

Awning For Patio Global

DEALER & INSTALLER EDITION

Motorized Zip-Track Shade Installation Guide

Step-by-step procedure for inside-mount (U-channel) and surface-mount installations, from housing setup through track alignment and final leveling.

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Product Highlights

Features that set this shade apart, and that your customers will notice.



NEW

Self-adjusting bottom bar for all-season performance

A spring-loaded mechanism built into the bottom-bar end **retracts in cold weather**. The shade keeps running smoothly when temperatures drop, eliminating one of the most common causes of seasonal service calls.

- Spring-loaded end mechanism inside the bottom-bar profile
- Compensates automatically for cold-weather conditions
- Fewer callbacks for dealers, less downtime for customers

120

Rated up to 120 mph wind loads

Heavy-duty metal frames, housing and side tracks built for commercial and coastal exposure, when fastened per this guide.

U

Adjustable U-channel corners

Inside-mount U-channel adjusts at the corners for a tight, gap-free fit on brick, stone and imperfect openings.

1″

Left/right tube adjustment up to 1″

The CLAW leveling wheel on the tube lets the installer true the bottom bar on either side by up to 1″, with no re-cutting (see Step 6).

∠

Built for sloped patios

Left and right tracks are cut independently to different heights, so the shade fits sloped patios and uneven floors cleanly.



This is how strong it is.

Two adults jumping on a stretched screen panel. Commercial-grade fabric, locked into the tracks along its full height.

Before You Begin

Read this guide in full before starting. Most service calls come from skipped preparation, not from the product.

Critical installation specifications

Level
Housing must be installed level. Never assume the mounting surface is level.

Plumb
Both side tracks must be plumb for the shade to perform as intended.

1″
Set the upper limit with the bottom bar 1″ below the back of the housing.

3/16″
Gap between the face of the track and the bottom-bar end cap.

WHY THE 1″ UPPER LIMIT

In colder months the keder does not roll up as tightly as in summer. Leaving 1″ of clearance prevents the bottom bar from hitting the housing and avoids a winter service call.

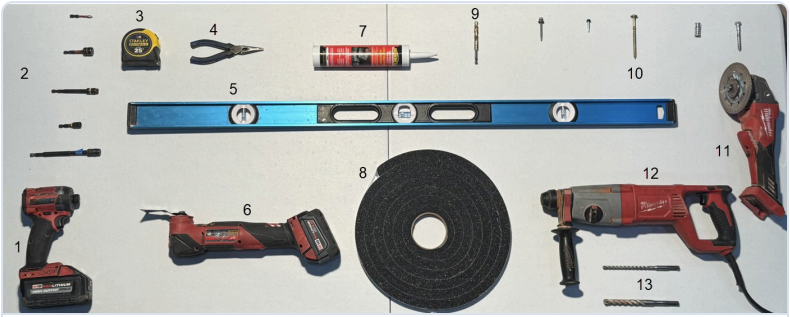
Installer responsibilities

- Read these installation instructions before starting.
- Select fasteners suited to the substrate that will securely support the housing and tracks.
- Fasteners must be rated for the wind load in your area.
- Determine power location and requirements before installation.

Not shown in tool photo

- Ladders
- Saw horses
- Chop saw

Tools required



These tools let the installer handle any exterior surface. Numbers match the list.

1. Drill / impact driver
2. Driver bits
3. Tape measure
4. Needle-nose pliers
5. Level (48″ minimum)
6. Multi-tool
7. Epoxy / construction adhesive
8. Foam tape
9. Drill bits
10. Mounting screws
11. Grinder
12. Hammer drill
13. Hammer drill bits

Installation overview

STEP 1
U-channel (inside mount only)

STEP 2
Housing preparation

STEP 3
Housing installation

STEP 4
Tube & screen + motor programming

STEP 5
Track installation & gap setting

STEP 6
Leveling, hood & clean-up

1 U-Channel Installation

Inside mount only. For surface-mount applications, skip to Step 2.

1. Prepare the surface to accept the U-channel. This may require grinding or cutting brick/stone, or installing build-out material so the surface is flat and square.
2. Measure and cut the U-channel from the bottom to fit the opening. **The notched end of the U-channel is the top.**
3. Drill holes along the back of the U-channel every 24″, starting 12″ from the top.
4. On brick, stone or any other uneven surface, apply foam tape to the back of the U-channel to eliminate light gaps. Caulk may also be used.
5. Fasten the U-channel to the substrate using screws appropriate for that substrate.

