

# STAIR BUILDING GUIDE

## Introduction

This Stair Building Guide was born out of a single and undeniably simple concept...Given correct information in an easy to understand format, a professionally installed staircase is achievable from anyone possessing basic carpentry skills.

The key to providing a manual that succeeded in this task seemed to lie in the presentation of the information. "Correct" information was relatively easy to find in print. However, for all but the very experienced stair installer, the pages and pages of written text, along with the drawings trying to explain each concept, became anything but easy to understand. This fact, coupled with incomplete coverage and completely overlooked areas, left a huge void in information for today's stair installer.

"A picture is worth a thousand words" has never held truer than in the relatively undocumented craft of stair building. Each indexed chapter of this Guide visually deals with one segment of the installation process. Dozens of photographs cover each section in depth, allowing you to see actual job site conditions at each stage of the installation process.

The order of the chapters will allow the beginning carpenter to see the installation process from start to finish, with references to similar concepts listed where necessary for a more complete understanding. And for the more experienced stair installer looking for specific information, the one-subject chapters, index, and reference materials will provide information for a lifetime of stair building.

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- Chapter 1 . . . . .* **STAIR BASICS** – Covers basic stair terminology and concepts.
- Chapter 2 . . . . .* **PART INFORMATION** – Information on specific stair parts and their uses. Learn to confidently and accurately develop a material parts list.
- Chapter 3 . . . . .* **ROUGH STAIR** – Covers basic aspects of the rough-end portion of stair building and design.
- Chapter 4 . . . . .* **STAIR BODY** – Full instructions on the finished stair body. Installation of skirtboards, treads, starting steps, risers, landing tread, decorative tread brackets, and cove and shoe mouldings, along with tread and riser caps, are covered in detail.
- Chapter 5 . . . . .* **BALUSTRADE LAYOUT** – The layout of the balustrade center line is one of the most important considerations at the start of any installation. Topics include standard placements along with sometime necessary alternatives.
- Chapter 6 . . . . .* **NEWELS** – Installed first in the balustrade portion of the installation, this chapter covers all aspects of both Post-to-Post and Over-the-Post newel applications.
- Chapter 7 . . . . .* **RAIL AND FITTINGS** – Topics include cutting, attaching, and terminating both PTP and OTP systems, along with full coverage of specialty fitting applications.
- Chapter 8 . . . . .* **BALUSTERS** – Contains all aspects of baluster installation, including permanent attachment of the rail system.
- Chapter 9 . . . . .* **CURVED RAIL** – Curved rail systems are easily understood with this in-depth section.
- Chapter 10 . . . . .* **WONDERAIL** – The adjustable stair rail system that we’ve put together...so you don’t have to! This preassembled system of rail, base rail, and balusters presents the easiest and quickest form of stair installation.
- Chapter 11 . . . . .* **FORGED** – A complete look at the installation of Coffman’s Forged Balustrade Collection.
- Chapter 12 . . . . .* **HARDWARE** – Easy to reference information on installation hardware used throughout the guide.
- Chapter 13 . . . . .* **REFERENCE** – Charts and Miscellaneous Reference Information.
- Chapter 14 . . . . .* **GLOSSARY / INDEX**