

# Specifying Glass, Cable, or Decorative Railing Panels

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## QUESTION



How do I specify cable or glass panels on my railings and stairs?

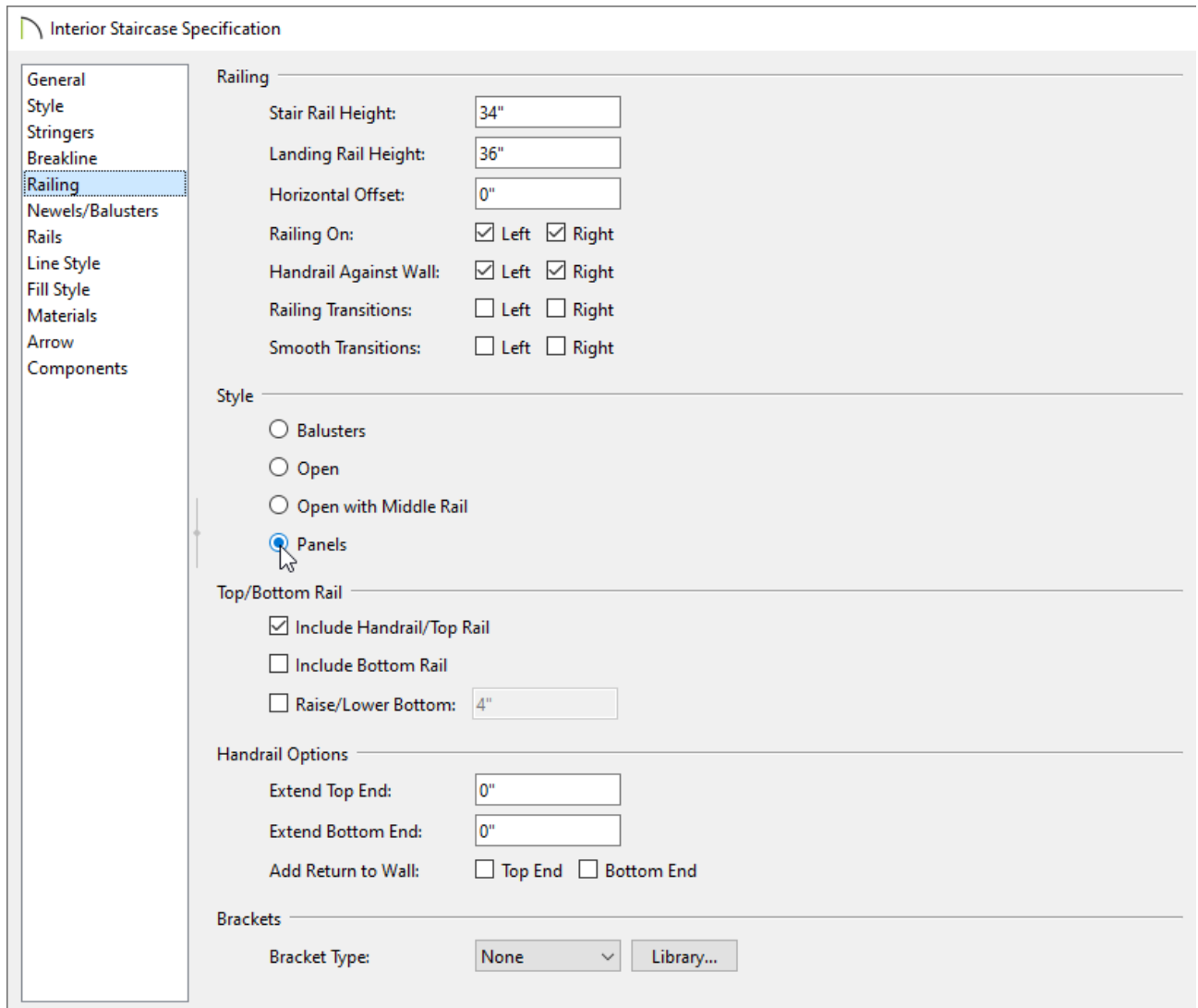


## ANSWER

Cable, glass, and other decorative panels can be applied to railings and stairs using the Staircase Specification and Railing Specification dialogs.

