approximate location of studs can be found by using a metal detector or a magnet to detect the nails securing the laths to the studs. Studs are usually spaced 16" (410mm) apart but are frequently found to vary, so a small preliminary inspection hole can help to ensure accurate stud location. The length of removed lathe and plaster should be approximately 300mm-400mm longer than the speaker itself in total.

With the cutout made, ensure all cut lath ends are tightly pinned to the rafters/studs, as unsecured laths may be a source of unwanted noise. To do so, remove a small amount of plaster from the periphery of the hole to expose the lath ends.



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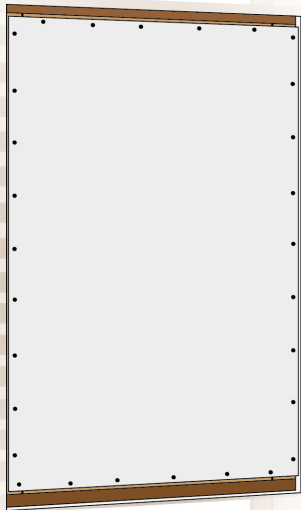
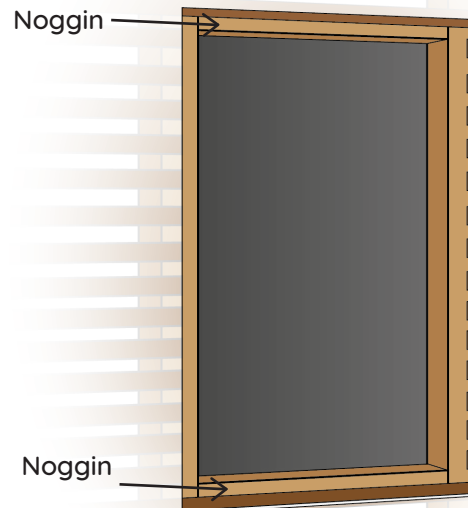
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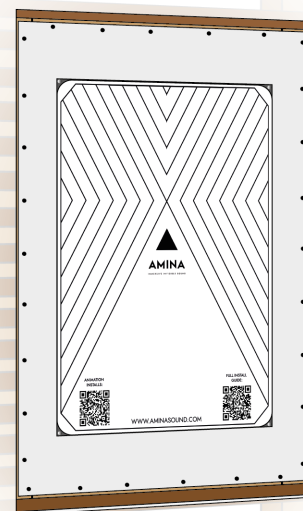


Thoroughly clear the cavity of debris, then take the opportunity to fill the cavity with insulation (Amina recommends Inno-therm) while it is fully accessible. Then, insert noggins in both ends of the opening to support the existing uncut lathes and a new plasterboard piece. Pin the laths securely to the noggins.



Cut a new plasterboard piece to suit opening. Secure to the exposed rafters/studs and the new noggins using suitable drywall screws with a maximum spacing of 100mm apart. Ensure plasterboard is positioned so it sits approximately 2mm back from the finished surface of the existing lathe and plaster. You may need to shim the plasterboard forward from the rafters using an incompressible material.

From this point, follow the standard Amina instructions to install your cavity wall backbox and speaker within the new plasterboard piece. Don't forget to fill both the gap between speaker and plasterboard and the gap between the new plasterboard and old lath and plaster with a hard-setting jointing compound (such as British Gypsum joint filler), covering any exposed laths and allowing to fully dry before the finishing layer is applied.



Finally, skim over the speaker and plasterboard using multi-finish or other finishing compound (Amina recommend British Gypsum Easi-Fill), blending in to the existing plaster ceiling surface. Allow to dry fully before decorating.

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