

One Step Beyond™ **Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels**

PRODUCT AND INSTRUCTION GUIDE



“Appreciating the Value of Your Home, One Step At A Time.”

Customer Service:
Toll Free: 866-865-0544
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Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels
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One Step Beyond™

Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels

Congratulations on purchasing one of the most innovative products in the home décor market. You can take pride that your purchase will dramatically enhance the richness, beauty and character of your home. In addition, you can be proud that your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels utilize manufacturing that is 100% Made in the U.S.A.

Your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels enable you to design and highlight a very prominent area of your home, the stairs. Typically the first thing people see when entering your home; your stairway will now dramatically influence the first impression of your guests. With your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers, you will create a distinctive and stylish ambiance in this high traffic area, with the “high quality” of intricately carved hardwood and without the tedious, back breaking effort of stencil painting. Your guests will admire your ingenuity and the simple elegance of your new stairs!

Your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels include very high quality materials, specially crafted for easy installation and design versatility.

- The Hardwood Decorative Stair Riser and Trim Panel product is considered a “building material” and therefore, has many options for installation. Whether you are installing the product yourself or contracting services, the product is easily installed to provide a beautiful and professionally finished look.
- The wood risers and trim panels utilize actual hardwood to compliment the natural wood elements in your home. Your chosen design pattern will express your individual style and dramatically enhance the visual impact of your entryway or room design.

We encourage you to be creative, to set your home apart and to display your individual and personal design style. Your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels will bring personal gratification, aesthetic interest, rich quality and significant value to your home.

- The highlight inserts enable you to become your own interior designer and choose colors or color combinations that express your creative style in harmony with your home decor. The highlight inserts also serve to disguise any damage on the existing risers and to eliminate the time and effort of patching, puttying, sanding, taping, priming and painting.

According to the local Area and Planning Commission, your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels abide by all applicable stair building and remodeling code requirements. One Step Beyond™ recommends that you check with your local building or zoning authority to insure that the installation of your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels comply with all local building and/or remodeling code requirements.

One Step Beyond™ has provided required forewarnings with your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels; therefore it is necessary for you, the consumer and/or installer, to read all instructions thoroughly and completely and follow the recommended procedures, before initiating the project.

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CONTENTS & RECOMMENDED TOOLS

Included in package:

1. Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels.
2. Sample wood for stain testing.
3. Instruction Manual.
4. Highlight Inserts (if ordered).

Hardwood Decorative Risers and Trim Panels

Recommended Tools for Stain and Topcoat:

(Based upon Full Set of Stairs)

1. Oil-based wood stain (1 quart).
2. Satin polyurethane (1 quart).
3. Latex gloves.
4. Lint-free cotton cloths.
5. 1 - 2" natural bristle brush.
6. 4 - 1" foam brushes.
7. 2 - 3" foam brushes.
8. Tact cloth.
9. Very fine sand paper.

Recommended Tools for Cutting and Installation:

1. Tape Measure.
2. Pencil.
3. Dark permanent marker.
4. Table saw or Miter box, as required by cutting lengths.
5. 100% clear silicone (1 tube = 1-7 stairs/ 2 tubes = 8-18 stairs)
 - Caulk gun.
- OR -
- 1 1/4" Finishing nails (Brad or Pin nails)
 - Nail punch.
 - Hammer.

Highlight Inserts

1. Pencil.
2. Scissor.
3. Paint (if applicable).
4. 2" foam brush(s).

STAIR TERMINOLOGY

Tread: The horizontal component of a stair on which one steps.

Riser: The vertical finished component of a stair, filling the space between the treads.

Box or Closed Stairs: The treads and risers are enclosed by a stringer or sometimes called a knee wall.

Open Stairs: The treads and risers are exposed from the side view.

Stringer: The component of box stairs that enclose the tread and riser.

Skirt Board: The component of open stairs that support the tread and miter into the riser.

Baluster: A vertical member, used to fill the open area between the handrail and tread, commonly known as spindles.

Newel: A structural, vertical post at the top, bottom and directional change of stairs to support the handrail.

Cove Molding: The trim molding used under the tread nose to compliment the look of the stair design.

Kerf: Partially cutting through the back of a building material to allow for a bend or curve.

PRODUCT WARRANTY

1-year Limited Warranty:

For a period of one (1) year from the date of purchase, One Step Beyond™ will repair or replace any product found to be defective as a result of faulty workmanship or materials to the original purchaser, providing the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels were installed according to the instructions provided and remains on the stair or in the room where originally installed. This warranty does not cover failure of parts due to misuse, neglect, accident, improper alteration, improper handling, loss of color intensity due to extended exposure to sun, salt air or normal wear and tear. Please note all additional and specific warnings provided within the contents of the instruction manual.

