



Cladding & Soffit Installation Guide

Tongue-and-Groove System

BEST PRACTICES

- 1.** Always use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Hearing protection and protective eyewear. Cutting aluminum can result in hearing damage, eye injury, and lacerations. Secure material before cutting, use safe cutting practices, and remove all sharp edges after cutting.
- 2.** Plan the Installation: Confirm layout, alignment, terminations, and expansion breaks prior to installation.
- 3.** Minimum Fastening Requirement: Each panel must be secured using a minimum of two AFX-GripClips and with 32" spacing for regular wind loads. For higher wind loads use 16" spacing.
- 4.** Pressure-Treated Materials: Do not install aluminum products directly over pressure-treated substrates without an approved protective barrier.
- 5.** Surface Flatness: All substrates must be straight, true, dry and clean of any debris. Periodically check alignment every few rows during installation to ensure consistent engagement. It is recommended that you ensure a solid fit of each tongue and groove connection by tapping the panels together with a rubber mallet.





ALUMINUM FX **ELEMENT LINE**

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Tongue-and-Groove System

INTRODUCTION

These instructions have been prepared to assist with the proper installation of AFX Element Line cladding & Soffit systems utilizing a tongue-and-groove design. This manual outlines installation requirements and recommended best practices to ensure optimal performance and longevity of the system.

Aluminum FX strongly recommends that installation be performed by experienced professionals familiar with construction and siding installation practices. It is assumed that installers possess a working knowledge of the tools, equipment, and safety procedures required.

This document is intended to serve as a best-practice installation guide. All parties responsible for installation should review this manual in full prior to beginning work.

Aluminum FX reserves the right to conduct periodic reviews and revisions of this manual. Installers are responsible for ensuring they are using the most current version, available at www.aluminumfx.com.

Aluminum FX does not accept liability, responsibility, or warranty claims for damage resulting from improper handling, use, or installation of its products.

BEFORE YOU START

Aluminum FX products are supplied in 16 ft (4.88 m) lengths and are intended to be cut as required to suit project conditions. Always leave space for linear thermal expansion where the panel terminates behind trim.

Fasteners required: #10 pan-head stainless steel or otherwise exterior rated fasteners. Thread, length and tip will vary depending on substrate.

Always consult with an authority having jurisdiction or the project engineer for project specific fastening requirements.

No minimum panel length is specified; installer judgment applies where conditions require short infill pieces.



CUTTING

Cut planks using a compound mitre saw and table saw with a carbide metal blade non ferrous 60-80 T intended for aluminum only. A jig saw may be necessary for profusions and tin snips are handy for precision cuts.

The Aluminum FX coating system is highly durable; however, improper handling during cutting and installation may result in scratches that affect appearance and long-term performance.

Remove all sharp edges after cutting and be mindful of exposed edges in visible locations.

INSTALLION

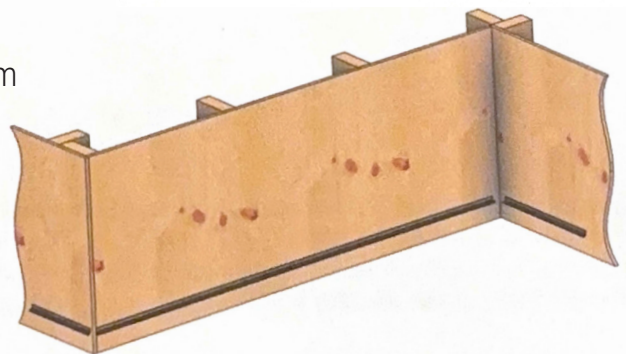
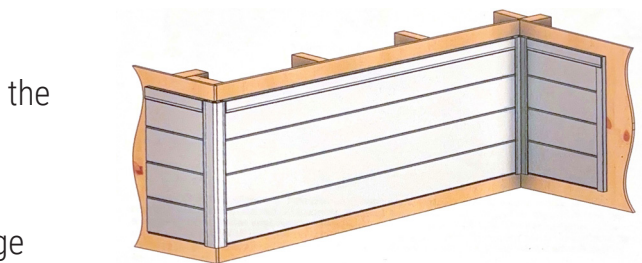
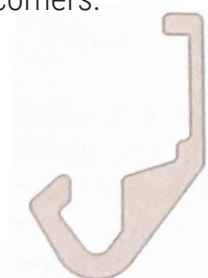
Install AFX-Starter Strip (SSS-003) & (SSC-014)

Install the AFX-TrueLine Starter Strip at the lowest point of the finished wall.

