

POH – Mounting Smoke Detectors with Small Baseplates

The Kidde P3010 series of smoke detectors are a good choice for using in Plano homes built between 1980 and 1991. During that period, smoke detectors were connected to 120v house current but lacked the third wire that interconnected those alarms; that became a requirement in houses built since 1992. The attraction of the P3010 series is that they are powered by a sealed Lithium Ion battery warranted to last 10 years. Their cost is also competitive with wired units we could install. However, these wired units would still require a number of 9 volt or AA backup battery replacements over their lifetime. The only fly-in-the-ointment is the small 1.5" diameter baseplate. Wired units typically require a 5.5" diameter baseplate to cover the rectangular electrical box mounted in the ceiling or wall.

The solution that worked for me was a [Carlson Ceiling Box Cover Plate](#) made of PVC (Aisle 7, Bin 7 at Custer Road HD.) Also get a pack of #6-32 x 1 1/2" flat head Phillips screws in case screws supplied with cap are too short. Here are some pictures and tips.

	
<p>The Kidde P3010CU Dual Photoelectric/Carbon Monoxide detector. Others in the series are the P3010B (bedroom), P3010H (hallway), and P3010L (living room).</p>	<p>Baseplate and hardware supplied with the P3010 series of detectors. Plastic screw is for mounting on sheetrock. Careful, breaks easily – use metal screws instead.</p>
	
<p>Pre-drill 1/8" holes and mount baseplate to cap. Screw red plastic anchors to back of screws to prevent them from accidentally penetrating insulation around electrical wires in box.</p>	<p>Center-to-center spacing between holes in cap is about 1/4" wider than spacing between screws on box in ceiling. Ream holes in cap towards the middle using 1/8" drill bit.</p>

Questions? Suggestions? Send Herman a text (972-816-9095) or send him a message (herman@txvanbeek.com).