



**DASMA**  
Door & Access Systems  
Manufacturers Association  
International

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR DIVISION

# TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

## #164

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## Drywall Surfaces and the Mounting of Garage Door Hardware

### **WARNING!**

Many garage door components are under spring tension, and are a potential risk for sudden release of energy that can result in serious injury or death to persons in the vicinity of such components. It is important that installers follow manufacturer recommendations for proper mounting of garage door hardware to surfaces capable of withstanding forces applied by fasteners and spring tension.

### **Introduction**

Commonly, garage door installers do not install or significantly alter jambs, headers or ceiling structures of garage door openings. However, in all installations - particularly when retrofitting - garage door installers should responsibly inspect jamb, header and ceiling conditions for adequacy to which hardware can be mounted, particularly when drywall is present. This Technical Data Sheet includes information on the practice of mounting track brackets, side and center bearing brackets, and steel angles, with respect to drywall. Please note that this document does not address installations where plaster is encountered.

*IMPORTANT: Individual garage door manufacturers may make a recommendation against any hardware or brackets mounted directly to drywall. Refer to specific manufacturer's instructions for information regarding this topic.*

### **Typical Residential Garage Door Fastening**

Sectional garage door track brackets/angles and torsion spring bearing brackets commonly mount to the jambs and header of a residential garage door opening by means of lag screws fastened through brackets into a wood surface. The wood structure is part of the building, and has the structural strength to withstand the door loads. In finished garages, the wood structure may be covered with drywall. The brackets in this case are mounted over the drywall with lags of sufficient length to imbed the wood structure beneath.

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**Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.**

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Commercial & Residential Garage Door Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.

*NOTE: Please refer to individual manufacturers' installation instructions for recommendations regarding specific garage door products.*

*IMPORTANT: If possible, do NOT mount doors to drywall at all. Cut the drywall away. However, if conditions exist where a door must be mounted to drywall, the next page has some tips and considerations.*

### **Recommendations for Mounting Garage Door Hardware**

There are two alternatives for mounting garage door hardware onto drywall:

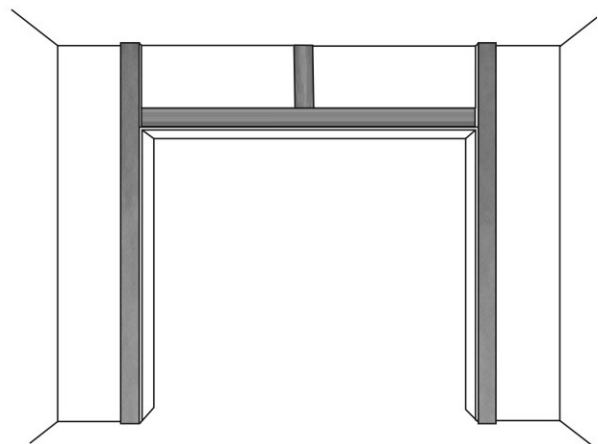
1. Install a wood buck over the drywall with sufficient anchors to secure the wood buck to the building. The door will then be installed onto the wood buck as a normally acceptable wood jamb installation. Details for installing the wood buck are given below.
2. Install the door onto the drywall with lag screws of sufficient length to imbed the wood substrate. It is important to use a stud finder to locate the wood structure beneath the drywall.

To ensure secure mounting of garage door connectors (including track brackets, side and center bearing brackets, and steel angles) to building framing where drywall is present - whether a new or retrofit installation - the following procedures are recommended. Refer to DASMA Technical Data Sheet #156 for selection of wood and to DASMA Technical Data Sheet #161 for fastener information.

### **Recommended Procedure for Mounting Wood Over Drywall**

When an installer encounters a door opening with drywall applied, and without wood jambs:

1. Follow the garage door manufacturer's recommendations for preparing jambs, headers and spring mounting pads.
2. Drywall may be either cut away or wood members may be fastened over the drywall, according to the garage door manufacturer's instructions. Caution: Longer fasteners must be used when fastening wood over drywall. (i.e., Nails or screws must be ½" longer when fastening through ½" drywall, etc.)
3. Securely fasten 2x6 (or larger) member at each jamb. (see drawing)



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4. Securely fasten a 2x4 (or larger) member at the header, making the mounting surface flush with the jambs. (see drawing)
5. Where center-mount torsion springs are to be mounted to the wall, securely fasten a vertical piece of 2x6 (or larger) board above the center of the opening, flush with the header and extending to the ceiling, for the spring mounting pad. **CAUTION:** This mounting pad must be of high quality lumber, must be capable of withstanding forces of torsion springs, and must be securely mounted at top and bottom according to manufacturer's instructions.
6. Refer to manufacturer's installation instructions for fastening information. Pilot holes are recommended before fastening lag screws. Always install lag screws perpendicular to the wood surface.

### **Brackets or Angles Mounted Directly to Drywall**

Follow the manufacturer's installation instructions for mounting track systems and spring bearing brackets directly to drywall. Care should be taken by the installer not to crush the drywall during the installation of the wall fasteners.

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