Next mount using AFX-GripClips (SSC-014).

32" standard spacing and adding a screw through the flange of the starter strip by every second clip.

Leave 1 inch clearance from inside corners and ½ inch from outside corners.





Install AFX-DuoFit Corner Bases (TCA-009 & TCB-013)

The AFX-DuoFit Corner is a two-piece, universal corner system. The same two extrusions are used for both inside and outside corners, with the base and cap roles reversing depending on the application.

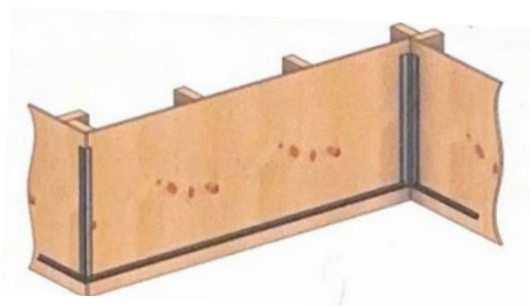
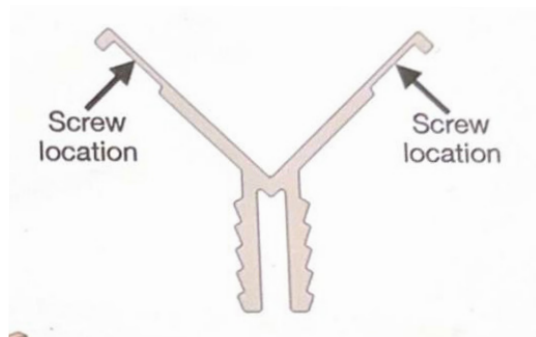
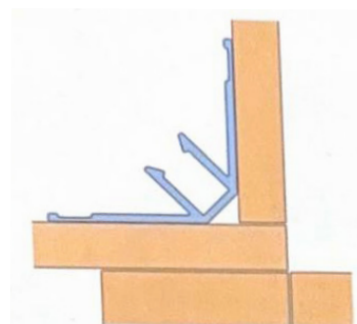
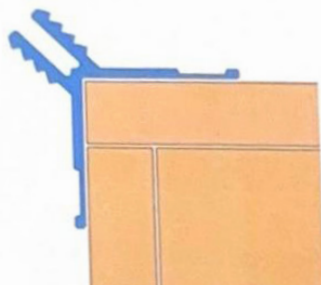
(Corner components: TCA-009 and TCB-013.

Outside corner configuration: Base TCA-009 and Cap TCB-013.

Inside corner configuration: Base TCB-013 and Cap TCA-009).

Install the base component flush against the wall substrate and fasten through the thinned fastening zone.

Install all corner bases before installing panels.

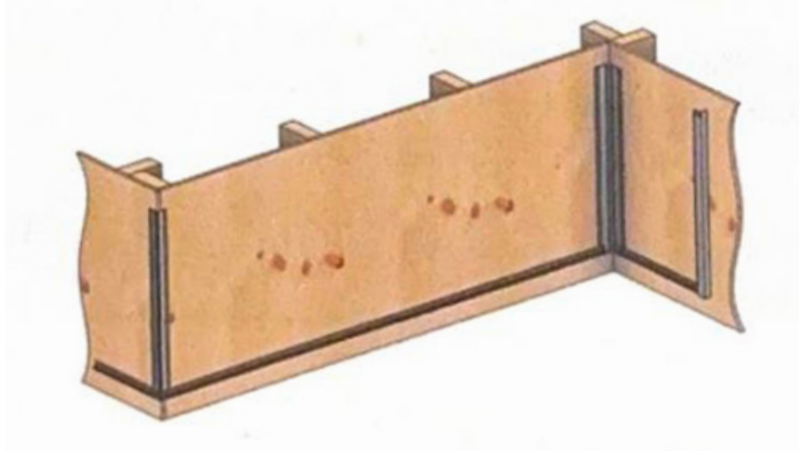
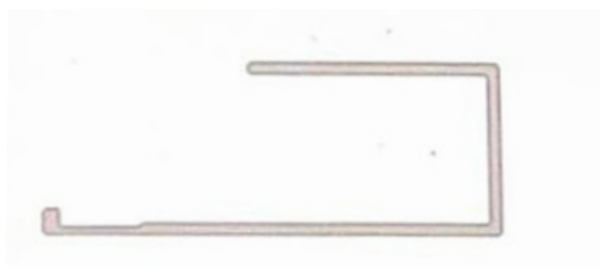


Install AFX J-Trim (TJA-009) – When Required

Where a panel run does not terminate at a corner, install AFX J-Trim vertically at the termination point.

