Installation Manual For
FE26 Iron Railing

Call 1-800-335-5909 for Installation Support

Extra Screws Included
It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Fe26 Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Fe26 Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

Note
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:
• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. Allow paint to dry.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

Fe26 2 Inch Post Top Mount To Southern Yellow Pine or Douglas Fir Floor Joist Mounted Parallel

Fe26 2 Inch Post with through bolt & washers on bottom

Fe26 2 Inch Post Top Mount To Southern Pine or Douglas Fir Floor Joist Mounted Perpendicular

Fe26 2 Inch Post Top Mount To Concrete

Please contact ADI with any questions:
Ph: 1-800-335-5909  Web: www.absolutedist.com
Fax: 800-203-4495  Email: sales@absolutedist.com
Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} 3” Post
Mounting Applications (USA)

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

**Note**
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:

- Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
- File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
- Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. Allow paint to dry.
- Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

![Fe\textsuperscript{26} 3 Inch Post Top Mount to Southern Yellow Pine or Douglas Fir Floor Joist Mounted Parallel](image1.png)

![Fe\textsuperscript{26} 3 Inch Post Top Mount To Concrete](image2.png)

![Fe\textsuperscript{26} 3 Inch Post with through bolt & base plate on bottom](image3.png)

![Fe\textsuperscript{26} 3 Inch Post Top Mount To Southern Pine or Douglas Fir Floor Joist Mounted Perpendicular](image4.png)

Please contact ADI with any questions:
Ph: 1-800-335-5909          Web: www.absolutedist.com
Fax: 800-203-4495             Email: sales@absolutedist.com
Installation Instructions for Fortress Fe$^{26}$ and Al$^{13}$ Posts on a Concrete Deck Surface

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Note
When cutting Fortress Fe$^{26}$ or Al$^{13}$ Posts, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:

• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• For Fe$^{26}$ Posts Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. If touch up is at rail ends, allow paint to dry before connecting bracket to post.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent stains on the surface.

Secure Fortress Fe$^{26}$ or Al$^{13}$ Posts to concrete deck surfaces with 3/8” Concrete Wedge Anchors. Follow Concrete Wedge Anchor manufactures installation instructions.
Installation Instructions for Fortress Fe²6
Railing Traditional Railing Panels with Universal (UB) Brackets and Iron Posts

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Iron Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Iron Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

Note
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:
• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. If touch up is at rail ends, allow paint to dry before connecting bracket to post.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

Required Materials
Drill, Drill Bits, T-25 Driver Bit, Drill Bit Extender, Tape Measure, Wrenches, Speed Square, Center Punch, and Hammer.

Mount Iron Posts*
• Wood Blocking tied to deck frame must be installed and constructed with treated dimensional lumber with a minimum thickness of 1/1/2".
• Position the edge of post base plate a minimum of ½" from the inside edge of rim joist.
• Mount posts at appropriate points based on panel length.
• Attach Iron posts with 3/8 X 3-1/2" Hex Head Galvanized Bolts.

*Reference Fortress iron post mounting instructions
**Fe26 Traditional Panel Installation Options**

- **Ball Cap**
- **UB-04 Cup**
- **UB-04 Cap**
- **Pressed Dome Cap**

**Fe26 Traditional Panel**

69-1/2” or 93-1/2”

**Base Cover**

**2” X 2” or 3” X 3” Iron Posts with base**

**Fe26 Traditional Panel with Accent Top Panel Installation Options**

- **Ball Cap**
- **UB-04 Cup**
- **UB-04 Cap**
- **UB-05 Cup**
- **UB-05 Cap**

**Fe26 Traditional Panel**

69-1/2” or 93-1/2”

**Base Cover**

**2” X 2” or 3” X 3” Iron Posts with base**
# Fe Traditional Panel and Iron Post Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rail Panel Height</th>
<th>Installed Panel Height*</th>
<th>Required Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28&quot;</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34&quot;</td>
<td>37-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>39-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>43-3/4&quot;</td>
<td>45-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Railing Panel with Accent Top Panel</th>
<th>Installed Panel Height with ATP*</th>
<th>Required Post</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>36-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>39-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>42-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>45-1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Heights includes a 3-3/4” space between deck surface and bottom edge of bottom rail.