CRITICAL

The U-channel must be secured so it cannot come loose. A loose U-channel lets the track move inward, binding the shade and resulting in a service call.

2 Housing Preparation

Remove the tube, then drill mounting and power-cord holes.

1. Remove the hood to expose the tube, either by pulling the hood straight up (Fig. 1) or by levering it off the end cap with a screwdriver (Fig. 2).
2. Remove the pin from the idle side (Fig. 3).
3. Remove the plastic clip from the motor side to release the motor (Fig. 4).
4. Lift the tube out of the housing. Mounting-hole locations depend on the mounting method. See the next page.



Fig. 1 Pull the hood straight up

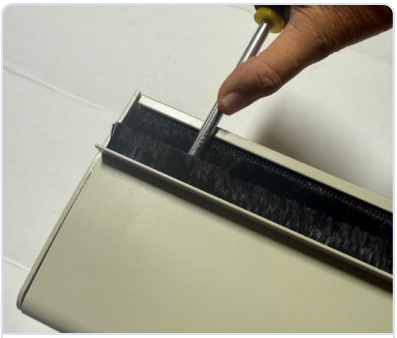


Fig. 2 Release the hood with a screwdriver



Fig. 3 Idle-side pin / metal clip

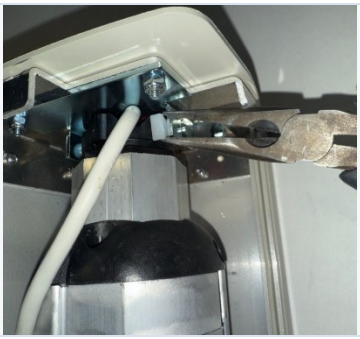


Fig. 4 Motor-side plastic clip

2 Housing Preparation (cont.)

Drill the housing to match your mounting method.

Under-header mount

Drill 2 holes in the **top** of the housing at each end to support it (Fig. 5). Add 2 screws in the top every 4–5 ft to support the housing and prevent vibration in windy conditions (Fig. 5a).

Surface mount (face of header or wall)

Drill 2 holes in the **back** of the housing at each end to support it (Fig. 5). Add 2 screws in the back every 4–5 ft to support the housing and prevent vibration in windy conditions (Fig. 5a).

> **CAUTION**
> Do not place screws in the center of the housing. If a screw vibrates loose over time, it can damage the fabric.

Power cord exit

Decide where the power cord will exit. Drill a **3/8″ hole** in the back, top or end cap of the housing, **within 1″ of the end cap**, so the cord does not interfere with the fabric as it rolls up and down.

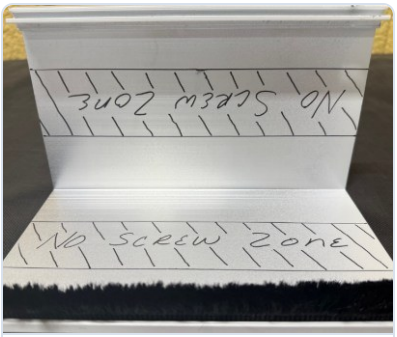


Fig. 5 End mounting holes

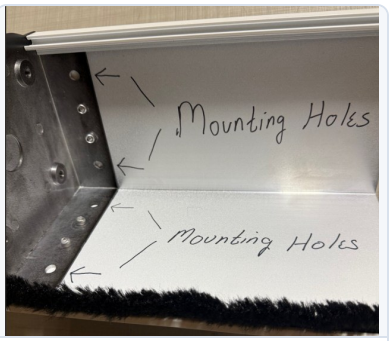


Fig. 5a Support screw placement

3 Housing Installation

Center, level and secure the housing.

1. Center the housing in or on the opening and fasten one side with a single screw.
2. Level the housing, then secure the other side.
3. Install the center support screws while keeping the housing level, so the hood can be installed easily later.

> **PRO TIP**
> Use shims as needed to keep the housing level. Never assume the mounting surface is level.

4 Tube & Screen Installation

Two methods are available. Option 2 (next page) is recommended.

