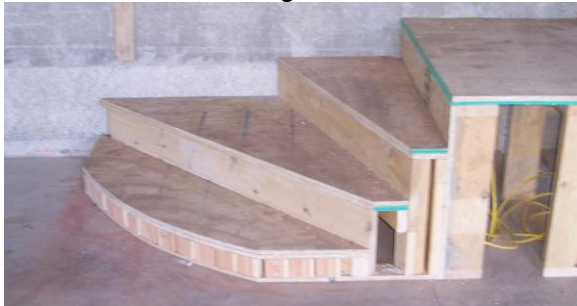


CALCULATING UNEQUAL FLOOR FINISH STAIR ELEVATIONS

I have had so many comments and questions about this procedure that I thought it was only fair that I post an article about it. This procedure will be covered in detail in the [ebook "Stairbuilding 105"](#).

When you read in the Carpenter Book, "Framing a Stair", it tells you how to frame a stair when you have equal tread and floor coverings at the top and bottom of the stairs, which is the case 98% of the time. $\frac{3}{4}$ " wood floor at the top of the stair and $1\frac{1}{4}$ " high carpet are considered the same elevation, because when you step on 1" carpet/pad it depresses to about $\frac{3}{4}$ ". For these coverings you frame as the article tells you.



This is a "one-eighth bend" winder stair that I built a few weeks ago.

It is kind of an oddball, but after "Stairbuilding 105", it will be a walk in the park for you to do. I will include this stair in that ebook.

The odd thing about this stair is the landing-tread finish. The stair

is going down into a garage with no floor covering, but at the top of the landing and the treads it will have a finish of $2\frac{1}{4}$ " brick, with about an eighth inch of mastic and the brick joints filled with sand.



To calculate this frame you have to calculate the elevation from the **concrete floor** of the garage to the **top of the finished brick** and as you can see the elevation is:

30.25" with two 16 finish nails under the brick for mastic elevation.

The calculation is $30.25 \div 4$ (risers) = 7.56 or $7\text{-}5/8$ "s.

So my top 3 risers were 7.56" and the bottom riser was 5.18", then you add 2.375" for the brick and mastic and you have 7.56", all equal.

I hope this answers a lot of your questions I have had on calculating a stair. I have been building stairs for over 40 years and am still learning. Stairbuilders are a unique group. That is why they make more money than any other carpenters.

<http://carpenterbooks.com>

Bob Johnston