

Manually Adding Railings to a Staircase

Reference Number: **KB-00082**

Last Modified: **June 14, 2023**

QUESTION

I would like to create stairs with custom railings. How can I accomplish this task?





ANSWER

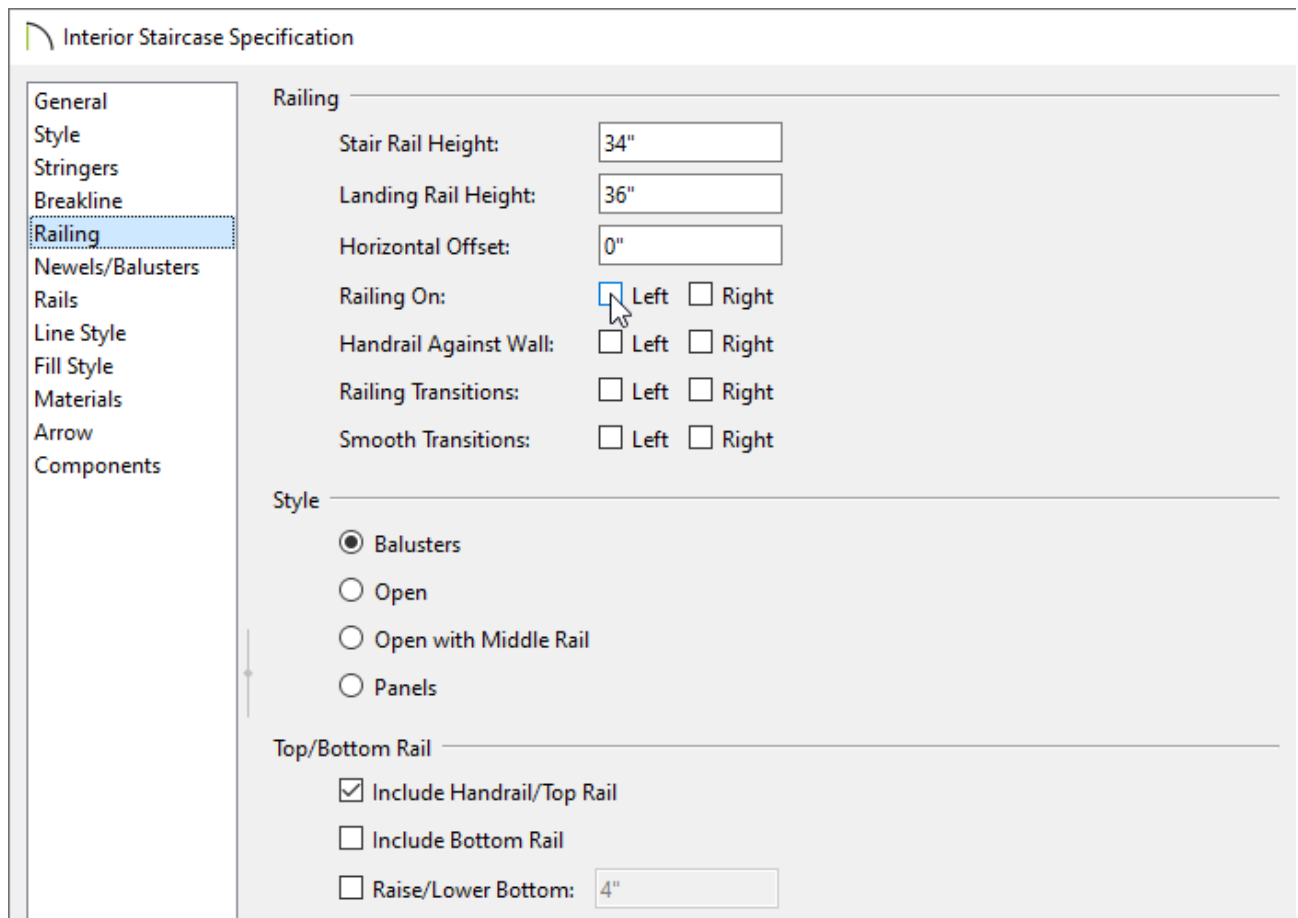
A custom stair railing can be added to a staircase using the Railing tool and setting it to follow the slope of the stairs.

If glass railing panels or cable railings are desired, please see the "Specifying Glass, Cable, or Decorative Railing Panels" resource in the [Related Articles](#) section below.

Drawing stair railings manually

1. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, select the staircase, then click the **Open Object**  edit tool.
2. In the **Staircase Specification** dialog, switch to the **RAILING** panel and uncheck both the **Left** and **Right** boxes next to Railing On, along with Handrail Against Wall, if desired, then click **OK**.

In X14 and prior versions, uncheck the boxes beside Railing On and Railing At Wall instead.