A note regarding color:

The Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels are manufactured with real wood materials. The variations of color, grain and surface texture, before and after staining this product are a result of the natural characteristics of real hardwood.

In the unlikely event that warranty service is required, One Step Beyond™ reserves the right to repair or replace any component of the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels. The customer is responsible for shipping cost to the factory. One Step Beyond™ will pay for return shipping to the customer anywhere in the contiguous United States.

Due to the natural characteristic of real hardwood, surface texture, grain definition and color will vary. We are not able to guarantee exact matches on subsequent orders.

Returns cannot be authorized due to wood grain variations.

FINISH WARRANTY

3-year Limited Warranty:

For a period of three (3) years from the date of purchase, One Step Beyond™ will repair the stain and topcoat finish on our hardwood products, which are found to be defective as a result of faulty workmanship or materials to the original purchaser, providing the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels were “finished” by One Step Beyond™ and remains on the stairs or in the room where it was originally installed. This warranty does not cover finish damage due to misuse, neglect, accident, improper alteration, improper handling, loss of color intensity due to extended exposure to sun, salt air or normal wear and tear.

A note regarding color:

The Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers and Trim Panels utilize commercial finishing pre-catalyzed lacquer and topcoat products, as used in cabinetry and furniture for durability. Color matching formulas are utilized to produce and match brand colors, such as MinWax, Zar and other manufacturers’ product colors. Due to process requirements, vast supply specifications and wood species orientation, slight color variations may occur when comparing the finish of the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels to other finished products.

In the case of custom colors, where the customer has provided a sample and has contracted One Step Beyond™ to utilize commercial matching technologies to “match” said sample, due to process requirements, vast supply specifications and wood species orientation, slight color variations may occur when comparing the Hardwood Decorative Stair Riser or Trim Panel Finish to other finished products and therefore, we cannot guarantee “exact” matches.

In the unlikely event that warranty service is required, One Step Beyond™ reserves the right to review said finish damage and holds final authority in determining if finish damage is considered normal wear and tear and if finish repair of the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels is in accordance with the One Step Beyond™ Finish Warranty and Corporate Policy. The customer is responsible for shipping cost to the factory. One Step Beyond™ will pay for return shipping to the customer anywhere in the contiguous United States.

Due to the nature of the wood materials utilized, colors may vary between dye lots. We are not able to guarantee exact matches on subsequent orders.

Returns cannot be authorized due to “finish” color or wood grain variations, when comparing to other finished products.

MEASURING AND CUTTING FOR STAIRS

Before you begin to measure and cut your decorative risers, you will first want to decide if your wood cutting expertise and woodworking tools are appropriate for this project. Because there is necessary skill and a table saw and/or miter box are recommended to achieve the highest quality finished product, you may want to consider this portion of the project be performed by a woodworking specialist; such as a hardwood floor installer, interior trim specialist, carpenter or lumber yard that provides this service.

Note: Risers or Trim Panels can be cut after staining and topcoating, if the person performing this task has the appropriate experience and expertise.

Returns cannot be authorized due to faulty measuring and/or cutting of our products by the original purchaser or by any third party assigned to perform this task.

ESTABLISHING VISUAL CENTER ON STAIRS

Establishing the visual center-point is a key factor in the implementation of your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers. Please first determine your center-point by considering both the horizontal and vertical space for both width and length, when establishing measurements and when cutting. This is especially important in the installation on open-ended risers, please see next page.

BOX STAIRS

1. Starting from the **bottom**, measure the exposed width of the first riser in the stairs. To qualify the measurement, you may want to measure at both the left and right sides.
2. Using the Measuring and Cutting Guide, record the first width measurement on the lines provided; 01 riser (WIDTH).
3. Measure the length of the riser on that same stair. To qualify the measurement, you may want to measure at both the top and bottom of the exposed riser.
4. Use the Measuring and Cutting Guide and record the first length measurement on the lines provided; 01 riser (LENGTH).
5. Continue this process until you have recorded dimensions for all risers. It is standard for risers to not be of the same, exact dimensions. **Do not assume each riser has the same measurements.**
6. Retrieve the appropriate decorative riser and with a dark permanent marker on the back of the riser, mark a #1 for the bottom riser.
7. Using the completed Measuring and Cutting Guide #1 dimensions, mark the appropriate cutting lines on the face of the decorative riser with a pencil.
8. Continue this process of recording the correct riser # and marking the cutting lines for all risers in the set of stairs.
9. Using a table saw and or miter box, cut each riser to the **inside** of the marked pencil lines. This will leave space allowance for the stain and polyurethane coats, as well as for any paint that may have to be applied to the stringer. Carefully consider the measurements during this process, so not to have to re-cut.
10. Cut risers or trim panels **face up**.