## UB-04 Bracket Hole Locations for Fe Traditional Panel Installations

Pre-Drilling with a 5/32” drill bit is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rail Panel Height</th>
<th>Pre-Drill Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28&quot;</td>
<td>A* X 4&quot; B 1/2&quot; C 37&quot; D 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34&quot;</td>
<td>4&quot; 1/2&quot; 37&quot; 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>4&quot; 1/2&quot; 43&quot; 1/2&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dimension A positions bottom edge of rail 3-3/4” above deck surface.  
*Dimension A is measured from the bottom surface of post base.

Remove all metal shavings from deck, post base cover, post, and panel before bracket is screwed to post to prevent rust stains.

## Fe Traditional Panel Installation with UB-04

When using UB-04 brackets rails MUST be cut 1/2” shorter that the distance between posts. 1/4” should be cut from the end of each rail to keep rail panel centered between posts.

- If rails were cut to length, file cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.
- Check fit of rail between installed posts.
- If using a Base Cover install it now by sliding over the top of Iron Post.
- Secure UB-04 brackets to posts with provided metal screws. Use two screws per bracket. Use low speed setting on drill.
- Drop Fe Panel into installed UB-04 brackets.
- Secure rails with provided set screws at each UB-04 bracket.
- Install UB-04 Caps by sliding the cap over the UB-04 Cup. Cap will snap into place.
When using UB brackets rails MUST be cut 1/2” shorter that the distance between posts. 1/4” should be cut from the end of each rail to keep rail panel centered between posts.

- If rails were cut to length, file cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.
- Check fit of rail between installed posts.
- If using a Base Cover install it now by sliding over the top of Iron Post.
- Pre-Drilling with a 5/32” drill bit is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rail Panel</th>
<th>ATP Panel</th>
<th>Pre-Drill Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>Height</td>
<td>A*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28”</td>
<td>5”</td>
<td>4”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34”</td>
<td>5”</td>
<td>4”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40”</td>
<td>5”</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dimension A positions bottom edge of rail 3-3/4” above deck surface.
*Dimension A is measured from the bottom surface of post base.

Remove all metal shavings from deck, post base cover, post, and panel before bracket is screwed to post to prevent rust stains.

Fe™ Traditional Panel with Accent Top Panel (ATP) Installation with UB-04 and UB-05

When using UB brackets rails MUST be cut 1/2” shorter that the distance between posts. 1/4” should be cut from the end of each rail to keep rail panel centered between posts.

- If rails were cut to length, file cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.
- Check fit of rail between installed posts.
- If using a Base Cover install it now by sliding over the top of Iron Post.
- Slide ATP panel over the top rail of the Fe™ Traditional Panel
- Secure UB brackets to posts with provided metal screws. Use two screws per bracket. Use low speed setting on drill.
- Drop Fe™ Traditional Panel into installed UB brackets.
- Secure rails with provided set screws at each UB bracket.
- Install UB-04 Caps by sliding the cap over the UB Cup. Cap will snap into place.
Installation Instructions for Fortress Fe²⁶ Traditional Panels with Collar (CB) Brackets and Fe²⁶ Posts

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Fe²⁶ Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Fe²⁶ Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

Note
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:
• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. If touch up is at rail ends, allow paint to dry before connecting bracket to post.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

Required Materials
Drill, Drill Bits, T-25 Driver Bit, Drill Bit Extender, Tape Measure, Wrenches, Speed Square, Center Punch, 3-3/4” Support and Hammer.

Mount Fe²⁶ Posts*
• Wood Blocking tied to deck frame must be installed and constructed with treated dimensional lumber with a minimum thickness of 1/1/2”.
• Position the edge of Fe²⁶ Post base plate a minimum of ½” from the inside edge of rim joist.
• Mount Fe²⁶ Posts at appropriate points based on panel length.
• Attach Fe²⁶ Posts with 3/8 X 3-1/2” Hex Head Galvanized Bolts.

