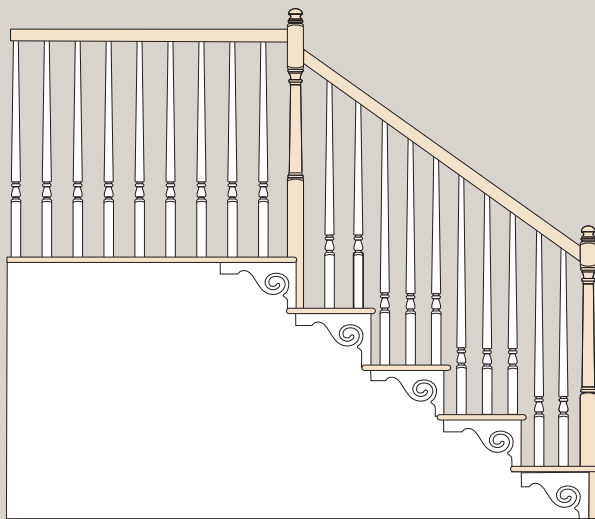


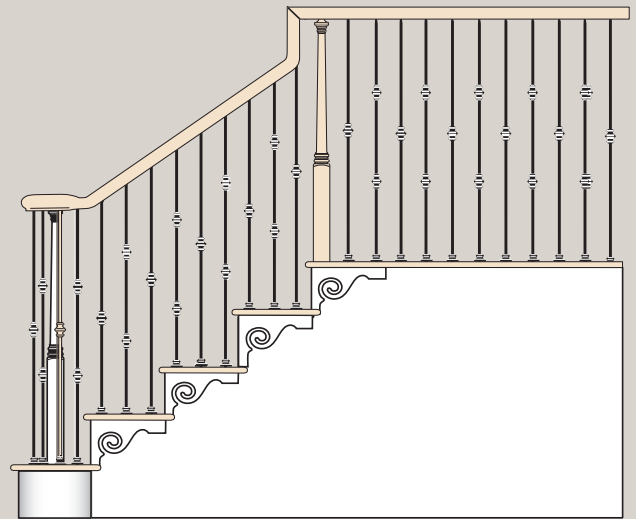
Baluster selection is usually determined by the size of the newel post and/or handrails that work within the architectural theme of the home. The use of smaller 3" newel posts tend to work better with 1-1/4" balusters and 2" and 2-1/4" handrail profiles. Larger 3-1/2" posts, as well as box newels are more compatible with 1-3/4" balustrade and 2-5/8" handrails. Iron balusters are the most versatile and will work with both larger and smaller handrails and turnings.

Balusters are often laid out in two variations. The first is a Tread Oriented System in which turnings are parallel to the tread. The second and more common variation is a Rail Oriented System in which the turning is parallel the angle of the handrail. Most of your Wrought Iron systems work as Rail Oriented Balustrade systems.

Tread Oriented Balustrade System



Rail Oriented Balustrade System



It is important to note building code that focus on baluster spacing on the rake of the stair (ascending or descending the stair), as well as the balcony or landing railing of the staircase. The IRC 2006 Residential Codes state that baluster spacing not allow a 4-3/8" spherical object pass between the balusters on the rake of a stair, and not allow a 4" spherical object pass between the balustrade on the balcony of the stair. It is important to understand these codes before laying out your balustrade system.

Wood balusters are usually ordered in the same wood species as the newel posts and rail, but can be purchased in a paint grade or primed finish.

A simplified listing of baluster lengths is located on pages 68-73 in this catalog.