*The recommended procedure is to **measure and cut each riser independently** to achieve the highest quality finished appearance.

“For an Enhanced Stair Design”: Add stained-to-match or white painted trim molding to the underneath side of the tread nose before installing your decorative risers. For best results, use cove molding which has a ¼” deep lower edge, to align with the edge of the decorative risers.

CUSTOM STAIRS

Open Risers

Balusters will penetrate the stair treads and the risers will extend past and behind each baluster.

1-sided

1. Determine the visual center, which is also the design center by measuring between the baluster and stringer.
2. Determine the finished decorative riser dimensions by including enough flat space on both sides of the design to fill the entire riser space.
3. Cutting lines in most cases will be “off-center”.

2-sided

- Measure and cut to the full length of the existing riser.

Newel Penetrating Riser

- In most cases, the balusters will also be penetrating the stair treads. Use the established center point for the baluster and stringer or skirt board measurement and establish the necessary cutting line for the newel from that point.

Curved or Bullnose Risers

1. Establish the visual center point from the straight riser dimensions and determine the measurement for the necessary flat/solid space on each side of the design dimensions. Risers may need to be cut “off-center”.
2. Kerf the flat or solid space of each riser. Cut through riser at ONLY a 1/3 depth or LESS, to eliminate breakage potential.
3. After kerfing, the radius must be duplicated and glued into place **before** staining and finishing. Once finished, the kerf will become inoperable and unable to bend.

Cut/Finish Ends on Open Risers

Options:

1. Straight cut to edge of existing risers.
 - Recommended for medium to dark stains.
2. Use available *flat* trim molding, called Screen molding and place curved edge at outside edge of existing riser and trim opposite curved edge to match up to straight edge of decorative risers.
3. Use available *corner* molding.

*Remember to purchase “maple” materials when purchasing trim molding.

MEASURING, CUTTING AND DESIGN FOR TRIM PANELS

Follow all instructions for cutting, staining and topcoating, as provided for a stair application.

Things to Consider for Trim Panels:

1. Measurements should consider “lining up” designs from end to end.
2. Where cut lines will appear?
3. Apply trim molding to the top and bottom edges, to create a beautifully finished look.
4. Painting an accent color behind wood trim panels to enhance the 3-D characteristic of the product and enhance the uniqueness of your interior design.

STAINING AND TOPCOATING

After decorative risers have been cut to fit the riser dimensions, you must decide the look you want to achieve and choose a stain and color. If you would like the color of the decorative risers to match the surrounding wood elements of the stairs, such as the floors, stair treads, handrail, balusters and wood trim, utilize the same stain brand and color name. Another option is to select a riser color that compliments other surrounding home décor elements such as furniture or picture frames. This will create a more dramatic effect by introducing contrasting yet complimentary wood tones into your décor. Depending on your level of experience, it may be necessary to consult a professional woodworking expert to determine the best stain color or stain mixture, especially if the goal is to color match.

Note: Risers or Trim Panels can be cut after staining and topcoating, if the person performing this task has the appropriate experience and expertise.

Note: Because the source of wood for your existing stair treads, floors and surrounding trim are different from the source of wood in the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels, it will be unlikely that you will be able to achieve an “exact” match. The dynamic effect of coordinated wood tones within a home is what creates natural beauty and organic design and further increases the value of utilizing the Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels. In addition, because the floors and stair treads sit horizontally and the risers sit vertically, each receive light differently, which creates different colors. If applicable, the slight variances in color add interest and are hardly noticeable.

Warning: Do not use water-based stains or polyurethane, or stain & poly-in-1 products. The consistency of these products do not allow for an even color finish and are very difficult to work with because of the fast drying time.

Returns cannot be authorized due to displeasing stain matching or stain finish, once applied to the decorative risers by the original purchaser or by any third party assigned to perform this task.