*Reference Fortress Fe²⁶ post mounting instructions

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Fax: 800-203-4495             Email: sales@absolutedist.com
Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panel Installation Options

- Ball Cap
- Pressed Dome Cap

CB-04
Base Cover

3-7/8"

Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panel
69-1/2" or 93-1/2"

2" X 2" or 3" X 3" Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts with base

Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panel with Accent Top Panel Installation Options

- Ball Cap
- Accent Top Panel (ATP)
- Pressed Dome Cap

CB-04
CB-05
Base Cover

3-7/8"

Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panel
69-1/2" or 93-1/2"

2" X 2" or 3" X 3" Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts with base
Fe²⁶ Traditional Panel and Fe²⁶ Post Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Railing Panel Height</th>
<th>Railing Panel Only</th>
<th></th>
<th>Railing Panel with Accent Top Panel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Installed Panel Height*</td>
<td>Required Post</td>
<td>Installed Panel Height with ATP*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28”</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>36-11/16”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34”</td>
<td>37-3/4”</td>
<td>39-1/2”</td>
<td>42-11/16”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40”</td>
<td>43-3/4”</td>
<td>45-1/2”</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Heights includes a 3-3/4” space between deck surface and bottom edge of bottom rail.

CB-04 Bracket Hole Locations for Fe²⁶ Traditional Panel Installations

Pre-Drilling with a 5/32” drill bit is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Railing Panel Height</th>
<th>Pre-Drill Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28”</td>
<td>A* X B C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34”</td>
<td>3-1/8” 2-1/4” 30-3/4”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40”</td>
<td>3-1/8” 2-1/4” 36-3/4”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dimension A positions bottom edge of rail 3-3/4” above deck surface.  
*Dimension A is measured from the bottom surface of post base.

Remove all metal shavings from deck, post base cover, post, and panel before bracket is screwed to post to prevent rust stains.

Fe²⁶ Traditional Panel Installation with CB-04

- If rails were cut to length, file cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.  
- Check fit of rail between installed posts.  
- If using a Base Cover install it now by sliding over the top of Fe²⁶ Post.  
- Slide a CB-04 bracket over the end of each rail. Make sure that all set screw holes face the desired direction.  
- Place rail assembly on 3-3/4” support block between posts.  
- Slide CB-04 brackets to post and secure with provided metal screws. Use low speed setting on drill.  
- Secure rails with provided set screws at each CB-04 bracket.

CB-04 brackets slid over rails

Set Screw

Pre-Drilled Post

Base Cover Installed

3-3/4” Support Block
CB Bracket Hole Locations for Fe™ Traditional Panel Installations with Accent Top Panel

Pre-Drilling with a 5/32” drill bit is required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rail Panel Height</th>
<th>ATP Panel Height</th>
<th>Pre-Drill Dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28”</td>
<td>5”</td>
<td>A* 3-1/8” B 2-1/4” C 2-3/8” D 24-11/16” E 5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34”</td>
<td>5”</td>
<td>X 3-1/8” X 2-1/4” X 2-3/8” X 30-11/16” X 5”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40”</td>
<td>5”</td>
<td>X X X X X X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dimension A positions bottom edge of rail 3-3/4” above deck surface.
*Dimension A is measured from the bottom surface of post base.

Remove all metal shavings from deck, post base cover, post, and panel before bracket is screwed to post to prevent rust stains.

Fe™ Traditional Panel with Accent Top Panel (ATP) Installation with CB-04 and CB-05

- If rails were cut to length, file cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.
- Check fit of rail between installed posts.
- If using a Base Cover install it now by sliding over the top of Fe™ Post.
- Slide ATP panel over the top rail of the Fe™ Traditional Panel
- Slide a CB-04 bracket over the end of each rail. Slide a CB-05 over the end of each ATP bottom rail.
- Make sure that all set screw holes face the desired direction.
- Rest rail assembly on 3-3/4” support block between posts.
- Slide CB-04 and CB-05 brackets to post and secure with provided metal screws. Use low speed setting on drill.
- Secure rails with provided set screws at each CB-04 and CB-05 bracket.
Installation Instructions for Fortress Fe² Traditional Adjustable Panels with Universal Brackets and Iron Posts

