

Specifying Glass, Cable, or Decorative Railing Panels

Reference Number: **KB-01029**

Last Modified: **June 19, 2023**

The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION



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

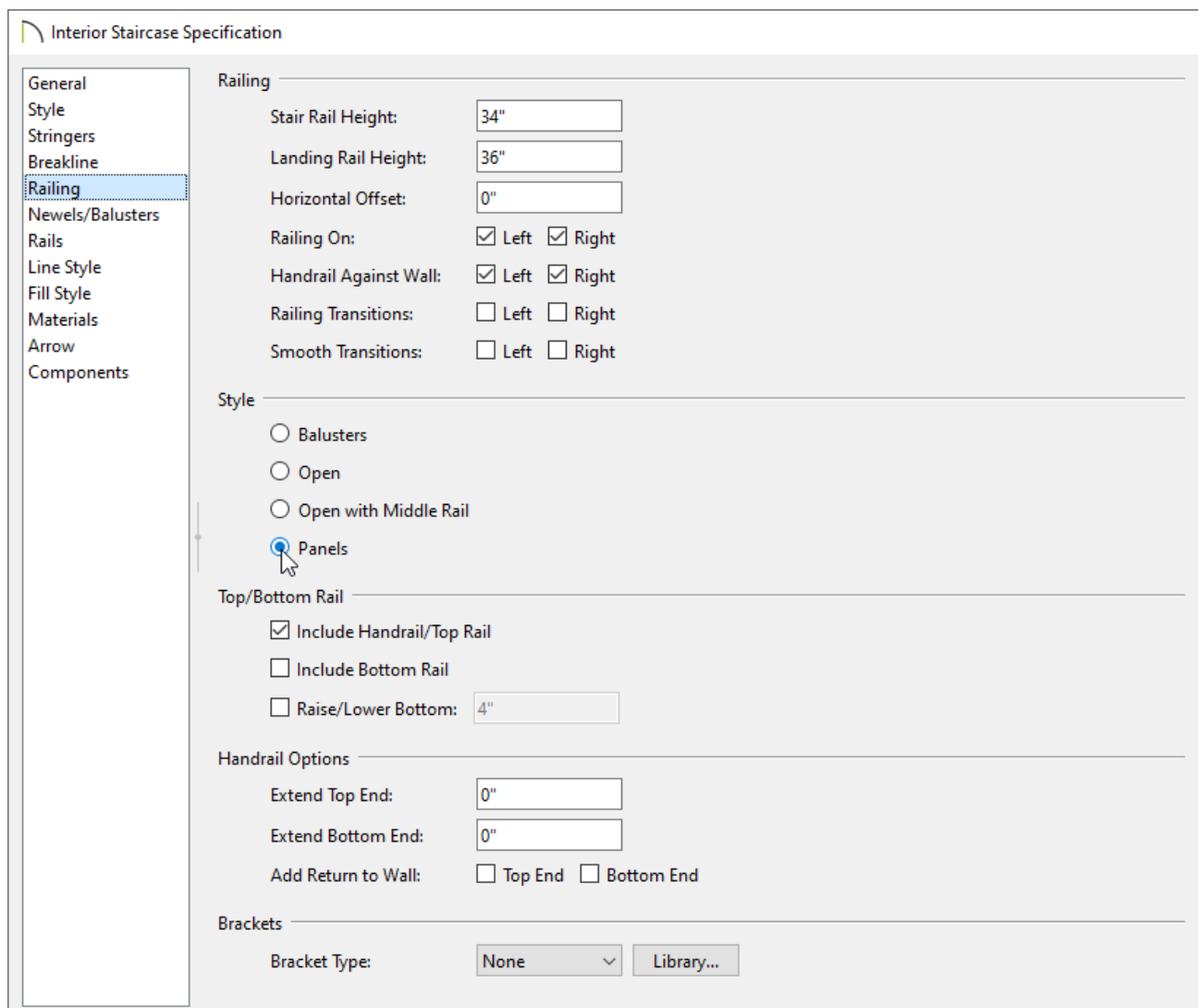


ANSWER

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 with the 'Railing' panel selected in the left-hand navigation pane. The 'Railing' panel is divided into several sections: 'Railing', 'Style', 'Top/Bottom Rail', 'Handrail Options', and 'Brackets'. In the 'Style' section, the 'Panels' radio button is selected, indicated by a mouse cursor. The 'Railing' section contains fields for 'Stair Rail Height' (34"), 'Landing Rail Height' (36"), and 'Horizontal Offset' (0"), along with checkboxes for 'Railing On' (Left and Right), 'Handrail Against Wall' (Left and Right), 'Railing Transitions' (Left and Right), and 'Smooth Transitions' (Left and Right). The 'Top/Bottom Rail' section has checkboxes for 'Include Handrail/Top Rail', 'Include Bottom Rail', and a 'Raise/Lower Bottom' field set to 4". The 'Handrail Options' section has fields for 'Extend Top End' and 'Extend Bottom End' (both 0") and checkboxes for 'Add Return to Wall' (Top End and Bottom End). The 'Brackets' section has a 'Bracket Type' dropdown set to 'None' and a 'Library...' button.