## To specify panels in the Staircase Specification dialog

1. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, select the Staircase that needs changing, then click on the **Open Object**  edit tool.
2. On the **RAILING** panel of the **Staircase Specification** dialog that displays, select **Panels** under the Style section.



The screenshot shows the 'Interior Staircase Specification' dialog box. On the left is a vertical list of tabs: General, Style, Stringers, Breakline, Railing (selected), Newels/Balusters, Rails, Line Style, Fill Style, Materials, Arrow, and Components. The main area is divided into sections: Railing, Style, Top/Bottom Rail, Handrail Options, and Brackets. In the Railing section, there are input fields for Stair Rail Height (34"), Landing Rail Height (36"), and Horizontal Offset (0"). There are also checkboxes for Railing On (Left and Right), Handrail Against Wall (Left and Right), Railing Transitions (Left and Right), and Smooth Transitions (Left and Right). In the Style section, there are radio buttons for Balusters, Open, Open with Middle Rail, and Panels (selected). In the Top/Bottom Rail section, there are checkboxes for Include Handrail/Top Rail, Include Bottom Rail, and Raise/Lower Bottom (4"). In the Handrail Options section, there are input fields for Extend Top End (0") and Extend Bottom End (0"), and checkboxes for Add Return to Wall (Top End and Bottom End). In the Brackets section, there is a Bracket Type dropdown menu set to 'None' and a 'Library...' button.

3. On the **NEWELS/BALUSTERS** panel, click the **Library** button located under the Panels section to open the **Select Library Object** dialog and browse the library for an appropriate panel option.

Interior Staircase Specification

- General
- Style
- Stringers
- Breakline
- Railing
- Newels/Balusters**
- Rails
- Line Style
- Fill Style
- Materials
- Arrow
- Components

### Newels

☒ Has Newel Posts

Type: Square Library...

Width: 2"

Height: 42"

Horizontal Offset: 0"

Bottom Offset: 0" ☒ Clipped

Spacing: 96" On Center

☒ Rail Passes Over Newel

### Balusters

Type: Square Library...

Width: 1 1/2"

Spacing: 4 1/2" On Center

☐ Cut Baluster Top

### Panels

Thickness: 1 3/16"

Type: Solid Library...