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company nor its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Fe² Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Iron Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

Read Instructions Completely Before Starting Installation

Note
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:

• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. If touch up is at rail ends, allow paint to dry before connecting bracket to post.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

Required Materials
UB-04, UB-04 Angle Kit, Drill, 5/32” Drill Bit, Phillips Head Screw Driver, T-25 Driver Bit, Metal Cutting Saw, Tape Measure, Wrenches, Pencil, Speed Square, Center Punch, Support Blocks, Clamps and Hammer.

Fe² Traditional Adjustable Panels

Fe² Traditional Adjustable Panel 8’ (actual length 93.5”)
Available Heights 34” and 40”
Maximum rake angle 45°

Fe² Traditional Adjustable Panel 6’ (actual length 72”)
Available Heights 34” and 40”
Maximum rake angle 45°

Please contact ADI with any questions:
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Fax: 800-203-4495       Email: sales@absolutedist.com
**Mount Iron Posts**

- Wood Blocking tied to deck frame must be installed and constructed with treated dimensional lumber with a minimum thickness of 1 1/2".
- Position the edge of post base plate a minimum of 1/4" from the inside edge of rim joist.
- Mount posts at appropriate points based on panel length.
- Attach iron posts with 3/8 X 3-1/2" Hex Head Galvanized Bolts.

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**Determine Rake and Center Panel Between Posts**

Use Fe²₆ Adjustable Panel to determine the angle of stair installation. To do this use support blocks resting on the stair tread. Position support blocks so that the position of the bottom rail meets the spacing requirement of your building code.

Rake the panel so that the balusters run parallel with the posts. Center the balusters so that there is an equal amount of rail between the post and baluster at each end (Dimension A).

Make sure that there is enough clearance between the post and first picket to allow for the bracket.

Mark location of support blocks.
Verify Panel Position and Secure with Clamps

- Verify the position of the panel. With the help of another person, secure the panel into the correct position and secure with clamps at each end of panel.
- Place a piece of cardboard between the clamping surfaces and the surfaces of the rails and posts to protect the finish.

Assemble Universal Bracket Angle Kit Assembly and Mark Rail Length

- Assemble the Universal Bracket Angle Kit Assembly to the Universal Bracket Cup with supplied screws. Do not over tighten hinge pin, as it will be temporarily removed in a later step.
- Place Universal Bracket Angle Kit against post and position the cup so that it is parallel to the rail. With a pencil mark the position where the rail meets the back wall of the UB Cup on the top of the rail. With bracket in the same position mark the hole locations of the Post Plate on the post. **DO NOT DRILL HOLES AT THIS TIME.**
- Repeat this step for all four Universal Bracket Angle Bracket Locations.
Pre-Drill and Install Universal Bracket Post Plates

- Remove c-clamps and panels.
- Mark the centerline of each post. The UB Brackets will be installed on the centerline, not the locations marked in the previous step.
- Use a center punch and hammer to mark the hole locations and pre-drill all bracket hole locations.
- Remove Hinge Pin from UB Angle Kit Assemblies.
- Attach UB Angle Kit Post Plates to post with supplied T-25 self drilling screws.
- Reassemble UB Angle Kit Assemblies with Hinge Pins
- Remove all metal shavings from deck, post base cover, post, and panel before bracket is screwed to post to prevent rust stains.

Cutting Fortress Fe²₂₆ Railing Traditional Adjustable Panels

- Rake the panel back to 90° and lay on a flat surface.
- Using a metal cutting blade, cut the rail at the four cutting mark locations from previous step. It is advisable to make a practice cut on a scrap piece of rail before proceeding with the finish cuts.
- The distances from the first picket to the ends of the rail, will be different from the top to bottom rail. The greater the angle of the steps the more visible the difference will be. This is required in order to keep balusters pickets parallel to the post.
- File cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.
Install Panel

- Reposition support blocks.
- Position Panel so that it aligns with the brackets. Use a clamp to hold the panel in place.
- Check the fit of the panel and make any required adjustments.
- Secure panel with a set screw installed into each bracket.