Interior Staircase Specification

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

Railing

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

Style

☐ Balusters
☐ Open
☐ Open with Middle Rail
☒ Panels

Top/Bottom Rail

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

Handrail Options

Extend Top End: 0"
Extend Bottom End: 0"
Add Return to Wall: ☐ Top End ☐ Bottom End

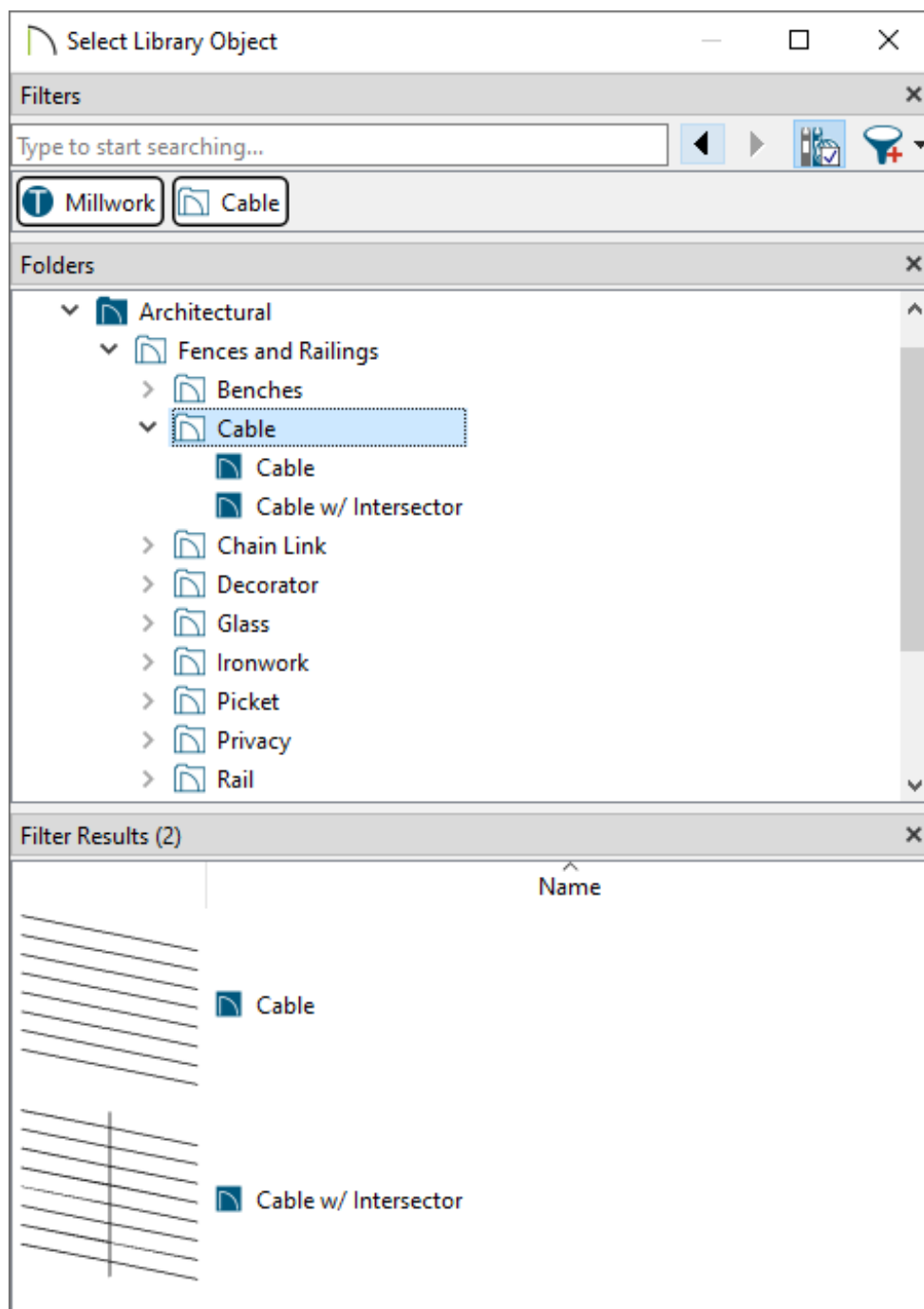
Brackets

Bracket Type: None Library...

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.

The screenshot shows the 'Interior Staircase Specification' dialog box. On the left is a vertical navigation pane with the following items: General, Style, Stringers, Breakline, Railing, **Newels/Balusters** (highlighted), Rails, Line Style, Fill Style, Materials, Arrow, and Components. The main area is divided into four sections: Newels, Balusters, Panels, and Plan Display. The 'Newels' section has a 'Has Newel Posts' checkbox checked, and fields for Type (Square), Width (2"), Height (42"), Horizontal Offset (0"), Bottom Offset (0"), Spacing (96" On Center), and a 'Clipped' checkbox checked. The 'Balusters' section has fields for Type (Square), Width (1 1/2"), Spacing (4 1/2" On Center), and a 'Cut Baluster Top' checkbox unchecked. The 'Panels' section has a 'Thickness' field (1 3/16") and a 'Type' dropdown (Solid) with a 'Library...' button next to it. The 'Plan Display' section has four checkboxes: 'Use Defaults' (checked), 'Draw Newels' (checked), 'Draw Balusters' (checked), and 'Draw Rails' (checked). To the right of these checkboxes is a preview window showing a blank square, with a 'Fill Style...' button below it.