### Plan Display

☒ Use Defaults

☒ Draw Newels

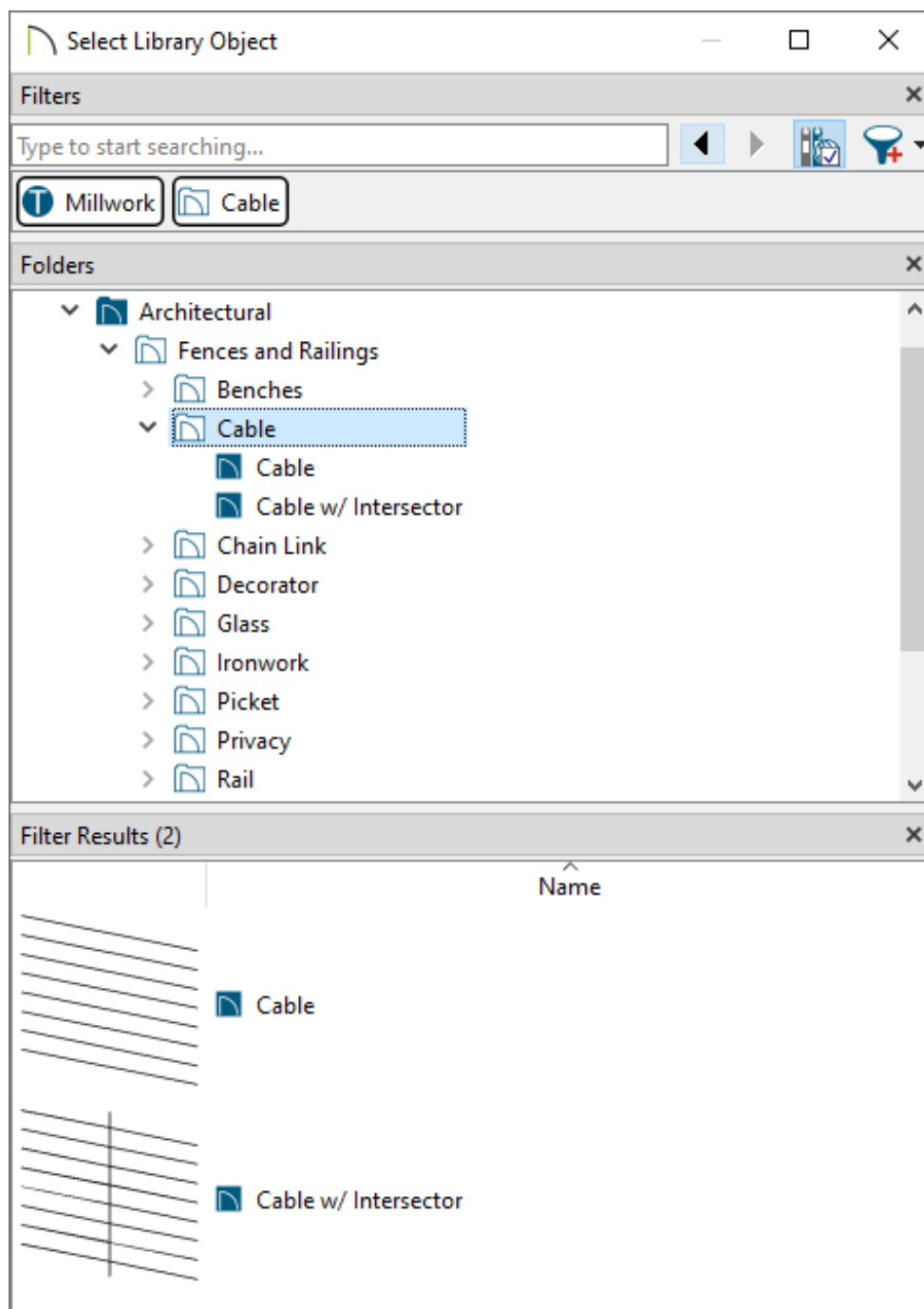
☒ Draw Balusters

☒ Draw Rails



Fill Style...



- Cable railing panels can be found in **Chief Architect Core Catalogs> Architectural> Fences and Railings> Cable.**



- Glass panels can be found in **Chief Architect Core Catalogs> Architectural> Fences and Railings> Glass**.

4. Once an appropriate panel has been selected, and all other desired changes have been made, click **OK**.

## To specify panels in the Railing Specification dialog

1. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, select the railing that needs changing, then click on the **Open Object**  edit tool.

If the majority of railings in your plan are going to be cable or panel railings, it would be more efficient to apply the steps mentioned in this section to your Railing Defaults. From the menu, click Edit> Default Settings and expand the list for Walls to edit the Railing defaults.