Option 1 · Install tube and screen separately ALTERNATIVE

1. **Seat the tube (two people).** Raise the tube and place the motor end into the motor bracket, with the metal pin and plastic O-ring facing the back of the housing. Keep the tube roughly level so the pin enters the bracket easily.
2. **Seat the idle end.** Insert the idle end into the idle bracket, with the idle shaft touching the back of the bracket so the pin slides into the idle bearing easily. Insert the metal clip on the idle end (Fig. 3) and the plastic clip on the motor end (Fig. 4). The tube is now secured.
3. **Program the motor.** Connect the motor wire (use an extension cord when installing multiple units) and pair the motor to its channel on the remote. Refer to the programming instructions.
4. **Position the tube.** Once paired, rotate the tube so the back hole is accessible (Fig. 6). The tube has 2 holes so it works with either a left- or right-hand motor.
5. **Attach the fabric.** Starting at one end, guide the keder through the hole in the tube to the other side. Align the Velcro strips on the fabric and tube to center the fabric (Fig. 7).
6. **Set limits.** Using the remote, roll the shade up and program the upper and lower limits. Leave the shade in the up position for track installation.

DRIP LOOP
Orient the motor wire downward to form a drip loop that protects against moisture.

PROGRAMMING
When installing new motors, only one motor may be plugged in at a time.

BIAS-CUT SHADES
If the shade has a bias cut at the bottom, an additional fabric angle may be attached to the top of the fabric. This helps the fabric roll up evenly on the tube (Fig. 8).

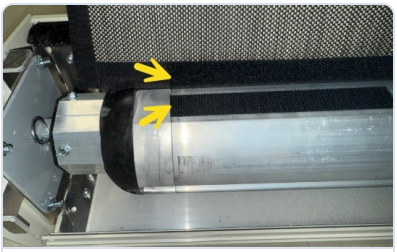


Fig. 6 Tube hole: back of housing side

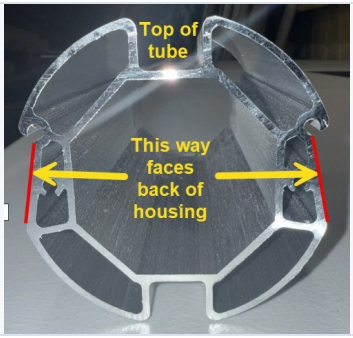


Fig. 7 Align the Velcro strips



Fig. 8 Fabric angle on bias-cut shades

4 Tube & Screen Installation (cont.)

Installing the tube and fabric together means you never lift the bottom bar at the same time as the tube.

Option 2 · Install tube and screen together RECOMMENDED

1. **Load the fabric.** On a flat surface or saw horses, slide the fabric onto the tube using the correct hole (Fig. 6). Align the Velcro strips on the fabric and tube to center the fabric.
2. **Half-roll.** Roll about half the fabric onto the tube, leaving the other half on the bottom bar. Rest the tube, fabric and bottom bar on top of the ladders.
3. **Lift the tube only.** Unroll enough fabric to raise the tube to the housing while the bottom bar stays on the ladder.
4. **Seat the tube.** Place the motor end into the motor bracket, with the metal pin and plastic O-ring facing the back of the housing. Keep the tube roughly level. Then insert the idle end into the idle bracket with the idle shaft touching the back of the bracket. Insert the metal clip on the idle end (Fig. 3) and the plastic clip on the motor end (Fig. 4). The tube is now secured.
5. **Program and set limits.** Connect the motor wire (use an extension cord for multiple units) and pair the motor to its channel on the remote. Refer to the programming instructions. Roll the shade up, program the upper and lower limits, and leave the shade up for track installation.