Install UB Caps

- Install UB caps by snapping the cap into place.
Installation Instructions for Fortress
Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Adjustable Panels with
CB Brackets and Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company nor its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

Read Instructions Completely Before Starting Installation

Note
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:
• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. If touch up is at rail ends, allow paint to dry before connecting bracket to post.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

Required Materials
CB-04 Adjustable Bracket, Drill, 5/32” Drill Bit, Phillips Head Screw Driver, T-25 Driver Bit, Metal Cutting Saw, Tape Measure, Wrenches, Pencil, Speed Square, Center Punch, Support Blocks, Clamps and Hammer.

Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Adjustable Panels

Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Adjustable Panel 8’ (actual length 93.5”)
Available Heights 28” and 34”
Maximum rake angle 45°

Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Adjustable Panel 6’ (actual length 72”)
Available Heights 34” and 40”
Maximum rake angle 45°

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Use Fe²₆ Adjustable Panel to determine the angle of stair installation. To do this use support blocks resting on the stair tread. Position support blocks so that the position of the bottom rail meets the spacing requirement of your building code.

Rake the panel so that the balusters run parallel with the posts. Center the balusters so that there is a equal amount of rail between the post and baluster at each end (Dimension A).

Make sure that there is enough clearance between the post and first picket to allow for the bracket.

Mark location of support blocks.

Important - Every stair installation will be different. The rise and run, post position, and post height all need to be carefully laid out before posts are permanently installed and Fortress Fe²₆ Traditional Adjustable panels are cut.

**Mount Fe²₆ Posts**
- Wood Blocking tied to deck frame must be installed and constructed with treated dimensional lumber with a minimum thickness of 1 1/2”.
- Position the edge of Fe²₆ Post base plate a minimum of ½” from the inside edge of rim joist.
- Mount Fe²₆ Posts at appropriate points based on panel length.
- Attach Fe²₆ Posts with 3/8 X 3-1/2” Hex Head Galvanized Bolts.

*Reference Fortress Fe²₆ Post mounting instructions*
**Verify Panel Position and Secure with Clamps**

- Verify the position of the panel. With the help of another person, secure the panel into the correct position and secure with clamps at each end of panel.
- Place a piece of cardboard between the clamping surfaces and the surfaces of the rails and posts to protect the finish.

**Mark Rail Length**

- Place CB Angle Kit against post and position the cup so that it is parallel to the rail. With a pencil mark the position where the rail meets the tangent point of the CB Cup on the top of the rail. With bracket in the same position mark the hole locations of the Post Plate on the post. **DO NOT DRILL HOLES AT THIS TIME.**
- Repeat this step for all four CB Angle Bracket Locations.
Pre-Drill and Install CB Adjustable Bracket Post Plates

- Remove c-clamps and panels.
- Mark the centerline of each post. The UB Brackets will be installed on the centerline, not the locations marked in the previous step.
- Use a center punch to mark the hole locations and pre-drill all bracket hole locations.
- Remove Hinge Pin from UB Angle Kit Assemblies.
- Attach UB Angle Kit Post Plates to post with supplied T-25 self drilling screws.
- Reassemble UB Angle Kit Assemblies with Hing Pins
- Remove all metal shavings from deck, post base cover, post, and panel before bracket is screwed to post to prevent rust stains.

Cutting Fortress Fe²6 Railing Traditional Adjustable Panels

- Rake the panel back to 90° and lay on a flat surface.
- Using a metal cutting blade, cut the rail at the four cutting mark locations from previous step. It is advisable to make a practice cut on a scrap piece of rail before proceeding with the finish cuts.
- The distances from the first picket to the ends of the rail, will be different from the top to bottom rail. The greater the angle of the steps the more visible the difference will be. This is required in order to keep balusters pickets parallel to the post.
- File cut edges and coat with 2 coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint.
Install Panel

- Reposition support blocks.
- Place the CB ADJ Cups over the ends of rails. **DO NOT INSTALL SET SCREWS AT THIS TIME.**
- Position panel with CB ADJ Cups into installed CB ADJ Post Plates. Secure with Hinge Pins.
- Check the fit of the panel and make any required adjustments.
- Secure panel with a set screw installed into each bracket.

