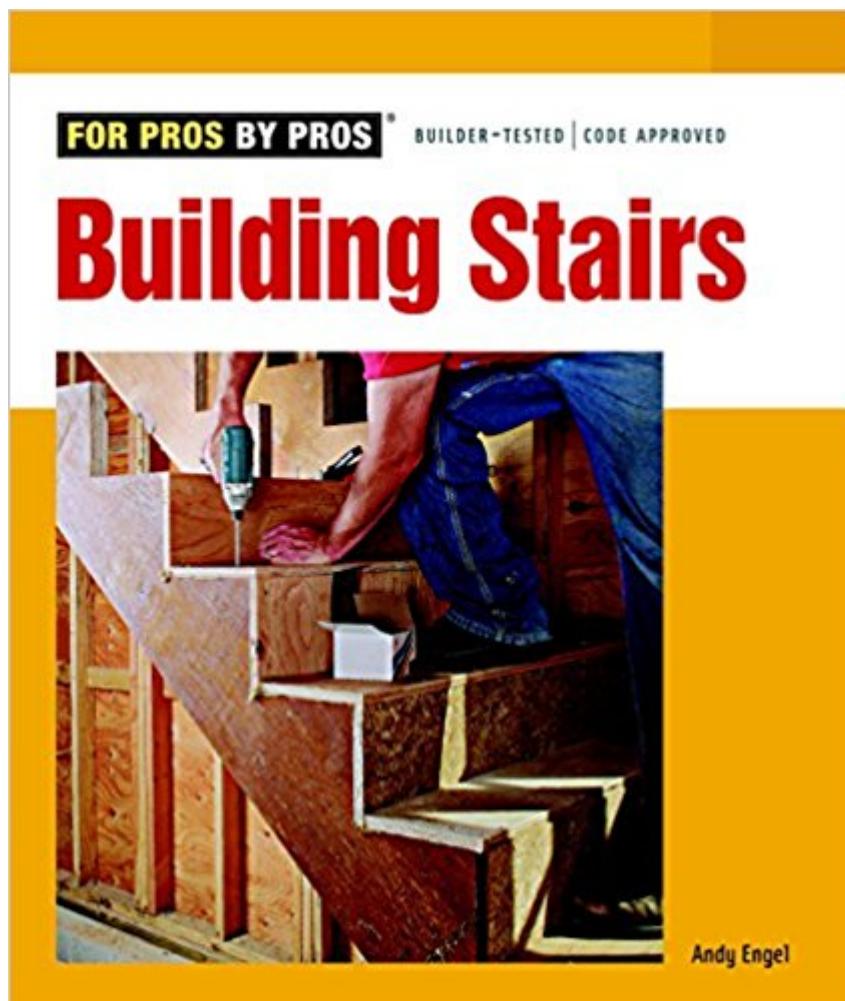


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## Building Stairs



## Synopsis

Stair building combines precision carpentry with tricky math, so even experienced builders find it challenging. But as this extensively illustrated book demonstrates, any builder who can measure the distance between two floors can plan and build a stunning set of stairs. By clearly laying out the geometry, planning, and construction involved, author Andy Engel takes the reader from a simple structure built of framing lumber to a set of stairs fit for a king. From building and installing railings to using off-the-shelf stair parts, *Building Stairs* lays out the process clearly and completely. Written by a pro. Accurate and reliable. Easy to navigate. Covers railings and newels. Includes outdoor stairs.

## Book Information

Series: For Pros By Pros

Paperback: 234 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #74,504 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Carpentry #73 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Woodworking #163 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Design & Construction

## Customer Reviews

Andy Engel grew up near Belvidere, NJ, in a house that his father nearly always had under construction. Woodworking and carpentry were just what you did. When other teenagers were dancing to The Bee Gees and Donna Summer, Andy was in the shop building a dulcimer inspired by a chapter in *The Foxfire Book*. For a few years after high school, he alternated between college, dead-end jobs, and travel. In 1982, he found his feet and hired on as a woodworker in a pre-hung door shop. From 1985 through 1996, he was self-employed as a carpenter and home builder. In 1996, *Taunton's Fine Homebuilding* magazine offered him an assistant editor's position. Andy left *Taunton* in 2005 to chase a living as writer, carpenter, and building consultant. He now

lives in Connecticut, with his wife and two sons, in a house that's nearly always under construction.

I was interested in this book as reference material for future projects. I prefer millwork style of mortised stairs; but this book dealt with so much more, including winders, handrails/balusters and newel post installation. I don't like to think back on what I might have done differently, so another knowledgeable perspective is usually appreciated. Admittedly, there was a definite advantage to purchasing this through the Used Books portion of , especially considering the New Condition I received. Who would I recommend this book to? I like detailed, professional results; and this goes along those lines. The building trades are a developed skill, constantly requiring attention and discipline. I consider this book suitable for the skilled artisan, developing those techniques that will ensure repeat demand for good business.

You have here a valuable resource. It may require reading certain parts several times to really get a grip on any particular product. Yes, you may screw a few stringers up before truly having a handle on things but all the answers it seems are in the book. Mastering stair building is a journey, I too am still trying to wrap my head around it. Good Luck!

I consider myself as a serious DIY with attention to detail. I have remodeled nearly every room in the house. Built the cabinets, plumbing, wiring, tile, hardwood floors and windows. When it came time to replace the stairs, I looked through my collection of Fine Homebuilding and didn't find much help. I purchased a DVD from TheStairGuy.com. It is not worth the time or the money. My wife purchased two books for Christmas for me. This one and Stairs & Railings step by step projects. The book Building Stairs is an excellent book that covers all aspects of construction and trimming out the stairs. It is comprehensive and easy to follow. I highly recommend it. The book Stairs & Railings is advertised as a quick guide and that is what it is. It goes into less detail than Building Stairs. But it still is a good book and complements the other book. Gary

I looked at several books on stair construction and checked out several from my local library, and none were as universally applicable and useful as this one. While most books show examples of specific types of stairs, this book describes (and often shows) how to construct specific stair parts (e.g., attaching skirtboard for open stairs, closed stairs, etc.). I also appreciated details such as what type of fasteners to use to install newels. Again, if you're looking to learn how to build stairs in

general, or are trying to construct a custom stair (i.e., not using stock parts), this book is invaluable.

This book has some really good ideas, especially if you are building the stairs from scratch. I was looking more for a book, that covered the trim primarily, such as balusters, Newell posts, handrails, etc. As my basic stairs are already built, I can only utilize parts of the book. Stair building is tricky, and there are not many good books out there. This book is a very good one.

Comprehensive easy to understand and distilled a lot of hands-on experience in a sub trade that is often opaque to those not tradesmen.

Great reference material and well written.

I liked it and the shipping was fast.

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