The screenshot shows the "Interior Staircase Specification" dialog box with the "Railing" panel selected in the left-hand menu. The "Railing" section contains the following settings:

- Stair Rail Height: 34"
- Landing Rail Height: 36"
- Horizontal Offset: 0"
- Railing On: ☒ Left ☐ Right
- Handrail Against Wall: ☐ Left ☐ Right
- Railing Transitions: ☐ Left ☐ Right
- Smooth Transitions: ☐ Left ☐ Right

The "Style" section contains the following options:

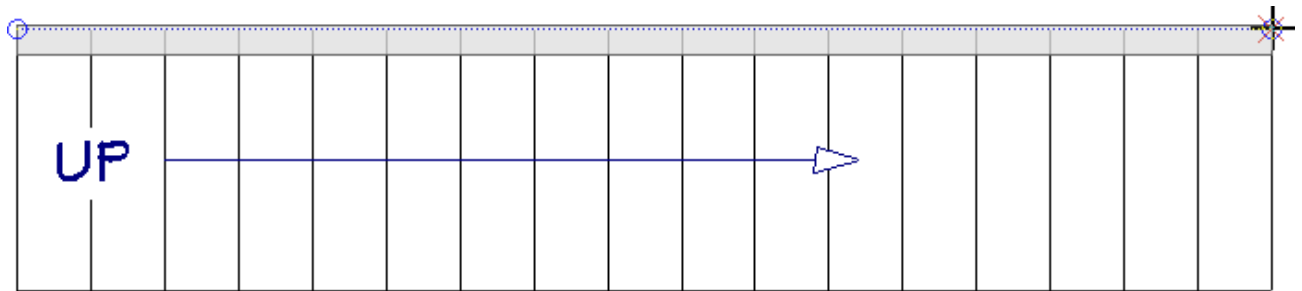
- ☒ Balusters
- ☐ Open
- ☐ Open with Middle Rail
- ☐ Panels


The "Top/Bottom Rail" section contains the following options:

- ☒ Include Handrail/Top Rail
- ☐ Include Bottom Rail
- ☐ Raise/Lower Bottom: 4"

3. Next, select **Build> Railing and Deck> Straight Railing**  from the menu.

4. Draw a railing under the staircase on each side.



5. Select one of the newly created railings and click the **Open Object**  edit tool.

If you have trouble selecting the railing, try clicking where the railing should be and then pressing the Tab key on your keyboard. This will tell the program to cycle to the next object that may exist in the same area.

6. In the **Railing Specification** dialog that displays:

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

- On the **RAIL STYLE** panel, check **Follow Stairs**.

To learn more about the various options located here, click the **Help** button at the bottom of the dialog.

- On the **NEWELS/BALUSTERS** panel, specify the **Height** of the railing, along with other parameters such as the **Type**, **Spacing**, **Width**, and **Offsets** of the Newels/Posts and Balusters.
- On the **RAILS** panel, adjust the properties for each individual rail that makes up the railing.
- Make any other desired changes to the railing, then click **OK**.

- Repeat the process with the opposite railing, then take a **Camera**  view to see the results.

Related Articles

- 📄 [Creating a Stair Rake Wall \(/support/article/KB-03107/creating-a-stair-rake-wall.html\)](/support/article/KB-03107/creating-a-stair-rake-wall.html)
- 📄 [Creating a Stairwell \(/support/article/KB-00757/creating-a-stairwell.html\)](/support/article/KB-00757/creating-a-stairwell.html)
- 📄 [Creating an Open Below Room \(/support/article/KB-00078/creating-an-open-below-room.html\)](/support/article/KB-00078/creating-an-open-below-room.html)
- 📄 [Message: Cannot find the floor above the stairs in which to place the stairwell. \(/support/article/KB-00966/message-cannot-find-the-floor-above-the-stairs-in-which-to-place-the-stairwell.html\)](/support/article/KB-00966/message-cannot-find-the-floor-above-the-stairs-in-which-to-place-the-stairwell.html)
- 📄 [Specifying Glass, Cable, or Decorative Railing Panels \(/support/article/KB-01029/specifying-glass-cable-or-decorative-railing-panels.html\)](/support/article/KB-01029/specifying-glass-cable-or-decorative-railing-panels.html)



[\(https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/\)](https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/)

 [\(/blog/\)](/blog/)



[\(https://www.facebook.com/ChiefArchitect\)](https://www.facebook.com/ChiefArchitect)



[\(https://www.youtube.com/user/ChiefArchitectInc\)](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChiefArchitectInc)



[\(https://www.instagram.com/chiefarchitect/\)](https://www.instagram.com/chiefarchitect/)



[\(https://www.houzz.com/pro/chiefarchitect/\)](https://www.houzz.com/pro/chiefarchitect/)



[\(https://www.pinterest.com/chiefarchitect/\)](https://www.pinterest.com/chiefarchitect/)