2025

StepStuds[™] Business Prospectus

KEEPING THE 'DRY' IN DRYWALL



MICHAEL E. COX

President & StepStud Inventor (314) 757-0150 2024 Arch Grant Recipient

Summary

VISION

StepStuds™ vision is to become the most trusted and recognizable world leader in the prevention of drywall mold and mildew.

<u>MISSION</u>

To deliver an innovative and permanent cost-saving solution to drywall mold, mildew, and costly flood repairs by utilizing our new installation technology called StepStuds™.

MEET MIKE

Michael Cox, Founder and CEO, grew up in St. Louis, Missouri, where his strong work ethic and passion for trades, especially cabinetmaking and carpentry, were instilled by his parents. After high school, he quickly became a journeyman cabinetmaker, a title he still proudly holds.

For Michael, carpentry was more than just a career—it was a lifelong passion. His reputation for quality craftsmanship and creativity has been central to his success. While working as a Senior Carpenter in healthcare, he saw repeated flooding issues and realized the repairs were always the same. This led to the creation of StepStuds[™]—a solution that saves time, money, and transforms the way walls are framed and floods repaired. With StepStuds[™], Michael is reshaping an entire industry and putting the "dry" back in drywall!

Acoustical Sound Testing Results (STC Rating)

ACOUSTICAL PERFORMANCE / 3RD PARTY TESTED PER ASTM E90-09 AND CALCULATED PER ASTM E413-22

TL25-001 = SOUND TRANSMISSION LOSS TEST ON: WALL ASSEMBLY: STEEL STUDS 24" O.C., STEPSTUD HORIZONTAL BASE STUD (WITH HOLES) ON BOTH SIDES, R-13 BATT, ONE-LAYER 5/8" TYPE-X GYPSUM BOTH SIDES = STC RATING 50 / NON-FIRE RATED / NON-STRUCTURAL

TL25-OO2 = SOUND TRANSMISSION LOSS TEST ON: WALL ASSEMBLY: STEEL STUDS 24" O.C., STEPSTUD HORIZONTAL BASE STUD (NO HOLES) ON BOTH SIDES, R-13 BATT, ONE-LAYER 5/8" TYPE-X GYPSUM BOTH SIDES = STC RATING 50 / NON-FIRE RATED / NON-STRUCTURAL

CLICK HERE TO READ REPORT 1: WITH HOLES CLICK HERE TO READ REPORT 2: WITHOUT HOLES



TEST RESULTS



Horizontal Base Stud

The Horizontal Base Stud, also known as a StepStud[™], is installed at floor level and up against the existing stud wall, with the gypsum wall board resting on top of it. The face of the StepStud[™] is flush and aligned with the face of the gypsum wall board used. StepStuds[™] raise the gypsum wall board over 3-inches off the floor, keeping it completely dry during most floods and water



intrusion events. The StepStud[™] drain hole system is located along the top and bottom short edges. This also helps to guide water away from walls, eliminating the need for tear out and replacement of wet and moldy drywall. The StepStud[™] air vent system allows for constant air movement, quicker dry time, and access for optional air lines to be quickly inserted into each air vent hole, if needed. StepStuds[™] offer a one-time solution to water damage and flooding in many applications, such as: Residential, Commercial, Education, Government, Corporate, and Retail buildings worldwide. Installing StepStuds[™] drastically reduces labor costs and downtime to quickly restore an area after a flood or water intrusion event.



Step**Studs**™

Product Data

Material: ASTM A653-23 Galvanized Metal, G90 Coating Minimum base steel thickness: 0.0187 inch

Performance Standards

ASTM A653-23 Standard Specification for Steel Sheet, Zinc-coated (Galvanized) or Zinc-Iron-Alloy-Coated (Galvannealed) by the Hot-dip process

Non-Fire Rated (NFR) Components

StepStud™ Horizontal Base Stud: This 8-foot-long outside piece is the main component of the StepStud[™] system and is installed at floor level, flush with face of gypsum wall board. The Horizontal Base Stud is pre-punched with all air vent holes and the drain hole system. It is available in both 1/2-inch and 5/8-inch to match gypsum wall board thickness.



