

## Tool Check List

- Marking Pencil
- Hammer

- Tape Measure
- Power Saw

- Level
- Carpenter's Square

## 1. Determine Stair Layout

Measure elevation difference between decks or between deck and ground in inches.

Divide elevation difference by 7" to get approximate number of rises. If elevation is not equally divisible by seven, add or subtract fractions of an inch until all step rises are the same measurement. Steps should never rise more than 8" or less than 6".

## 2. Layout Stair Jacks

When using 2x6 decking, jacks should be spaced 24" apart, requiring 3 jacks for 4' wide stairs. Regardless of the number, all jacks will be identical.

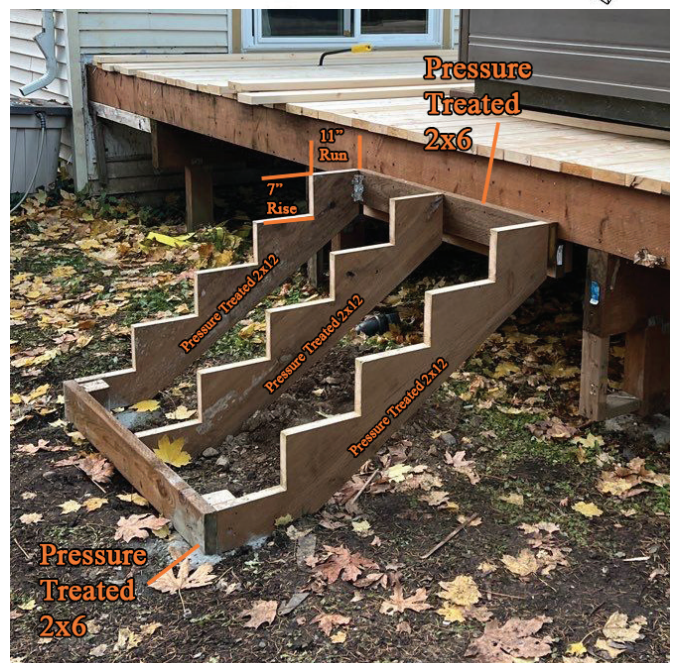
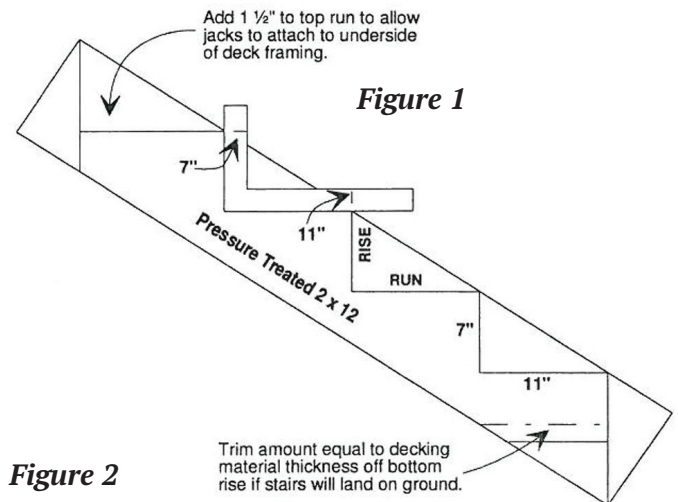
Using a carpenter's square, as shown in **Figure 1**, mark rise and run on stair jacks as required, allowing 11 inches for stair treads (run).

Consistency and accuracy are of utmost importance. In most cases it will be necessary to cut the thickness of the decking material off of the lowest step, unless the stairs are designed to tie into the framing of a lower deck.

In addition, in most cases it will be necessary to trim 1½ inches off the top step, less the thickness of any skirting material planned for the deck.

## 3. Assembling Stairs

Assemble as shown in **Figure 2** using the 2x12 stair jacks you have just cut and pressure treated 2x6's.



## 4. Attaching Stairs to Frame

Once stairs are framed, attach the assembly to the deck frame to match the rest of your rises. If decking has already been laid, do not include in your measurements of rise.

Remember, the main idea is to keep all your rises equal. It is often necessary to attach the stair assembly below deck frame using 2x6 extenders from the inside of the deck framing to the outside of the pressure treated 2x6 section of the stair assembly (**Figure 3**).

## STAIR ASSEMBLY-TOP VIEW

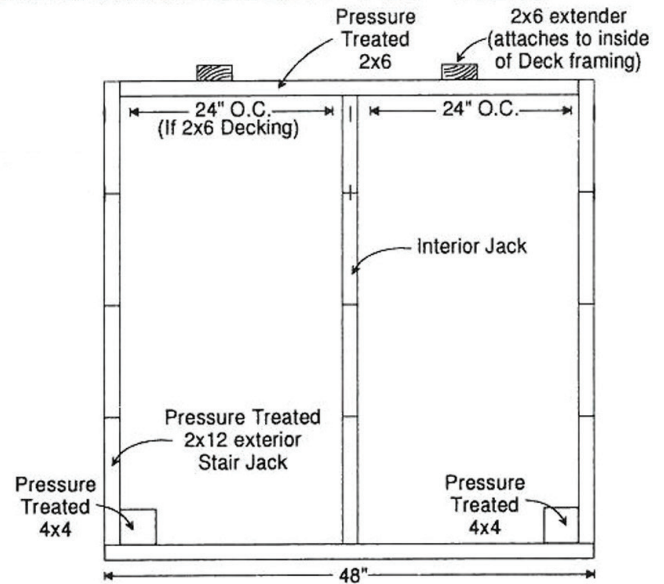


Figure 3

## 5. Decking the Stairs

When decking the stairs it is important to deck the risers first. (**Figure 4**)

Unless stairs are landing on another deck, before laying the tread decking it will be necessary to install a 4x4 pressure treated support post inside both bottom corners of stair assembly (**Figure 3**).

Be sure step runs are level. Then dig holes and set posts approximately 1' deep or less if a firm surface is encountered.

Lay the stair treads from the inside out, using a No. 16 nail as a spacer and allow a slight edge overhang as shown in Figure 4.

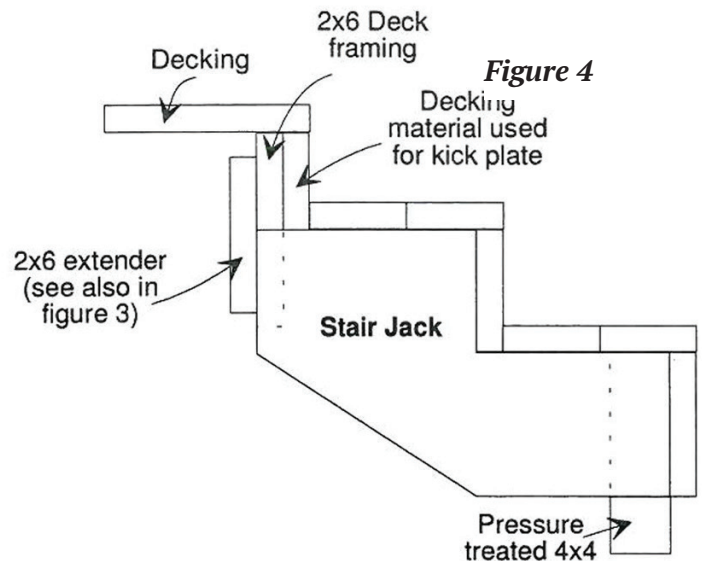


Figure 4