***We have provided a piece of sample wood to help you test and achieve your desired color.**

Staining

1. Create a dust free drying environment.
2. **Remove all dust and dirt** particles from the risers or trim panels with your tact cloth.
3. Wearing your latex gloves and using your foam brush, brush your stain into the design elements of one of the risers or trim panels. Make sure all pocketed, grooved and cut-through edges have been thoroughly coated.
4. Using your natural bristle brush, coat the entire face of the riser or trim panel.
5. With your lint-free cotton cloth, wipe over the entire riser face to absorb the excess stain and to achieve an even color finish. **Wipe gently**, so the cloth does not damage the pointed design details.
6. You will likely find excess stain piled up into the pocketed elements of the riser, don't be overly concerned as this wood product has been especially chosen to absorb the excess stain but **be sure to follow Step #8.**
7. Continue this process until you have successfully coated all risers or trim panels.
8. Throughout the process, continue to look at the risers or panels that you have “already” stained. The stain is being absorbed into the wood and if there is too much stain, it will rise to the face of the riser. If you notice darker colored areas, especially around the pocketed elements, **continue to wipe off the excess stain.**

Once you have allowed the stain to dry for the specified drying time on the can, decide if you have achieved the desired color and either begin to polyurethane or apply a second coat of stain.

*Very lightly sand before applying the next coat.

Topcoating

1. Please consider weather conditions and follow instructions provided on can before applying polyurethane.
2. **Remove all dust and dirt** particles from the risers or trim panels with your tact cloth.
3. Using your foam brush, apply a very thin layer of polyurethane to the cut-through, grooved and pocketed elements, being sure to completely coat all edges and surfaces.
4. Using your larger foam brush, thinly coat the face of the riser or trim panel. Be careful not to allow too much polyurethane to build up in the grooved and pocketed elements, as this can cause bubbling.
5. Absorb excess polyurethane with the brush.
6. Allow the decorative risers or trim panels to dry for the allocated drying time indicated on the can.
7. Follow the instructions on the can and very lightly sand between each coat.
8. For the **2nd and 3rd coats**, brush **only over the face** of the riser or trim panel, using very thin coats.
9. Continue to be observant of the polyurethane build up and use your brush to absorb excess to evenly coat.
10. Allow at least 72 hours or indicated drying time before installing.

Alternative method: Use a “dipping method” to apply your stain by using a large metal or plastic pan.

MEASURING AND CUTTING HIGHLIGHT INSERTS

Before you begin to cut the highlight inserts, we recommend that you first paint all of the highlight inserts so to achieve very clean, finished edges.

Returns cannot be authorized due to faulty measuring and/or cutting of the highlight inserts, by the original purchaser or by any third party assigned to perform this task.

1. Using a pencil, mark a #1 on the back of one of the highlight inserts.
2. Use your already cut-to-size #1 decorative riser as a template and mark the appropriate cutting lines on all four sides with a pencil.
3. Continue this process of recording the correct riser # and marking the appropriate cutting lines for all highlight inserts in your set of stairs.
4. Use a scissor and cut all highlight inserts to the inside of your marked pencil lines.

Note: Precision cutting is not a requirement because all edges will be disguised upon installation.

PAINTING AND DESIGNING HIGHLIGHT INSERTS

Before the highlight inserts are cut to fit the riser dimensions, you have many options in choosing the color or colors of your highlight inserts. The highlight inserts are conducive to most types of paints, including water-based interior latex, acrylics and enamel. We recommend you test an area on one of your highlight inserts with your specific paint, to insure adhesion before painting all highlight inserts. Both sides of your highlight inserts can be utilized.

Note: We recommend that you do not allow sharp or pointed objects to contact the painted surface of the highlight inserts, this might cause scratch marks. Once the highlight inserts are installed behind the decorative risers, this will not be a concern because the riser will provide protection.

Returns cannot be authorized due to displeasing paint choices once applied to the highlight inserts by the original purchaser or by any third party assigned to perform this task.

Design Options:

“Get Creative!” Your color choice will add a whole new level of design impact to your home and will personally reflect the “designer” in you.

1. Paint all highlight inserts to match an existing color on your walls. You can use your leftover wall paint.
2. Choose 1 accent color to enhance your current color scheme.
3. Choose 2 accent colors and create an alternating riser affect. (Example: green / blue / green / blue, etc.)
4. Choose 3 or more accent colors. (Example: black / red / white / black / red / white, etc.)
5. Apply a decorative faux finish for a more dramatic effect. (Example: antique finish, color wash or ragging.)
6. Use the riser design as a stencil and with light pencil lines, mark the design elements on the highlight inserts. Paint the highlight inserts any combination of colors to enhance your current color scheme. You do not have to be perfect and stay inside the pencil lines; the surrounding wood of the cut-through elements will cover your paint lines. (Example: leaves: green / flowers: blue / borders: yellow.)

*Be sure to allow enough drying time for your particular paint before installing. We recommend that you do not stack or lay the highlight inserts on top of one another without a significant amount of drying time. This could cause the paint to peel or chip.

“Make an Artistic Statement”: Add fabric, metal or almost anything behind your decorative risers to truly create a 1-of-a-kind set of stairs!