StepStud[™] Extender: For walls less than 16 feet long, the Extender works by simply sliding the two pieces apart to fit the wall length. This two-piece combo kit contains both an outside StepStud[™] Horizontal Base Stud and an inside StepStud[™] Extender. Each piece is 8 feet long. Both studs are pre-punched with all air vent holes and the drain hole system. It is available in both 1/2-inch and 5/8-inch to match gypsum wall board thickness.

StepStud[™] Spline: This 8-foot-long inside piece is cut on the job site into recommended 12-inch-long splines. It is used to quickly connect two outer pieces together for stability when a vertical stud is not present in the wall. The StepStud[™] Spline easily slides into the back of each outer StepStud[™] Horizontal Base Stud, eliminating the need and cost to install a vertical stud

in the wall. Use one self-tapping screw on each side of the joint to secure the StepStud™ spline in place.

StepStud™ Corner: Protects inside and outside corners, allowing them to be completely covered. StepStud™ Corners cover the open ends of exposed outside corners and are simply set right in place. No glue or hardware is required to be installed.

StepStud™ Spacer: A U-shaped spacer bar that is simply placed into the center area of the outer StepStud™ Horizontal Base Stud. Its purpose is to fill in the void and form a solid-face-front on the StepStud™ if preferred.





SECTION 092216.16 HORIZONTAL BASE STUD SYSTEM

Non-Structural / Non-Fire Rated

SECTION INCLUDES STEPSTUDS TM, A HORIZONTAL BASE STUD SYSTEM MANUFACTURED BY HORIZONTAL BASE STUDS, LLC. THE HORIZONTAL BASE STUD SYSTEM IS INSTALLED HORIZONTALLY AROUND THE PERIMETER OF A ROOM, AT THE BASE OF WALLS HAVING GYPSUM WALL BOARD, IN AREAS PRONE TO FLOODING OR WATER INTRUSIONS.

INCLUSION OF THE HORIZONTAL BASE STUD SYSTEM ATTACHED TO THE OUTSIDE OF AN EXISTING FRAMED WALL, DRASTICALLY REDUCES LABOR COSTS AND ROOM DOWNTIME TO REPLACE GYPSUM WALL BOARD IN THE CASE OF FLOODING OR A WATER INTRUSION, WHICH RESULTS IN THE REPLACEMENT OF WET AND MOLDY DRYWALL.

THIS SECTION CAN BE INCLUDED AS A STAND-ALONE SPECIFICATION OR INFORMATION MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO THE NON-STRUCTURAL METAL FRAMING OR GYPSUM WALL BOARD ASSEMBLY SPECIFICATION.

CONTACT HORIZONTAL BASE STUDS, LLC WITH ANY QUESTIONS: Website: www.StepStuds.com Phone: 1-833-783-7788 (1-833-STEPSTUDS) Direct Contact: Michael Cox

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1. SUMMARY

- a. Section Includes: Horizontal Base Stud System.
- **b.Related Sections:**
 - i.Section 092216 Non-Structural Metal Framing.
 - ii.Section 092900 Gypsum Board Assemblies.

2. SUBMITTALS

a. Product Data: Submit manufacturer's printed product data for each type of product, indicating the sizes and components required.

3. DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

a. Protect metal framing from corrosion, deformation, and other damage during delivery, storage, and handling.

PRODUCTS

- 1. MANUFACTURERS
 - a. Provide StepStudsTM as manufactured by Horizontal Base Studs, LLC, St. Louis, MO.
 - b.Website: www.StepStuds.com
 - c.Phone: 1-833-783-7788
 - d.Direct Contact: Michael Cox

1.MATERIALS

Horizontal Base Stud: ASTM A653-23 Galvanized steel, pre-formed framing member with a pre-punched air vent system and drain hole system.

