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How To Repair Loose And Broken Balusters

This is one recipe we cannot make light of. A wobbly balustrade (Fig. 16A) is dangerous, especially if there is someone in your home who relies on its strength to walk up and down stairs. Take a half hour, if you have this problem, and stop worrying about someone breaking his neck.

Utensils

Electric or hand drill with 1/8" inch bit
Hammer
Nail set with small point
Diagonal cutter
C-clamp
Damp sponge

Ingredients

White polyvinyl glue
1 pound box of 2" inch finishing nails
Roll of 3/4" inch masking tape

Approximate Time: 30 To 45 Minutes

1. At a 45-degree angle, drill 2" inches into wood where baluster and tread intersect (Fig. 16B).
2. Repeat on all loose balusters. See step 6 if applicable.
3. Squeeze glue into drilled holes until glue overflows from cracks.
4. Repeat at all points, wiping away excess glue with damp sponge.
5. Let dry overnight.
6. If balusters are split or broken where drilling is to take place, follow these directions before performing steps 3, 4, and 5.
 - a. Remove bit from drill.
 - b. With diagonal cutter, cut off head of finishing nail.
 - c. Insert nail into drill as a bit.
 - d. Drill through broken section.
 - e. Squeeze glue into drilled hole.
 - f. Drive in uncut finishing nail through glue and set with nail set.
 - g. If the splintered baluster had shed pieces of wood, it would be advisable to replace these pieces as well as possible and tape them into place before beginning step 1.
 - h. Proceed with steps 3, 4, 5.

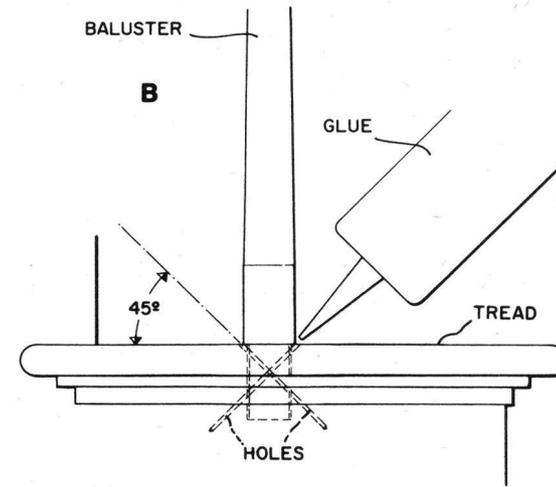
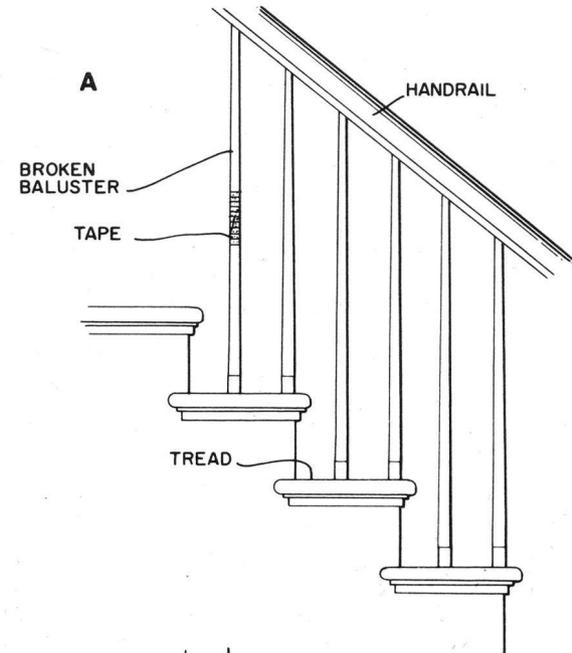


Figure 16.
The Balustrade and Balusters