



Downloadable guide to fixing a ceiling rose or centrepiece

Important considerations before you start

This printable guide is designed a guidance note but is not a definitive instruction sheet, as each fixing situation will be different and requires the person responsible for carrying out the fixing to be either qualified or competent to carry out such a task. Lewis Ayling cannot be held responsible for the decisions made at a site where we are not directly involved with carrying out fitting work.

Whilst fixing a standard ceiling rose is not the most complex decorating task, there are some important considerations to familiarise yourself with before choosing to do the work yourself. Please read this brief note and choose an appropriate course of action for your circumstances.

Prior to fixing a new ceiling rose or ceiling centrepiece, please ensure that you feel confident in your ability to carry out the task and if it any doubt, seek the advice or hire the services of a competent plasterer. Plaster castings can be heavy and by their nature being overhead, if incorrectly fitted may present a potential danger from falling. Additionally, if a light fitting is being added and there is involvement of an electrical supply, please ensure all electrical supply is turned off and isolated, again asking a qualified electrician to carry out the work if you do not feel competent to carry out the task.

Good to go?

Tools & Materials needed

- Plaster ceiling rose
- Cove/plaster adhesive
- Mixing vessel for plaster/cove adhesive
- Lightweight filler or fine surface compound
- Small filler knife/spatula/wallpaper scrapper
- Fine sandpaper
- Dust sheet and soft padding to protect the rose surface during adhesive application
- Step ladder or preferably a suitable height working platform
- Pencil
- Tape measure



Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Lay Out Your Tools

- Place all tools and materials on a dust sheet in a clean, accessible area. This helps you stay organized and avoid mess.
- Assemble your step ladder or working platform

2. Prepare the Ceiling Surface

- Scrape off any loose or flaking paint using a scraper or stiff brush.
- Lightly scratch the surface of the ceiling where the rose will be placed. This improves adhesive grip, removing if possible paint
- Wipe away dust with a dry cloth.

3. Choose the position

- Measure the position of the rose by holding it in place and drawing around its edge onto the ceiling. Ensure you have located the ceiling joists and mark the position you need to drill for a fixing screw onto the surface of the rose. If possible choose an area of the rose that is the thickest and easily concealed by filler. Do not drill close to the edge of the rose as this will not provide a good secure support in the event of adhesive failure.
- Drill pilot holes for the fixing screws and using a small nail, reposition the rose and mark the positions of the pilot holes on the ceiling above to ensure they align with the ceiling joist.
- If the rose has a central hole check it is suitable for the cable size, if not or no hole is present but one is required, drill with a suitable sized drill bit for the cable required.

4. Apply Adhesive to the Rose

- Following the instructions of the adhesive manufacturer, mix a suitable quantity of adhesive
- Turn the rose face-down on a clean surface protected by a soft padding.
- Use spatula/scraper to apply adhesive in a zigzag pattern around the back, about 2-3 cm from the edge.
- Add a few blobs toward the centre.

5. Press the Rose to the Ceiling



- Climb the ladder or working platform carefully with the rose supported in both hands.
- Align the rose with your pencil mark and feed through any electric cabling.
- Press it firmly and evenly against the ceiling in the desired position.
- Hold in place for until it is evident the adhesive is supporting the rose; this will not be long.

6. Support While Drying

- If the rose is large or heavy, support it with temporary props taking care not to damage any delicate mouldings or ask a helper to assist holding it.
- Leave it undisturbed for the adhesive's recommended drying time.
- Once dry, drill suitable countersunk holes for the chosen fixing screws through the pilot holes and screw with care the security fixing screws, taking care not to overtighten and potentially crack the rose

7. Fill Gaps

- Use a small filler knife to press lightweight filler into any gaps between the rose and ceiling and the recessed holes of the fixing screws.
- Smooth the filler flush with the surface.

8. Sand Smooth

- Once dry, lightly sand the filler to blend it seamlessly with the ceiling.

9. Paint Finish

- Paint the rose and surrounding ceiling with a soft brush or roller.
- Use gentle strokes to preserve the rose's ornate Victorian details.

Final Tips

For a professional finish, use a fine artist's brush to highlight intricate floral patterns after the base coat dries.

Two rules to follow

Never rely on just the adhesive to fix the rose to the ceiling and when fixing the light fitting, ensure it is fitted securely to the ceiling joist work, not just the rose or centrepiece.