

1. Place the newel post in the desired location where adequate backing is available. Draw a line around the base of the post and mark the center point. If the surface is cupped or warped, belt sand to provide a flat surface.

2. At the center point of the newel post location, drill a 1" hole by 1 1/2" deep to accommodate the lag bolt head. In the center of the 1" hole, drill a 3/8" by 3 1/2" deep pilot hole for the lag bolt. Screw the lag bolt into the hole using a 5/8" socket until flush with the floor surface. Thread the rod into the lag bolt head. Plumb the rod, bending if necessary.

3. Cut the newel post to the desired length. Drill a 1/2" hole by 5" deep at the center point in the bottom of the newel post. Place the newel post over the rod. If needed, plumb the post by cutting the post base at an angle to accommodate an un-level surface.

4. Place the newel post on the floor next to the rod. Measure for the access hole by marking the newel post at the top of the rod. Drill a 1 1/2" diameter hole deep enough to intersect 3/8" beyond the vertical hole. Note: Do not drill all the way through the newel post. Place the post over the rod. Through the access hole, place the radius washer and flange nut on the rod. Tighten the nut securely with 9/16" wrench.

5. Apply wood glue to the inside of the hole, insert the reversible wood plug and tap with a hammer. Let dry and sand flush.

Tools Needed: Electric drill with 3/8", 1/2", 1" and 1 1/2" wood drill bits. 5/8" wrench or socket, 9/16" wrench and hammer. Optional - wax to ease installation of lag thread.