Install CB Spacers

- After Fortress Fe² Adjustable Panel has been installed, check the fit of the panel in the brackets.
- If there is noticeable rattle between the CB ADJ Cup and the CB ADJ Post Plate install the included spacers between the CB ADJ Cup and CB ADJ Post Plate.
- To install spacers remove the hinge pin, add the required spacers and replace the hinge pin.
Installation Instructions for Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} Accent Top Rail (ATR) on Traditional Panels with Universal Brackets (UB) and Fe\textsuperscript{26} Posts

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

**Note**
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at the cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:
- Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
- File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
- Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. If touch up is at rail ends, allow paint to dry before connecting bracket to post.
- Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent damaging the deck surface.

**Required Materials**
Saw with a ferrous metal blade, Tape Measure, Touch Up Pain, File, Caulking Gun, Fortress Epoxy, and Eye Protection

**Fe\textsuperscript{26} Accent Top Rail (ATR) Installation**
Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} ATR can only be installed on Fortress Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panels installed with UB-04 Brackets.
- Install Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panel with UB-04.
- Remove the UB-04 Caps from the top rail.
- Measure the distance between posts.
- Cut an equal distance from each end of ATR so that ATR Spacers are evenly spaced.
- Check the fit of ATR onto installed Fe\textsuperscript{26} Traditional Panel.
- File any rough edges from cuts and apply zinc based touch up paint.
- Do not apply epoxy until all ATR’s are cut and tested to fit. Fortress Epoxy has a short working time.
- Apply a quarter sized drop of Fortress Epoxy to each ATR Spacer. Follow cure times specified on epoxy packaging.
- Install ATR onto rails. Ensure that ATR is installed level with panel top rail.
- Let Fortress Epoxy cure. Do not apply any force to installed ATR for 2 hours.

Please contact ADI with any questions:
Ph: 1-800-335-5909          Web: www.absolutedist.com
Fax: 800-203-4495             Email: sales@absolutedist.com
Installation Instructions for Fortress Fe Gate Uprights

It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each installation situation. The Fortress Company or its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.

Fortress Fe Posts must always be secured to the deck framing. Fortress Fe Posts should never be attached to only the deck boards.

Read Instructions Completely Before Starting Installation

Note
When cutting Fortress railing, it is very important to complete the following at cut points. Not following the below steps will result in rust at the cut areas:
• Remove all metal shavings from the cut area
• File any sharp edges left by cutting. Thoroughly wipe and remove any filings, grime or dirt from the railing.
• Apply two coats of Fortress zinc based touch-up paint to the cut area. Allow paint to dry.
• Be sure to remove any metal shavings from the surface of deck, patio or balcony to prevent rust on the surface.

Required Materials
Eye Protection, Drill, 10mm Driver Bit, Metal Cutting Saw, File, Tape Measure, Pencil, Touch Up Paint and Rubber Mallet.

Fortress Fe Gate Upright Assembly
• Maximum gate width is 48”
• If using Fortress Gate Kit #2, allow 3/4” space between Fortress Fe Gate Uprights and posts on each side for hinges and latch.
• Max spacing between the Fortress Fe Gate Upright and the first baluster on each side of gate is 3-7/8”.
• Determine the required length of panel between Fortress Fe Gate Uprights add 1-3/8” to each end of rails. The extra rail length is used to secure the panel to the Fortress Fe Gate Uprights. Balusters may need to be removed.
• Align Fortress Fe Traditional Panel top and bottom rails with Fortress Fe Gate Uprights. Using a rubber mallet drive Fortress Fe Gate Uprights into the rails.
• Using a drill and 10mm driver bit install 1-10mm self drilling screw into each corner. Install the screw inside of the Fortress Fe Gate Upright so that all screws are hidden.
• Install supplied 1-1/2” Pressed Dome Caps on installed gate.

Please contact ADI with any questions:
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