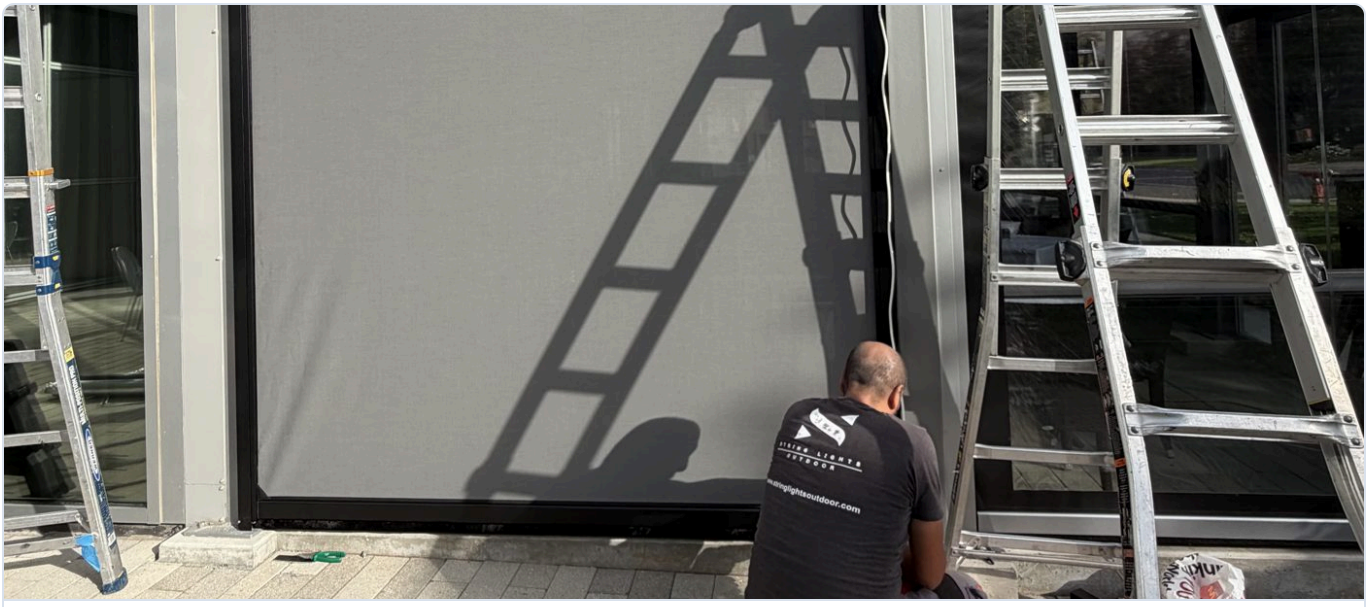
WHY RECOMMENDED
Splitting the weight between tube and bottom bar lets the crew seat the tube in its brackets without fighting the full load of fabric and bottom bar.

DRIP LOOP
Orient the motor wire downward to form a drip loop that protects against moisture.

PROGRAMMING
When installing new motors, only one motor may be plugged in at a time.

BIAS-CUT SHADES
An additional fabric angle may be attached to the top of the fabric to help it roll up evenly (Fig. 8).

UPPER LIMIT
Remember to stop the bottom bar 1″ below the back of the housing.



Field reference Tube and screen seated, motor wire routed, ladders staged for track installation.

5 Track Installation

Cut, feed and plumb the side tracks, then set the end-cap gap.

Option 1 · Inside mount with U-channel

1. **Measure.** Measure from the ground to the bottom of the housing on both the left and right sides and record both measurements.
2. **Mark and cut.** Deduct 1/4″ from each measurement. Measure from the top of the track down, mark and cut off the excess. The top of the track has the funnel cone.
3. **Transfer the cap.** Remove the track cap from the cut-off piece and attach it to the track. Repeat for both tracks.
4. **Feed and set the track.** Place the top of the track into the U-channel and feed the keder into the funnel (Fig. 9). As you slide the track up, lift the bottom bar by hand to help the keder enter the inner track and prevent binding. Align the back of the track with the outside edge of the housing, plumb it, and drive one screw through the U-channel and track about 4″ from the top (Fig. 10).
5. **Second track and alignment.** Repeat step 4 for the other track. Lower the screen to the lower limit. Plumb one track and add screws to it for final securement. Raise and lower the shade with only that track fully secured. This aligns the fabric on the tube.
6. **Set the gap.** Adjust until there is a **3/16″ gap** between the bottom-bar end cap and the face of the track on both sides (Fig. 11). Then add the remaining screws and fine-tune the upper and lower limits.



Fig. 9 Feed the keder into the funnel

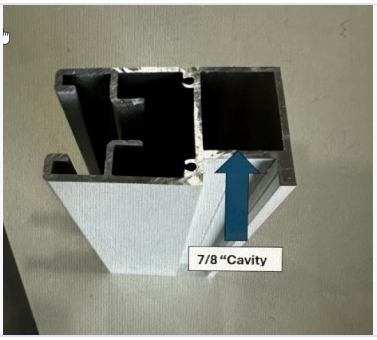


Fig. 10 Screw placement through U-channel

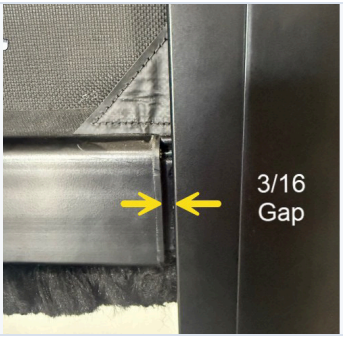


Fig. 11 3/16″ end-cap gap

5 Track Installation (cont.)

Surface-mount tracks are pre-drilled on site and fastened through the track cavity.

