How to Install Iron Balusters
1. Iron balusters can be installed into Treads...
   (Flat shoes on bottom, angled on top)

2. Balconies...
   (Flat shoes on bottom and top)

3. or an angled Knee Wall.
   (Angled shoes on bottom and top)

4. The installation process for each of these 3 stairways is the same, other than what shoes you would use.
Our Iron Balusters are square and come with a 3/4” long round section at the top. They are all 44” long, and are designed to be cut down from the bottom.

The small hole you see is used during the powder coating process, and doesn’t affect installation.

Aluminum shoes serve no structural purpose, they are simply used to cover up the look of a square part going into a round hole.

Bottom shoes are recommended, while top shoes are less common. This is because the rounded portion of the top of the baluster looks more finished going into a round hole. Also it’s less visible on the underside of the handrail.
9. Iron balusters can be installed as replacements for wood balusters, into new construction, or into remodeled stairs.

10. If you are replacing wood balusters, cut in the middle to remove the old balusters.

11. Make sure to remove all dowel screws and finishing nails from whatever surface your balusters were installed into (Knee Wall pictured).

12. We recommend laying out your balusters in the pattern you plan to use before starting the installation.
Whether you are doing new installation, or replacing old balusters, you need to ensure you have holes at the appropriate sizes and depths.

For 1/2” balusters use a 5/8” wood bit. For 9/16” balusters use a 3/4” wood bit.

Drill a 1/2” hole into the tread, knee wall, or landing tread. Also, drill a 1 1/2” deep hole into the underside of the handrail.

Once you have cut the balusters, this will allow you to slide the baluster up into the handrail FIRST and then drop it down into the bottom hole.
17. Measure the distance from the bottom of the handrail to the top of the tread or knee wall.

18. We recommend using a metal abrasive cutting blade to cut the balusters (A hacksaw will also work). Cut 1 1/4” longer than the distance measured in step 17.

19. Apply painters tape around the top of the balusters before installing (not covering the round portion of the baluster).

20. If you are using shoes, put them on the balusters BEFORE you put them in place. Tape the bottom shoe so it doesn’t slide down and get in your way.
21. Angled shoes are designed to work with 90% of stairways. For the other 10% the angle can be adjusted using a belt sander for a perfect fit.

22. Fill 25% - 40% of each hole (top and bottom) with epoxy. The epoxy Stair Supplies sells is thicker than most, so it won’t be as likely to drip.

23. Once you cut your balusters to length, slide them up into the handrail, and then drop them into the bottom hole. Make sure they are straight and any angled shoes are facing the correct direction.

24. Apply a little more epoxy into both the top and bottom hole. The tape provides a barrier so that any epoxy that comes out of the hole will stick to the tape instead of the baluster.

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25. Allow the balusters to sit for up to 24 hours before removing the tape and fastening the shoes.

26. After you have waited 24 hours, remove the tape from the bottom shoes, and lower them into position.

27. Using a 3/32” allen wrench tighten the set screw that comes pre installed in each aluminum shoe.

28. Enjoy your beautiful new iron balusters from Stair Supplies!