2. On the **RAIL STYLE** panel of the **Railing Specification** dialog that displays, select **Panels**.

The screenshot shows the 'Railing Specification' dialog box. On the left is a vertical list of panels: General, Structure, Roof, Foundation, Wall Types, Wall Cap, Wall Covering, **Rail Style** (highlighted with a blue border), Newels/Balusters, Rails, Layer, Materials, Label, Components, Object Information, and Schedule. The main area of the dialog is divided into several sections. The 'Specify Railing' section has a checked checkbox and three radio button options: 'Balusters', 'Solid', and 'Panels' (which is selected and has a mouse cursor over it). There is also an 'Open with Middle Rail' radio button. Below these is a 'Horizontal Offset' field set to '0"'. The 'Newels/Posts' section has a checked checkbox and four radio button options: 'Post to Rail' (selected), 'Post to Beam', 'Post to Ceiling', and 'Rail to Post'. The 'Start/End Posts' section includes 'Start Type' and 'End Type' dropdown menus both set to 'Auto Post Half (Full)', 'Start Wall Offset' and 'End Wall Offset' fields both set to '0"', a checked 'Uniform Offsets' checkbox, and an unchecked 'Square Half Post' checkbox. The 'Top/Bottom Rail' section has three checked checkboxes: 'Include Top Rail', 'Include Bottom Rail', and 'Raise/Lower Bottom:' (with a field set to '4"'). The 'Build From' section has four unchecked checkboxes: 'Step Terrain', 'Follow Terrain', 'Generate on Low Platform', and 'Follow Stairs'.

Railing Specification

General  
Structure  
Roof  
Foundation  
Wall Types  
Wall Cap  
Wall Covering  
**Rail Style**  
Newels/Balusters  
Rails  
Layer  
Materials  
Label  
Components  
Object Information  
Schedule

☒ Specify Railing

☐ Balusters ☐ Open with Middle Rail  
☐ Solid ☒ Panels  
☐ Open

Horizontal Offset: 0"

☒ Newels/Posts

☒ Post to Rail  
☐ Post to Beam  
☐ Post to Ceiling  
☐ Rail to Post

Start/End Posts

Start Type: Auto Post Half (Full) End Type: Auto Post Half (Full)  
Start Wall Offset: 0" End Wall Offset: 0" ☒ Uniform Offsets  
☐ Square Half Post

Top/Bottom Rail

☒ Include Top Rail  
☒ Include Bottom Rail  
☒ Raise/Lower Bottom: 4"

Build From

☐ Step Terrain ☐ Generate on Low Platform  
☐ Follow Terrain ☐ Follow Stairs

3. On the **NEWELS/BALUSTERS** panel, click the **Library** button located under the Panels section to open the **Select Library Object** dialog and browse the library for an appropriate panel option.

**Railing Specification**

**General**  
Structure  
Roof  
Foundation  
Wall Types  
Wall Cap  
Wall Covering  
Rail Style  
**Newels/Balusters**  
Rails  
Layer  
Materials  
Label  
Components  
Object Information  
Schedule