- 1. Thickness: 26 gauge
- 2. Height: 3-3/8-inches

SELECT EITHER 1/2-INCH OR 5/8-INCH WIDTH TO MATCH THICKNESS OF GYPSUM BOARD

- 3. Width: 1/2-inch [5/8-inch]
- 4. Length: 96-inch standard

CONTACT HORIZONTAL BASE STUDS, LLC TO SELECT THE APPROPRIATE COMPONENTS FOR THE PROJECT. PART ABBREVIATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- HBS = Horizontal Base Stud
- OSS = Outside StepStud™
- ISS = Inside StepStud™
- WH = With Holes
- WOH= With Out Holes
 - 5. Components:
 - a. StepStud™ Main Outside Piece 5/8:
 - b. StepStud™ Main Outside Piece 1/2:
 - c. StepStud™ Extender 5/8:
 - d. StepStud™ Extender 1/2:
 - e. StepStud™ Spline 5/8:
 - f. StepStud[™] Spline 1/2:g. StepStud[™] Spacer Bar:
 - h. StepStud™ Spacer Bar:
 - i. StepStud™ Corner:

Part # HBS-OSS-WH-5/8-96 (STC Rating 50) Part # HBS-OSS-WH-1/2-96 Part # HBS-ISS-WH-5/8-96 Part # HBS-ISS-WH-1/2-96 Part # HBS-SPLINE-5/8-96 Part # HBS-SPACER BAR-5/8-96 Part # HBS-SPACER BAR-1/2-96 Part # HBS-CORNER

CONTINUED...

Components:

- 1.StepStud™ Main Outside Piece 5/8: Part # HBS-OSS-WH-5/8-96 (STC Rating 50)
- 2.StepStud™ Main Outside Piece 1/2: Part # HBS-OSS-WH-1/2-96
- 3.StepStud™ Extender 5/8: Part # HBS-ISS-WH-5/8-96
- 4.StepStud™ Extender 1/2: Part # HBS-ISS-WH-1/2-96
- 5.StepStud™ Spline 5/8: Part # HBS-SPLINE-5/8-96
- 6.StepStud™ Spline 1/2: Part # HBS-SPLINE-1/2-96
- 7.StepStud™ Spacer Bar: Part # HBS-SPACER BAR-5/8-96
- 8.StepStud™ Spacer Bar: Part # HBS-SPACER BAR-1/2-96
- 9.StepStud™ Corner: Part # HBS-CORNER

ACCESSORIES

- a.Fasteners: Provide self-tapping fasteners to attach Horizontal Base Studs to vertical metal studs.
- b.Cove Base Adhesive: Adhere cove base to Horizontal Base Studs with one of the following:
 - i.3MTM Polyurethane Adhesive Sealant 560.
 - ii.Henry® 440 Wall Base Adhesive.

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EXECUTION

1.INSTALLATION

a. Horizontal Base Stud System, Retrofit Installation:

- i.Using an oscillating multi-tool with blade, cut off and remove 3-5/8-inches of gypsum wall board from the bottom of wall using a 3-5/8-inch-tall block of wood (2 feet long preferred or longer) as a guide to run the saw blade across, or similar device, to ensure a straight horizontal cut for removal and StepStud[™] installation.
- ii.Mark location of existing vertical studs on the floor for later identification of fastener installation.
- iii. Place horizontal base stud against stud framing using extenders, splines, and corners as required.
- iv.Fasten StepStuds[™] to each vertical stud with one self-tapping screw prior to applying base trim.
- v.If a StepStud[™] Spline is used, install one self-tapping screw on each side of the joint, through the middle section of the StepStud[™] and into the Spline.
- b.Horizontal Base Stud System, New Installation:
 - i.Install the StepStuds[™] Horizontal Base Stud System at floor level, flush against existing stud framing.
 - ii.Use a 1/4-inch shim to raise the StepStuds™ up off the floor.
 - iii. Fasten to vertical studs prior to applying gypsum wall board sheathing.
 - iv.Place Horizontal Base Stud against stud framing using extenders, splines, and corners as required.
 - v.Fasten StepStuds[™] to each vertical stud with one self-tapping screw prior to applying base trim.
 - vi.If a StepStud[™] Spline is used, install one self-tapping screw on each side of the joint, through the middle section of the StepStud[™] and into the Spline.

Reach Out & Follow Along

Let's get social:



Step**Studs**™