

# Design your Stair System

The Creation of a Timeless Piece of Furniture for the Home



Create a beautiful stair system for the home with one of Fitts' distinct families of stair components. Use this literature as a spring board of select styles and shapes and create a personalized piece of furniture for your home.

### First ask yourself:

- **Is the stair Post to Post or Over the Post?**
- **What is the style or Architectural Theme of the home?**
- **What Species of wood will match the continuity of the home?**
- **What are the local codes regarding stair construction in my municipality?**

A more detailed stair take-off sheet has been included on pages 74 & 75 of this publication. You want to think of the staircase in sections:

1. **Carriage**—or stringers of the stair (the hidden skeleton) which is often framed onsite
2. **Stepping Surfaces**—Starting Steps & Treads
3. **Balustrade**—Newels, Balusters & Handrails
4. **Decorative Mouldings**—Skirt Boards, Ornamental Brackets, Base Mould, Shoe Mould
5. **Accessories & Hardware**— Rail Bolts, Newel Attaching Hardware, Plugs

### **Stepping Surface—Starting Steps & Treads**

Starting steps are the decorative first step of the stair. They often have bull nose ends that accept starting newels for a turnout or a volute. It is important to note when determining the inside dimension of the Finished stringers + skirtboard + sheet rock.

**Treads**—Treads form the horizontal stepping surface of the stair. Treads are often open sided with returned ends or unfinished—set in between a series of "knee walls."

**Risers**- The finished vertical face of the step. Risers are typically the same specie as the tread or of paint able material.

**Handrails**— Handrail is the top rail used in a balustrade system; it provides gripping surface for Support. Handrail comes in a variety of shapes and species: many of which have a series of fittings to make over the post rail systems. Rails are either straight or radius (bending.)

**Mouldings & Brackets**— Ornamental skirts boards, brackets and mouldings can be added to create a "finished" and decorative look to the stair.

**Hardware & Accessories**— All Fitts Industries, Inc. fittings are packaged with a rail bolt and plug for connection point. Other hardware and installation tools are provided for newel and baluster installation. Most hardware is chosen by the individual installer and is based on preference. Hardware in this brochure is broken down by Handrail, Newel & Baluster installation.

**\*Newels, Balusters and Fittings will be described in more detail in the upcoming pages.**