Fasten by screwing directly through the extrusion.

Dry-fit finishing components prior to final fastening to ensure clean alignment.





Install AFX-Twin Cap Trim Base (TFA-014) & (TFB--014)

Install the finishing base between corner bases and/or J-Trim.

Leave a 1/8 inch gap between adjoining vertical trim components.

Align the top of the finishing base with the tops of adjacent vertical trims.

Install AFX Element Panels

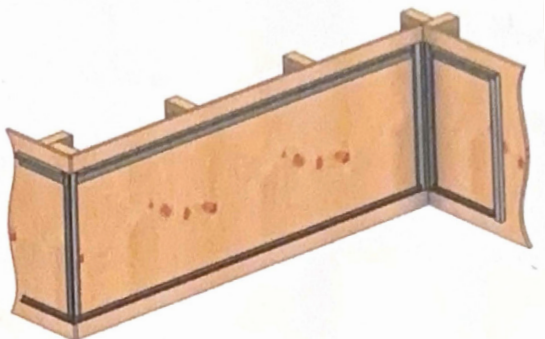
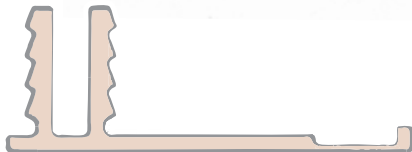
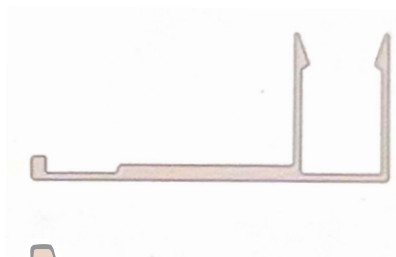
AFX Element 4 inch Panel (AFX-TG4) and AFX Element 6 inch Panel (AFX-TG6).

Panels install bottom-to-top using the tongue-and-groove system.

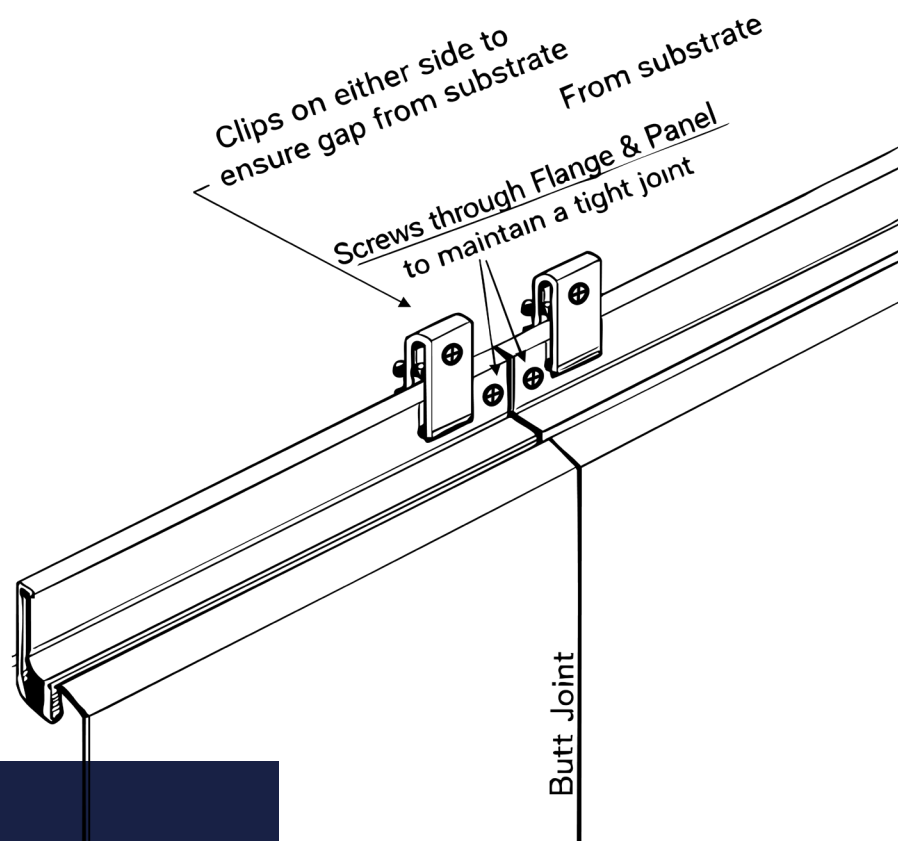
Clip spacing: 16 inches on centre in high-wind conditions; 32 inches on centre under normal wind loads.

