

How to enlarge an old-style electrical distribution box



Overview

Before extending an electrical box, prioritize safety by assessing requirements, gathering tools, powering off electricity, and testing connections. The solution?

An electrical box extension. more How to Extend an Electrical Box – Safe &. In my bathroom, I'm replacing a couple of old boxes with old work boxes. The main issue I'm running into is that the previous holes for the boxes are ever so slightly too large. Here's what they look like: In both cases, the ears of the boxes have no issue making contact with the back of the. Ask your local electrical supply for a “slider box” these are the ones with internal screws. Always turn off the power to the area you'll be working in at the. Yet the distribution box is a highly complex component that not only ensures safe power distribution, but is also responsible for protection in an emergency.

Article Content

Dec 20, 2025

Distribution box

Expanding an existing distribution box is a common scenario, whether it's by adding a new circuit for the garage, connecting a wallbox for an electric car or integrating modern home technology.

Oct 21, 2025

How to extend old 3.5" octagon electrical box to new 0.5" shiplap

I don't have easy access to this box in the attic, so I am trying all possibilities to extend it. Unfortunately, the boxes are all strapped to the sides of the joists so I'm not able to stick shims behind them to

Jan 05, 2026

Oops, hole to big for receptacle box

Electrical - AC & DC - Oops, hole to big for receptacle box - Here's a unique one... I had to enlarge a couple outlet box holes in my plaster because modern boxes are larger.

Aug 20, 2025

3 Types of Old Work Electrical Boxes and How to Install

Audio tracks for some languages were automatically generated. Learn more Old work electrical boxes are used when you need to add an electrical box

Aug 13, 2025

How to Install an Old Work Electrical Box

Install an old work electrical box in existing wall, replacing an existing box - no stud. Rewire an old house series continues by showing how to retrofit a ...

Jun 28, 2025

How to Install Old Work/Rework/Remodel Electrical Boxes Like a Pro!

In this step-by-step guide, I'll show you how to install different types of rework (old work) electrical boxes in existing drywall.

Mar 01, 2026

Electrical Box Too Small? Remodel Electrical Box Safely

Remodel an electrical box by turning off power, removing the old box, checking wiring, and installing a larger box for more circuits.

Jun 13, 2026

How To Install An Old Work Electrical Box

How To Install An Old Work Electrical Box Everyday Home Repairs Help 20.6K subscribers Subscribe

Apr 25, 2026

How To Extend An Electrical Box

Learn how to extend an electrical box with this informative article. Find step-by-step instructions and expert tips to ensure a safe

Sep 19, 2025

Old Home Electrical Upgrades: Modern Power for

Historic homes have charm, character, and craftsmanship—but they often hide outdated, unsafe electrical systems behind the walls. If you're living in

Nov 25, 2025

How to Install an "Old-Work" Electrical Box

Mastered in a Minute: An "old-work" electrical box is designed to be installed in sheetrock without nailing into a stud. Instead, the box has tabs that flip out and hold it to the drywall ...

Mar 14, 2026

r/electrical on Reddit: Existing opening is too large for

I like to use metal boxes with the expanding wings for cut-in work, but the existing opening happens to be too tall for the vertical tabs on the box to grab. I'd rather

Jan 27, 2026

How to Use an Electrical Box Extender | Family Handyman

Unlock the power of electrical box extenders with our step-by-step guide, showing you how to properly install and use them to bring your electrical outlets up to code and ensure safety in your home.

Sep 03, 2025

How do I extend electrical boxes 3 inches or more?

After the clips, hat track, and two layers of drywall, we're talking about an added distance from the electrical boxes of over 3 inches. Quick research has lead me

Aug 18, 2025

Old Work Electrical Box Installation & Choices

How do we add an electrical box to add a receptacle or light switch in an existing wall, ceiling or floor? Installing an "old-work" electrical box or receptacle refers to methods used to add a metal or plastic

Jun 11, 2026

How and When to Install "Old Work" Electrical Boxes

In this video I show you how to install an "old work" electrical box. I install this in a kitchen cabinet but the process is similar for other applications. I also discuss how "old work" and "new ...

Feb 15, 2026

Holes for Old Work Electrical Boxes Slightly Too Big

I'm in the process of modernizing some of the old electrical in my house. In my bathroom, I'm replacing a couple of old boxes with old work boxes.

May 06, 2026

Upgrade Your Old Fuse Box Installation with a Modern,

So we must assume then that many of those fires were the result of having an old-style distribution board with fuse box installation, rather than a

Aug 04, 2025

My Old House has Fused Wiring. Do I Need to Update

The distribution of the electricity is spread evenly across the box's capability. The breaker box in use today is designed to meet and exceed the

Nov 13, 2025

Installing "Old Work" Electrical Boxes

The most convenient method of adding the electrical box that will house the new receptacle is to use what is known as a "remodel electrical box" or an "old work

Jun 01, 2026

How To Extend an Exterior Electrical Outlet

It's not a nice outlet by any stretch of the imagination. Next up was removing the old outlet from the box, which should have been trivial. Nope. It took

Mar 11, 2026

How To Replace Electrical Outlet In An Old House? A

Learn "how to replace electrical outlet in an old house" with our step-by-step guide. Make your old house safer with updated outlets.

May 21, 2026

How to Install an "Old-Work" Electrical Box

An "old-work" electrical box is designed to be installed in sheetrock without nailing into a stud. Instead, the box has tabs that flip out and hold it to the drywall

Apr 19, 2026

Electrical Box Extension Kit

In this video, we explain how to safely extend an existing electrical box to bring outlets or switches flush with the new wall surface.

Oct 12, 2025

Outdated Wiring: Is your Old Fuse Box Posing a Risk?

Learn about old fuse box wiring and how to upgrade it for safety and functionality. Ensure your home's electrical system is up to code and avoid potential hazards.

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