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The Fresh Faces of Custom

Discovering the Mostly
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of the CI Business

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Product Reviews: OmniMount & Integra



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- A1 Integration Guide to All-Weather AV** The idea of having an outdoor entertainment system is not new, though the challenge has always been finding quality components that live up to the standard of the best home theater systems. That is slowly changing as technology and client demands have upped the ante for outdoor AV designs.

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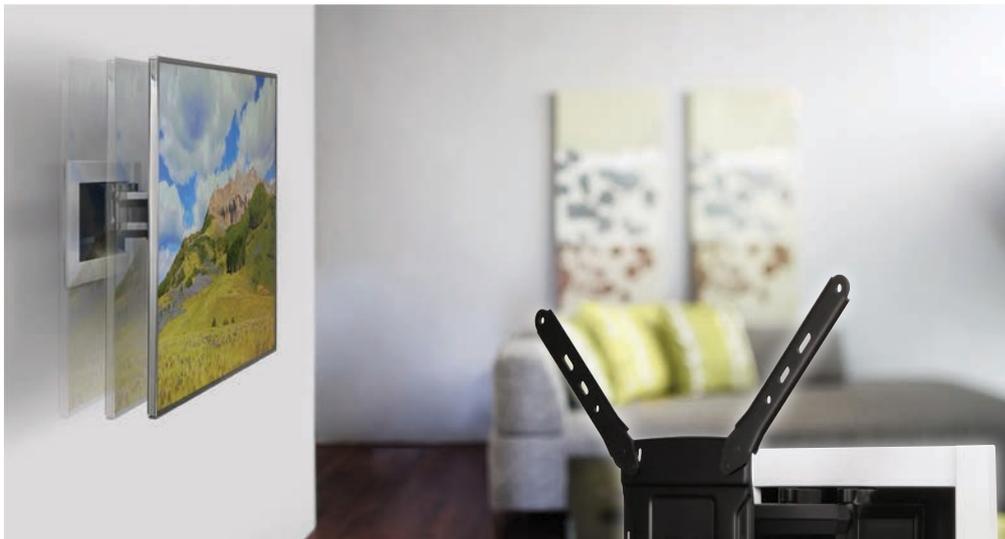
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OmniMount

OE120IW Ultra Low Profile In-Wall TV Mount

BY JOHN SCIACCA

While mounting TVs is probably a large part of your business, mounts just aren't the kinds of tech you can really get excited about. In fact, mounts are one those installed items that your customer may never even see. And while these essential items basically come in three form factors – flat, tilt, and arm – you probably sell mostly flat mounts because our customers generally want their new, ultra-thin flat-panel TVs sitting as tight to the wall as possible, and don't like the side view of mounting hardware and cabling that's the necessary evil of non-flat mounts. And even those people that do want some adjustment find that most arm mounts are so stiff and cumbersome that they rarely get moved once they've been positioned.



The new OmniMount OE120IW offers a unique in-wall design that addresses several issues. It's ultra-thin, super flat to the wall with zero side view when recessed, and it has a full range of ultra-smooth motion.

The thing that is so cool about the new OmniMount OE120IW is that its unique in-wall design addresses all of these issues. It's ultra-thin, super flat to the wall with zero side view when recessed, and it has a full range of ultra-smooth motion.

I replaced the existing flat-mount in my bedroom with the OE120IW to get the full experience of installing and living with it. The mount has a spider-arm bracket system enabling it to accommodate sets from VESA 100x100 to 600x400, or what OmniMount explains are "most 42- to 80-inch TVs." It also supports up to 120

pounds, meaning you shouldn't have issues with most sets, and comes with a variety of screws and spacers that should work with nearly any TV.

Because a large portion of this mount is a box that gets cut into the wall from stud-to-stud, positioning is critical. OmniMount includes a nice template to make it easier to level and has pilot

800.668.6848
omnimount.com

Kudos

Super low profile creates a clean wall look; smooth articulating motion; lots of wire management

Concerns

Positioning dictated by stud placement

Product Specs

- ▶ Fits most TVs
42-80-inches (VESA 100x100 to 600x400)
- ▶ Supports up to 120 pounds
- ▶ Mounting profile 0.5 inches
- ▶ Extends 10.8 inches from wall
- ▶ Tilts +10/-1 degrees
- ▶ Mounts in standards 16-inch on-center stud wall with +/- 3-degree leveling

holes drawn for lag bolts positions. As stud spacing completely dictates the center of the TV when it is full recessed, centering will depend entirely on how the wall was framed. In my case it worked out absolutely perfectly, but such serendipity rarely exists in our customers' homes.

The mounting box takes up virtually the entire depth of the wall cavity, so make sure the space you are cutting into is completely free and clear. I had a moment of expletive-filled panic when I removed the 14.5-wide by 9.25-high section of drywall and found a horizontal block that the HVAC installer had used for the thermostat on the living room wall side. Fortunately, I was able to unwire the thermostat and beat the blocking out of the wall with a hammer. Problem solved!

The in-wall box secures to the studs with four lag bolts and includes a paintable trim cover, which creates a really nice finished look around the mount. The bottom portion of the mounting box has a generous amount of space for wire management and a cover plate to conceal it all. In fact, there was enough space for me to fit a strip outlet to power all the gear that I have connected to my bedroom TV. There are also two removable single-gang-sized openings that are great for wire management. The arms of the mount



OmniMount's OE120IW ultra-low-profile in-wall TV mount offers ample provisions for cable management and works with the company's OPK2 power accessory kit

also feature cable raceways to conceal and manage wiring as the mount goes in and out of the wall.

As you know, running an electrical or extension cord inside the wall is an electrical code no-no, so OmniMount sent its OPK2 in-wall power and cable management kit. This creates an easy, yet code-compliant, way to run power to the TV if an outlet isn't available. The OPK2 includes a white double-gang plate for power and cable management at the bottom and two single-gang black plates to separate power and cabling at the TV location. These plates fit into the OW120IW, making a perfect cable/power management solution. (The OPK2 even includes a nice drywall saw.)

Once wiring is done, the mounting plate on back of the display slips and locks into the arm, you install a couple of security screws, and you're mostly done. I was excited to give the mount a try, but when I tried to pull the TV out, it was incredibly stiff and difficult to adjust. In fact, my wife couldn't even move it, and I had to muscle it into place. Not cool.

Turns out my pre-release copy of the install manual was missing two pages! An email of the updated manual from OmniMount showed that there are two concealed 10mm bolts that adjust the tension of the movement in and out, and a lever that adjusts the friction on the tilt motion. After some tweaks, the set now glides smoothly and easily in and out of the wall, and tilts and stays in the correct position. The arms move up to 10.8 inches from the wall, tilt down up to 10 degrees, and even rotate +/- 3 degrees to ensure that the display is level.

When recessed, my TV now sits tighter to the wall than virtually any flat-panel mount. But now when I run on the treadmill at night, I angle the set so I can watch Arrow. This mount is now fully usable, solving a lifestyle issue we had and creating a better look on the wall. It's really the best of all worlds and the OmniMount OE120IW is definitely the coolest TV mount in a long time.

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