523

Generic 523 Old Work Switch Box Instruction Manual

Model: 523 - 3 x 2.5 in. Deep

Introduction

This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and proper installation and use of the Generic 523 Old Work Switch Box. This steel electrical box is designed for installing switches or receptacles in existing walls without requiring access to wall studs. Please read all instructions carefully before beginning installation.

Figure 1: Generic 523 Old Work Switch Box. This image displays the steel construction of the electrical box, highlighting its compact design suitable for old work installations.

Important Safety Information

WARNING: Risk of electric shock. Always turn off power at the main circuit breaker or fuse box before installing or servicing any electrical components. Failure to do so can result in serious injury or death.

- All electrical work should be performed by a qualified electrician or in accordance with local electrical codes and regulations.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including safety glasses and insulated gloves.
- Ensure all connections are secure and properly insulated.

- Do not exceed the specified wiring capacity of the box.
- Inspect the box for any damage before installation. Do not install damaged components.

Setup and Installation

Tools Required:

- Pencil
- Tape Measure
- Drywall Saw or Utility Knife
- Screwdriver (Phillips or Flathead, depending on screws)
- Wire Strippers/Cutters
- Voltage Tester
- Level (optional, for precise placement)

Installation Steps:

1. **Turn Off Power:** Locate the circuit breaker or fuse controlling the area where the box will be installed and turn off the power. Verify with a voltage tester that the power is off.
2. **Mark Location:** Choose the desired location for the switch box. Use a pencil to trace the outline of the box onto the wall surface. Ensure there are no studs, pipes, or wires behind the chosen area by using a stud finder or carefully probing.
3. **Cut Opening:** Carefully cut out the marked opening in the wall using a drywall saw or utility knife. Ensure the opening is slightly larger than the box but small enough for the box's flanges to rest against the wall surface.
4. **Prepare Wires:** If existing wiring is present, carefully pull it through the opening. If running new wires, feed them into the opening. Remove appropriate knockouts from the switch box to accommodate the wires. The box features one 0.5 inch knockout.
5. **Insert Box:** Insert the switch box into the opening. The BX Griptite clamps are designed to secure the box to the existing wall material. Ensure the box is flush with the wall surface.
6. **Secure Box:** Tighten the screws on the BX Griptite clamps. As you tighten, the clamps will pivot and grip the inside of the wall, securing the box firmly in place. Do not overtighten.
7. **Wiring:** Proceed with wiring your switch or receptacle according to local electrical codes. The box provides 12.5 cubic inches of wiring capacity.
8. **Test and Finish:** Once wiring is complete and the device is installed, turn the power back on at the circuit breaker. Test the switch or receptacle for proper operation. Install the cover plate.

Wiring and Connection Considerations

The Generic 523 Old Work Switch Box is designed to house electrical connections for switches, receptacles, or other devices. Proper wiring is critical for safety and functionality.

- **Wiring Capacity:** This box has a wiring capacity of 12.5 cubic inches. Ensure the total volume of conductors, devices, and clamps does not exceed this capacity as per National Electrical Code (NEC) guidelines.
- **Knockouts:** The box includes one 0.5 inch knockout for wire entry. Use appropriate cable connectors or clamps to secure wires entering the box and protect them from abrasion.
- **Grounding:** Always ensure proper grounding of the electrical box and any devices installed within it, as required by electrical codes.
- **Gangable Design:** This box is gangable, meaning multiple boxes can be joined together to create a larger enclosure for multiple devices. Consult a qualified electrician for gangable installations.

Care and Inspection

Once installed, the Generic 523 Old Work Switch Box requires minimal maintenance. However, periodic inspection is recommended to ensure continued safety and performance.

- **Visual Inspection:** Periodically check the area around the switch box for any signs of damage, loose cover plates, or discoloration which could indicate overheating.
- **Secure Connections:** If you suspect an issue, turn off power at the breaker and carefully remove the cover plate to inspect wire connections. Ensure all wires are securely fastened to the device terminals and that no insulation is compromised.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the area around the box clean and free from dust or debris.

Troubleshooting

Most issues related to an electrical box stem from improper installation or wiring. Always ensure power is off before attempting any troubleshooting.

- **Device Not Working:**
  - Check if the circuit breaker is tripped.
  - Verify all wire connections are secure and correctly wired to the device.
  - Ensure the device itself is functional.
- **Loose Box:**
  - If the box feels loose in the wall, turn off power and re-tighten the BX Griptite clamp screws.
- **Overheating/Burning Smell:**
  - Immediately turn off power at the main breaker. This indicates a serious electrical fault. Do not attempt to fix it yourself unless you are a qualified electrician. Contact a professional.

If you are unsure about any electrical work, consult a qualified electrician.

Product Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model	523
Type	Old Work Switch Box
Dimensions (Depth)	3 x 2.5 inches Deep
Material	Steel (Alloy Steel)
Gangable	Yes
Clamps	BX & Griptite Clamps
Knockouts	One 0.5 inch
Wiring Capacity	12.5 cubic inches
Approx. Item Weight	0.65 lbs

Feature	Specification
Installation Type	Screw-In

Warranty and Support

Specific warranty information for the Generic 523 Old Work Switch Box is typically provided by the retailer at the time of purchase or by the manufacturer. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.
For technical support or further inquiries, please contact the retailer or the manufacturer directly. Always refer to local electrical codes and consult a qualified electrician for any complex installations or repairs.