Want some Design Ideas?

Visit our website: www.decorativestairs.com

FREE Design Consultation:

Call Toll Free: 866-865-0544

INSTALLATION

Returns cannot be authorized due to faulty installation by the original purchaser or by any third party assigned to perform this task.

Glue (More Permanent)

1. Apply 100% clear silicone to the back of your #1 riser by dispensing silicone on the ends, top, bottom and between some of the design elements, to provide a secure adhesion
2. Keep the silicone bead-line at least 1/2" from the cut-through elements, so it does not seep through upon applying pressure.
3. Place the decorative riser against the existing riser, apply pressure until you feel a "flush" mount and shift accordingly to establish center alignment within existing riser space.
4. Continue this process until you have created a "flush" mount on all risers.
5. Wipe away any excess silicone with your lint free cloth throughout the installation process.

Nail (Removable)

(Must use for Highlight Inserts to penetrate both materials.)

1. Line up and center the #1 riser into the exposed riser space and starting in the most visible edge of the stairs, **nail into a grooved element** of your design by using your finishing nails, nail punch and hammer.
*We recommend the nail punch method versus a nail gun so to eliminate potential for damage to the face of the riser or trim panel. A nail gun can be considered based upon experience.
*Use the appropriate # of nails to insure a flush mounting and a secure installation. We recommend at least 8 nails, 4 in each corner and 4 throughout the body, for a 36" size riser.
*Nail placement will be determined by the specific grooved elements of your chosen design.
2. Continue this process until you have created a "flush" mount on all risers.
*In the rare case you find the ends of the decorative risers not lying flush, where there are no grooved design elements to nail through, we recommend careful application of nails to the face of the riser and applying a "colored" putty to patch the holes.

If using Highlight Inserts, line up the riser and insert together and nail into place.

Installation with Carpet on Treads

1. Determine the thickness of carpet. (Example: 1/2" pile.)
*For best results, we recommend the carpet padding not be installed to the full depth of the stair tread, cutting short at least 3/4" from the back of the tread or around the tread nose. This will allow for more riser space to accentuate the decorative risers.
2. Subtract the pile thickness X 2 (top and bottom) to establish the exposed riser width.
3. Cut decorative risers accordingly.

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Email: onestepbeyond@fuse.net

Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers & Trim Panels

MEASURING AND CUTTING GUIDE

01 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

02 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

03 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

04 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

05 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

06 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

07 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

08 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

09 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

10 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

11 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

12 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

13 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

14 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

15 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

16 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

17 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

18 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

19 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

20 RISER: _____(WIDTH)_____ (LENGTH)

CUSTOM STAIR SPECIFICATIONS

1-sided Open Stairs

Visual Center = Baluster to Stringer: _____ divided by 2 = _____ = Design Center

Baluster to Stringer: _____ divided by 2 = _____ = Design Center

Baluster to Stringer: _____ divided by 2 = _____ = Design Center

Off Center Design = Left Side: _____ Right Side: _____

Left Side: _____ Right Side: _____

Left Side: _____ Right Side: _____

Baluster Width = _____ Newel Width = _____

Curved Radius 1 = _____ Curved Radius 2 = _____

Trim Molding

Type: Cove - 1/4" Edge / Screen / Corner / 1/2" Round / 1/4" Round / Other

Width: _____ Length: _____ Total Length Requirement: _____

Width: _____ Length: _____ Total Length Requirement: _____

Finish

Brand = _____ Color Name = _____ Color# = _____

Custom Color Description = _____

Top Coat = Satin Recommended for Vertical Placement Other = _____

Color

Existing Riser Color #1: _____

- OR - Color #2: _____

Highlight Inserts Color #3: _____

Other Specifications

TRIM PANEL SPECIFICATIONS

- Window Treatment
- Room Striping
- Trim Molding
- Crown Molding
- Chair Rail
- Border

Design Line and Color

End Measurement #1 = _____ #2 = _____ #3 = _____ #4 = _____

Cut Lines = _____ Wall centering = _____

Color #1: _____

Color #2: _____

Color #3: _____

Trim Molding

Type: _____

Width: _____ Length: _____ Total Length Requirement: _____

Width: _____ Length: _____ Total Length Requirement: _____

BEAUTIFUL! ARTISTIC! INNOVATIVE!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**After installing your Hardwood Decorative Stair Risers or Trim Panels,
we welcome the opportunity to share your creation!**

Please forward:

Digital photography to: onestepbeyond@fuse.net

OR

Print or film photography to: PO Box 175875, Covington, Ky., 41017-5875.

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