Expansion gap requirements: 0–16 ft = ¼ inch; 16–32 ft = ½ inch; over 32 ft use J-Trim to create expansion breaks.

Leave a ¼ inch expansion gap at both ends of panels where concealed by trim.



For a Butt Joint with 2 Full Panels



Supporting Ripped or Modified Panels

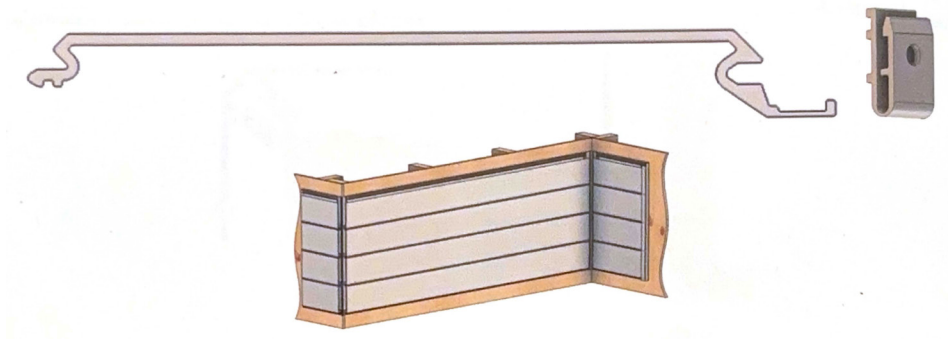
When the clip-receiving flange of a panel has been removed, mechanical support must be provided.

Use #10 stainless steel or otherwise exterior rated pan-head screws.

Install one screw directly above each AFX-GripClip.

Screw head must protrude no more than 14 mm from the substrate.

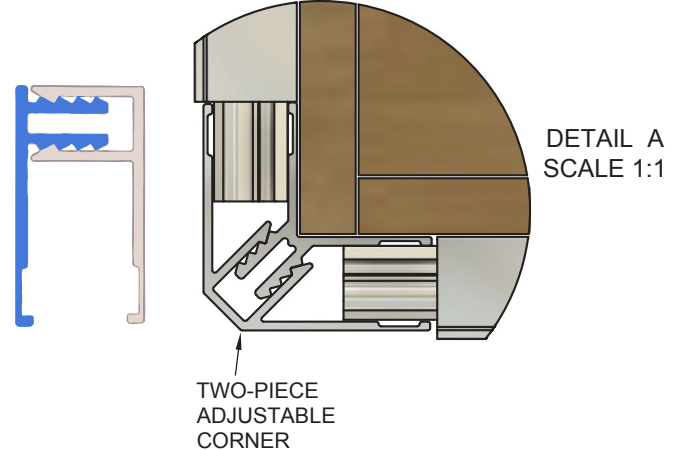
The back of the panel shall rest against the screw head.



Install AFX-DuoFit Corner Caps (TFA-014) & (TFB-014) & Twin Trim Caps

Cut corner caps to height and snap them onto the installed bases. Ensure full engagement with no visible gaps.

Install AFX-Twin Trim Caps (TFB-014) Snap caps onto installed bases. Install caps between corner components and at panel terminations where J-Trim is used. Caps are non-structural and allow for linear expansion.



Cleaning

Use a mild detergent, water and soft sponge/brush. Never use abrasive or aggressive cleaners on AFX products.



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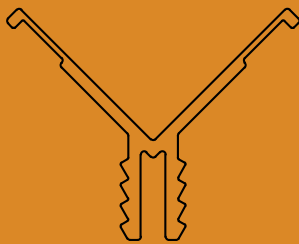
PARTS LIST



SSP-040



SSP - 060



TCA - 009



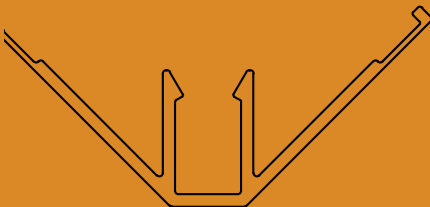
SSC - 014



SSS-003



TJA-009



TCB - 013



TFA-014



TFB-014

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