

## Installation Techniques and Tips for Prefinished Starter Step – Remodel Construction

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The installation of a true starter step requires one major construction difference. The term “true” applies to the solid box (frame) construction of our starter step. The majority of starter steps sold in the industry are false starter steps. Our starter step is totally self-sufficient, made using HDF as the structural load bearing material. The tread and riser are fully attached and each starter step comes with pre-formed cove and base shoe.

With regards to a new set of steps, the bottom set of stringers is removed – hence the second stringer becomes the final stringer. A typical drop on a stringer is 7” but in this case a 14” drop will be required for proper installation.

Since most stringers are made of SPF 2” x 12” lumber, additional supporting frames will need to be cut for each of the second step stringers. Use additional 2” x 12” lumber to construct the base of the second step stringers. Straddle each side of the center stringer and use double side-by-side construction for the end strings. Have additional (overlapping length) on the inner board attached to the outside stringers. The outside board should rest directly beneath the stringer. Lastly, screw and use construction adhesive for attaching.

An option for the base structure is to make a framed box out of 2”x12” material. This box is located directly beneath the second set of stringers. If this method is used, reinforce the strength of the box with framing members every 6”. Attach the bottom of the second strings to the framed box using deck screws and construction adhesive.

Once your sub-base is attached and in place, check to see that it is flush along the front face of the stringer.

You’re now ready to install the starter step. With new construction, the height of the riser must account for the thickness of the floor. A  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” floor will require the riser to be higher than, say, an LVT floor. When ordering a starter step you should know the thickness of the floor the starter step is being installed with. This will also affect the width of the rest of the risers being installed. Attach the back of the starter step with either a series of finishing nails or screws. Use an adhesive to secure the base of the step to the subfloor beneath. Attach the accompanying base shoe to the starter step using a construction adhesive. *Optional: Use a brad nailer to install the base shoe. Be careful not to split the shoe if nailing.*

Lastly, install the cove using the same method described for the base shoe installation.

You are now ready to move on to the second step of the stairway.

## **Installation Techniques and Tips for Prefinished Starter Step - New Construction**

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The process is similar to the remodel construction with a couple of differences. If the new stringers are made with our starter step in mind, you won't have to remove and reconstruct the first set of stringers.

All overhangs on the sub riser material will need to be cut back to the ends of the existing sub risers. Be certain to make the cuts using a circular saw. Be careful when removing the excess piece of wood. A wood chisel will be needed on the ends of the removal since the saw will not get this portion of the sub riser.

### **Tips:**

- Use a stair wizard for all remaining tread and riser installation.
- Use painter's tape (we highly recommend Scotch 3M #2090) on any surface a tread or riser will come in contact with on the table saw.
- Use a rubber mallet for all tight tread and riser placement.
- Use a brad nailer for the risers, with plenty of construction adhesive.