- 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 with the 'RAIL STYLE' panel selected in the left-hand navigation menu. The 'Specify Railing' section has the 'Panels' radio button selected. The 'Newels/Posts' section has 'Post to Rail' selected. The 'Start/End Posts' section shows 'Auto Post Half (Full)' for both start and end types, with 'Uniform Offsets' checked. The 'Top/Bottom Rail' section has 'Include Top Rail', 'Include Bottom Rail', and 'Raise/Lower Bottom' (set to 4") all checked. The 'Build From' section has 'Step Terrain', 'Follow Terrain', 'Generate on Low Platform', and 'Follow Stairs' all unchecked.

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"

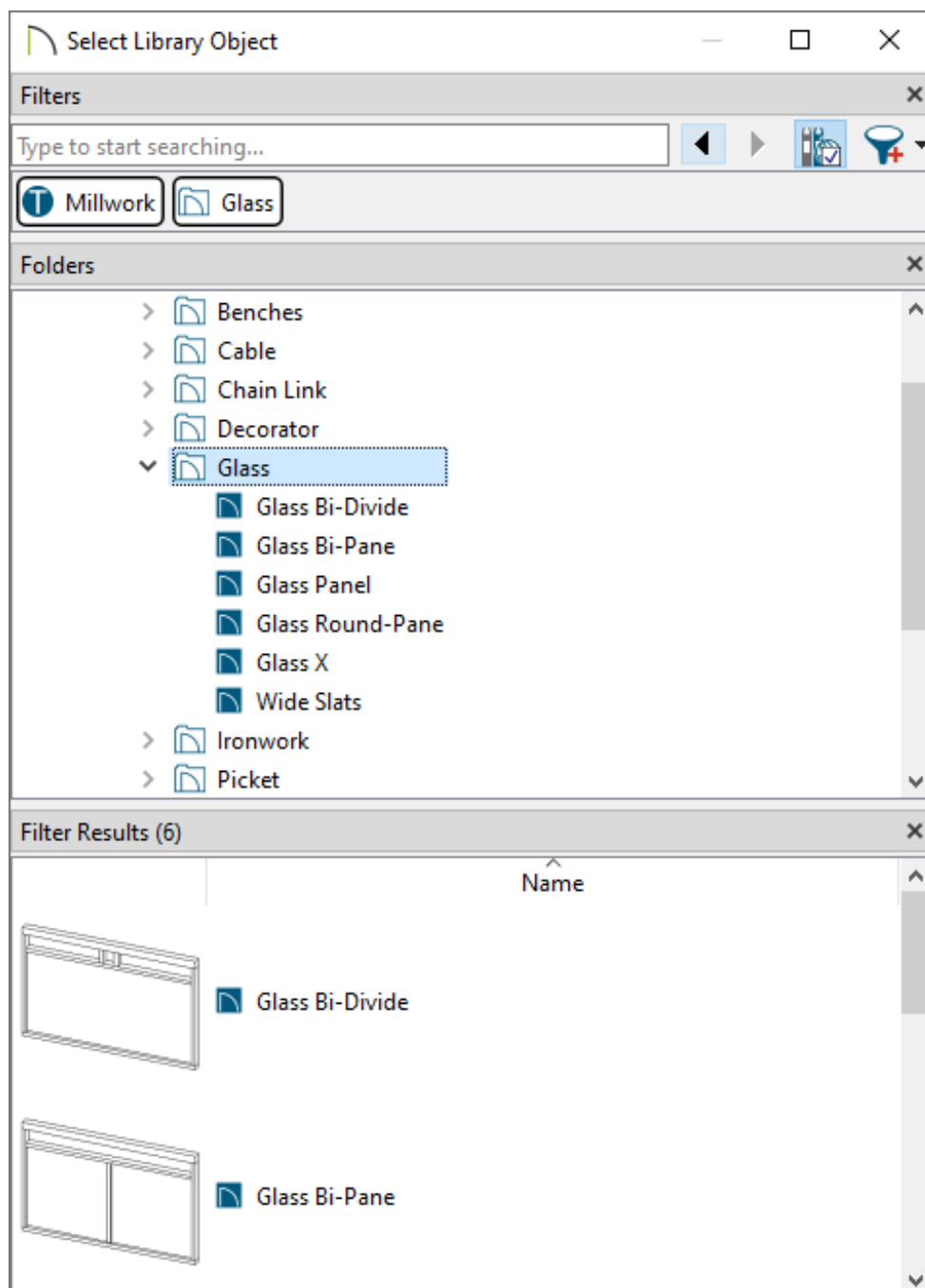
Newels/Posts
Width: 2" ☐ Use Wall Width
Height: 36"
Horizontal Offset: 0"
Bottom Offset: 0"
Spacing: 96" On Center
Type: Square

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**.

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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