

# **“STEPS” FOR BUILDING A STAIRCASE**

**With John Ressler**

**June 6-7, 2020**

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Welcome to the world of stairs. The craft of stair building offers numerous challenges as well as endless possibilities. All of these possibilities put together are enough to frighten many people away from attempting this rewarding experience. There are many different ways to approach the building of stairs. In this course, we will give an overview of the design, layout, fabrication and installation processes. The emphasis will be to “keep it simple”. The overall goal is to learn a stair design to accommodate simple rail installation.

## **CLASS STRUCTURE**

We will be packing in a lot of information on stair building in 2 days. It won't be a boring lecture however. We will be reviewing projects that we have been completed as examples which include many photos. We will also be demonstrating many parts of building the stair and rail. I will have numerous handouts for you so that you don't need to spend a lot of time taking notes. The best part will be if you bring a specific project that we can work through together as time permits.

## **OVERALL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this seminar, you will:

- Learn the considerations that must be taken to complete a successful stair design
- Recognize the differences and benefits of a “milled” (wedged tread and riser design) stair vs. a “carpenter built” stair
- Learn how to take measurements to fabricate stair parts to aid in simple installation
- Figure rise and run of a stair
- Learn how to make a simple template to route a “wall stringer”
- Observe fabrication of a “wall stringer” and an “open stringer”
- Learn how to lay out and build a half circle starting tread
- Observe how to “roll” a curved riser for the half circle tread
- Observe the installation process
- Discussion and demonstration of rail design and fabrication

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **DAY ONE**

- Introduction to stairs (Parts, terminology, methods, etc)
- Variables in stair design and styles
- Standard stair design (straight stairs, landing stairs)
- The impact of code, space and style on stair design
- Standard stair dimension requirements
- Methods of measurement for stairs
- Layout of standard stairs
- Demonstrate fabrication of stringers, treads (straight, half circle and quarter circle)
- Discussion of your stair projects

### **DAY TWO**

- Demonstration of rail fabrication
- Stair Installation
- Rail Installation
- Curved stair design
- Curved stair measuring and layout
- Discussion of your stair projects
- Wrap up

**NOTE:** If you have a specific stair project in mind, bring photos, dimensions and any other information you may have. We will work in these examples during class as time permits.

**Please bring the following items with you for the class**

Notebook

Calculator

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions related to the class.

John Ressler

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