**Railing**  
Height: 36"

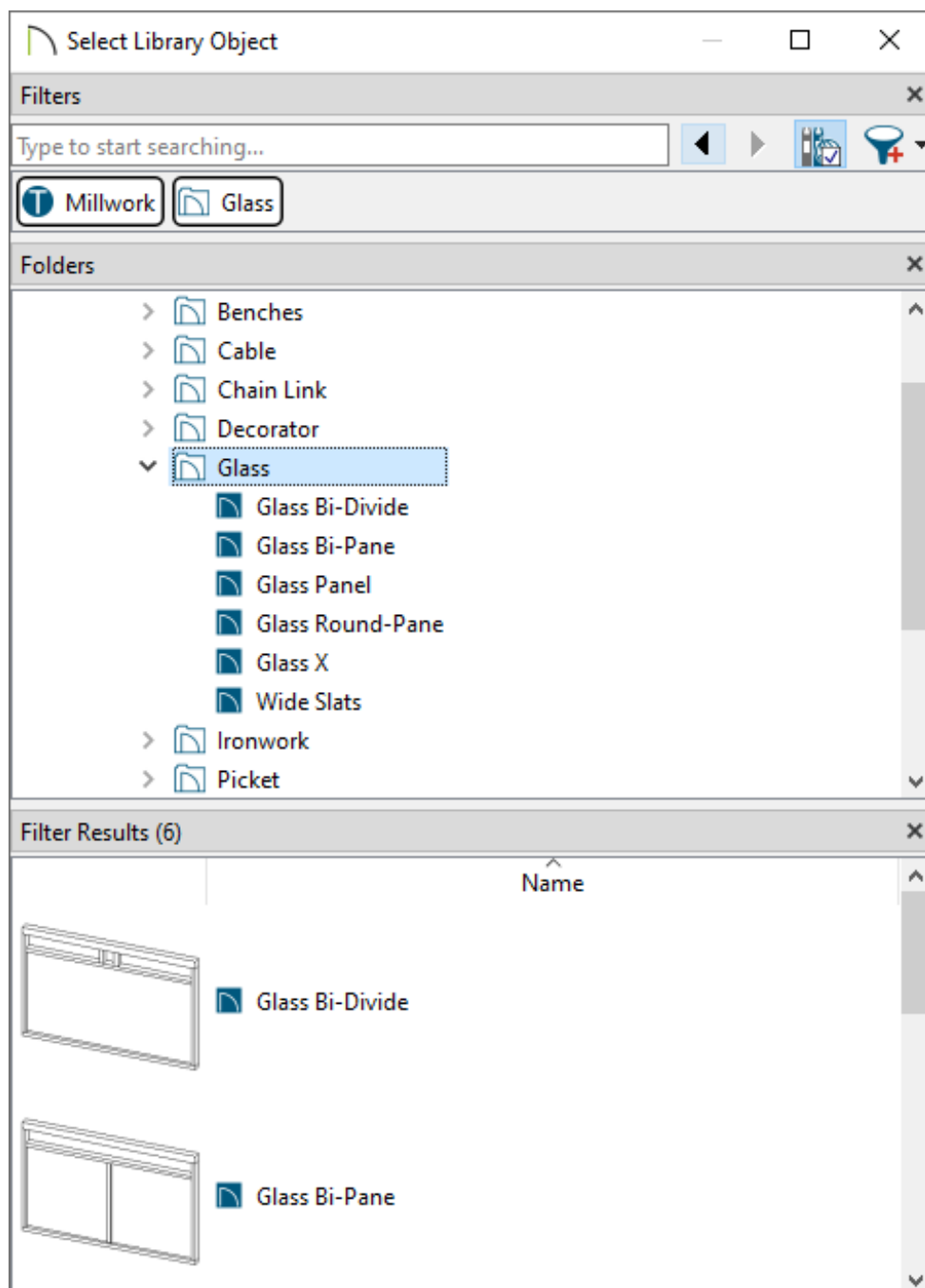
**Newels/Posts**  
Width: 2" ☐ Use Wall Width  
Height: 36"  
Horizontal Offset: 0"  
Bottom Offset: 0"  
Spacing: 96" On Center  
Type: Square

**Balusters**  
Width: 1 1/2"  
Spacing: 5" On Center  
Type: Square

**Panels**  
Thickness: 1 1/2"  
Type: Solid

**Plan Display**  
☒ Use Defaults  
☒ Draw Newels  
☒ Draw Balusters/Panels  
☒ Draw Rails

- Cable railing panels can be found in **Chief Architect Core Catalogs> Architectural> Fences and Railings> Cable**.
- Glass panels can be found in **Chief Architect Core Catalogs> Architectural> Fences and Railings> Glass**.



4. Once an appropriate panel has been selected, and all other desired changes have been made, click **OK**.

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#### Related Articles

- 📄 [Creating Custom Balusters and Railing Panels \(/support/article/KB-02893/creating-custom-balusters-and-railing-panels.html\)](/support/article/KB-02893/creating-custom-balusters-and-railing-panels.html)
- 📄 [Manually Adding Railings to a Staircase \(/support/article/KB-00082/manually-adding-railings-to-a-staircase.html\)](/support/article/KB-00082/manually-adding-railings-to-a-staircase.html)



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