

Two-circuit surface-mounted electrical box



Overview

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Key Takeaways

A 2-circuit surface-mounted electrical box can be achieved using a dual-gang surface mount box or a 2-space load center like the Square D QO 30-Amp 2-Circuit Main Lug Load Center. Surface-Mount Electrical Boxes

Surface-mounted boxes are installed directly on the wall surface, making them ideal for retrofits or locations where in-wall installation is not feasible. For two circuits, you typically need a dual-gang box or a box with sufficient internal volume to accommodate two devices or breakers. Options include:

- Plastic dual-gang boxes: Lightweight, non-conductive, and easy to install. Examples include Leviton 42777-2WA shallow dual-gang box, suitable for tight spaces behind appliances or cabinets (Journeyman HQ) .
- Metal dual-gang boxes: Provide superior durability and grounding when using armored cable or metal conduit. Brands like Hubbell TayMac and Sigma offer weatherproof and rugged die-cast options for indoor or outdoor use (Lowe's.com) .
- Single-gang boxes can be combined with a second box if space allows, but dual-gang boxes are more convenient for two circuits in one location.

Two-Circuit Load Centers

For applications requiring two separate circuits with breakers, a surface-mount load center is recommended:

- Square D QO 30-Amp 2-Space 2-Circuit Indoor Main Lug Load Center: UL listed for residential, commercial, and industrial use. It features a rugged thermoplastic interior, aluminum bus bar, and accommodates QO standard breakers. The surface-mount cover is included, and a ground bar kit is sold separately (Home Depot, Menards) .
 - Specifications: Rated 120/240V, single-phase, 10,000 AIR short circuit rating, compact dimensions (approx. 6.72" H x 3.81" W x 3" D), ideal for small spaces or retrofits .
 - Installation: Can be mounted on walls with top or bottom feed conduit connections. Compatible with plug-on secondary surge arrestors for added protection.
- Considerations for Choosing a Box
- Material: Plastic for lightweight, non-conductive applications; metal for durability and grounding.
 - Depth and Volume: Ensure enough space for wiring, wire nuts, and devices. Deeper boxes are recommended for GFCI outlets or high wire counts.
 - Weatherproofing: For outdoor or damp locations, select boxes with appropriate IP ratings and gaskets.
 - Mounting: Use anchors or screws suitable for the wall type (drywall, concrete, brick, or wood) to ensure secure installation.
 - Code Compliance: Follow NEC requirements for box fill, grounding, and GFCI protection where applicable.

Summary

For a surface-mounted solution with two circuits, you can either use a dual-gang surface mount box for outlets or switches, or a 2-space load center like the Square D QO 30-Amp 2-Circuit Main Lug Load Center for breaker protection. Plastic boxes are easier to handle and install, while metal boxes provide durability and grounding. Always ensure proper box volume, mounting, and code compliance for safe and reliable electrical installation .

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