

Simply Stairs

Chapter 1. Let's Talk Stairs!

- The language of stairs
- Setting out terms
- Building Regulations
- Measuring up

Chapter 2. Staircase Calculations

- Rise & Going Calculator

Chapter 3. Tools of the Trade

- Making a router jig
- Avoiding 'rounding'

Chapter 4. Straight-flight Stairs

- Using calculations to design the staircase
- Cutting list and timber preparation
- Marking out the strings
- Routing the strings
- Router jigs: shop-made vs proprietary
- Preparing the newel posts
- Preparing the treads
- Draw-bore preparation
- Ancillary components and final preparation before assembly
- Staircase assembly
- Protection of stairs during and after delivery

Chapter 5. L-Shaped Stairs with Quarter Landing

- Staircase calculations
- Cutting list
- Gluing up
- Marking out the strings
- Cutting and mitring the outer strings
- Preparing the newel posts
- Providing mitred nosing returns to straight treads
- Ancillary components and final preparation before assembly
- Staircase assembly
- Quarter landing
- Final installation

Chapter 6. L-Shaped Stairs with Kite and Winders

- Building Regulations
- Staircase calculations
- Setting out
- Geometry
- Use of scale drawings
- Cutting list
- Pitch board and router jig
- Preparation of wall and return strings
- String marking and routing
- Preparing the newel posts
- Preparing the treads
- Fitting the winders
- Preparing the landing nosing
- Ancillary components and final preparation before assembly
- Staircase assembly
- Pre-fitting the winding steps before delivery
- On-site preparation prior to fixing
- Final installation

Chapter 7. Dogleg Stairs with Half-Turn Landing

- Stairwell dimensions
- Staircase dimensions
- Cutting list
- Preparing the straight flights
- Preparing the newel posts
- Staircase assembly
- Half landing
- Final installation

Chapter 8. Circular Stairs

- Building Regulations
- Staircase design and dimensions
- Setting out
- Circle geometry
- Developing the strings
- Flexi ply requirements
- Cutting list
- Building a bending form
- Marking out the wall string
- Marking and cutting the flexi ply
- Laminating the circular strings
- Trimming and routing the wall string

- Marking out the open string
- Veneering the strings' edges
- Cutting and mitring the open string
- Preparing the newel post
- Providing mitred nosing returns to tapered treads
- Final preparation before assembly
- Staircase assembly
- Fitting the curtail step

Chapter 9. Alternating Tread Stairs

- Design
- Building Regulations
- Stair dimensions
- Cutting list
- Pitch board and router jig
- String marking
- Routing the strings
- Newel posts
- Preparing paddle-shaped treads
- Routing the tread nosings
- Open risers
- Finishing the treads and risers
- Ancillary components and final preparation before assembly
- Staircase assembly
- On-site preparation prior to fixing

Chapter 10. Special Features

- Constructing a round-end step
- Constructing a bullnosed step
- Cut and mitred strings: methods of cutting
- Open-to-closed strings
- Newel capping

Chapter 11. Railings

- Building Regulations
- Balustrade, types and designs
- Balustrade centre line
- Newel posts
- Handrail
- Establishing the handrail length
- Shaping the handrail
- Fixing handrail to newel posts
- Balusters
- Constructing a post-to-post balustrade for a closed-string staircase
- Baluster calculations
- Cutting list
- Balustrade assembly
- Fixing balusters on a closed-string staircase
- Constructing a post-to-post balustrade for an open-string staircase
- Cutting list
- Marking baluster centres
- Drilling for dowels
- Marking baluster lengths
- Fixing balusters on an open-string staircase
- Constructing an over-the-post balustrade for a circular staircase
- Design
- Cutting list
- Forming circular handrail
- Cleaning up before routing
- Creating a 'kink' in the handrail
- Routing circular handrail
- Using the volute template
- Marking and cutting the volute and upward easing
- Marking, cutting, and assembling the handrail
- Joining handrail to upper newel post
- Joining volute newel post and last baluster to curtail step
- Chamfering the balusters
- Final balustrade installation

12. Repairing Stairs

- Creaks: the causes
- Curing a creaky staircase
- Replacing wedges
- Separation of string from wall
- Screwing risers to treads
- Replacing angled glue blocks
- Finishing the underside of stairs
- Replacing broken balusters
- Securing a loose newel post
- Installing new balcony balustrade
- Wall-mounted handrail
- Fixing wall-mounted handrail brackets to a wall
- Lengthening handrail