Over-The-Old-Steps Retrofit

Your complete sequence to reface a staircase with solid oak treads.

Transform your entryway without heavy demolition. Keep this sequence on hand to track every cut, template, and curing time flawlessly.



Key Installation Rules

90 degrees
Saw the old nose flush

3 coats
Finish them flat first

Each board
One template per step

Base layer
Riser in, then tread

1 inch
1-inch nosing overhang

Work from the bottom

Working upward allows you to stand on the unfinished stairs, preventing accidental damage to your freshly laid oak and keeping your momentum steady.

Over-The-Old-Steps Sequence

1. **Prep the frame** Remove old staples with end-cutting pliers and cut the existing overhang perfectly square.
2. **Scribe the angles** Trace the locked metal jig onto your pre-finished oak plank to capture variations.
3. **Make precision cuts** Shave paper-thin layers outside the penciled line using a sliding compound miter saw.
4. **Secure the riser** Press the white panel into serpentine adhesive and brad nail the top edges.
5. **Set the tread** Wiggle the board into heavy-duty glue and drive angled finish nails into stringers.

Adapt To Your Space

Find your row: **Your existing staircase**

Your existing staircase	Your pick	Why
Severe structural bowing	Shim the low spots	Creates a flat, plumb backing
Uneven wall skirts	Use an adjustable jig	Captures exact side angle variations
Classic baseboards	Rounded bullnose edge	Matches traditional trim profiles
Modern sleek trim	Square edge profile	Complements a contemporary aesthetic

Check Before You Cut

- ○ Scan every single step for hidden carpet staples or tack strip nails.
- ○ Verify structural stringers are perfectly plumb with a framing square.
- ○ Test white riser panels flush against old framing before gluing.
- ○ Sort treads to place the most prominent grain on bottom steps.

13-Step Flight Tracker

- ☐ First four treads completed ascending
- ☐ Next four treads completed ascending
- ☐ Following four treads completed ascending
- ☐ Final top landing step completely installed
- ☐ Finish drying time recorded: ___ hours
- ☐ Adhesive full cure time: ___ hours
- ☐ Safe walk-on time recorded: ___ hours

Project Notes & Times

Enjoy the luxurious look of solid hardwood elevating your home's entire entryway aesthetic.