Option 2 · Surface mount

1. **Measure.** Measure from the ground to the bottom of the housing on both the left and right sides and record both measurements.
2. **Mark and cut.** Deduct 1/4″ from each measurement. Measure from the top of the track down (the top has the funnel cone), mark and cut off the excess. Remove the screw cover and set it aside.
3. **Transfer the cap.** Remove the track cap from the cut-off piece and attach it to the track. Repeat for both tracks.
4. **Pre-drill.** Drill holes in the face of the track cavity starting about 4″ from the top and about 24″ apart. Make sure there is a hole about 4″ from the bottom, adjusting the spacing as needed.
5. **Feed and set the track.** Feed the keder into the funnel at the top of the track (Fig. 9). As you slide the track up, lift the bottom bar by hand to help the keder enter the inner track and prevent binding. Align the back of the track with the outside edge of the housing, plumb it, and drive a screw into the top hole.
6. **Second track and alignment.** Repeat step 5 for the other track. Lower the screen to the lower limit. Plumb one track and add screws to it for final securement. Raise and lower the shade with only that track fully secured to align the fabric on the tube.
7. **Set the gap and finish.** Adjust for a **3/16″–1/4″ gap** between the bottom-bar end cap and the face of the track on both sides (Fig. 11). Add the remaining screws, reinstall the screw covers, and fine-tune the upper and lower limits.

AVOID BINDING

Always lift the bottom bar by hand while sliding a track up. Forcing the track against a hanging bottom bar is the most common cause of a binding keder.

ALIGNMENT SEQUENCE

Secure one track fully, cycle the shade, then set the gap and secure the second. Cycling the shade lets the fabric self-center on the tube.



Field reference Two-ladder setup for housing and track work.

6 Final Steps

Level the bottom bar with the CLAW, then close up.

1. **Check the bottom bar.** Confirm the bottom bar rolls up straight. If it does not, adjust the **CLAW** (Circumference Leveling Adjustment Wheel).
2. **Bar low on the right side.** Loosen the set screws on the CLAW (Fig. 12). There is also a screw on the opposite side. Move the CLAW outward toward the edge of the fabric and tube (Fig. 13) and re-tighten the set screws. The fabric will roll up faster on the right side, leveling the bar. Several small adjustments may be needed.
3. **Bar low on the left side.** Perform the same adjustment as in step 2 on the left side.
4. **Close up.** Once the shade is level, attach the hood and wipe everything down.

Hand-over checklist

- [ ] Housing level; hood seated and secure
- [ ] Both tracks plumb and fully fastened; screw covers installed (surface mount)
- [ ] 3/16″ end-cap gap on both sides (3/16″–1/4″ surface mount)
- [ ] Upper limit stops 1″ below the back of the housing
- [ ] Bottom bar rolls up straight; CLAW set screws tight
- [ ] Motor wire has a drip loop; cord clear of the fabric
- [ ] Remote paired to the correct channel; shade cycled full up/down
- [ ] Installation area cleaned and shade wiped down

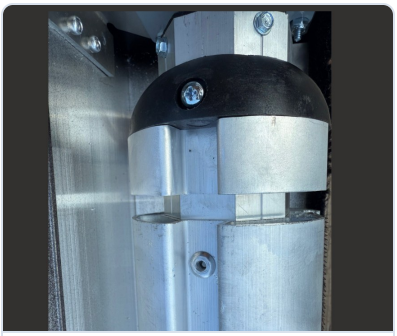


Fig. 12 CLAW set screws



Fig. 13 Move the CLAW toward the fabric edge

Completed Installations

Commercial restaurant patio enclosure: motorized zip-track shades integrated with a glass enclosure system.







Dealer support

Awning For Patio Global

Questions on installation, programming, parts or warranty? Our team supports every AFPG dealer and installer.

Email **sales@awningforpatioglobal.com** Phone **281.720.7272 · 832.866.2626**

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