

Force Platform Stairway

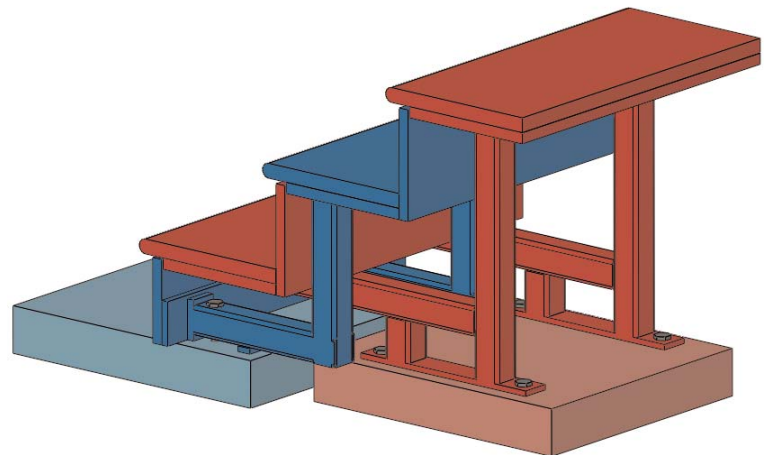
The forceplate stairway was designed in response to a growing concern among clinical patients about improving their gait while going up and down stairs. The force platform stairway is based upon the use of a pair of new or pre-existing forceplates to which the special stairway unit is attached. A walkway can be easily converted from gait to stairway testing which economically increases the versatility of the facility.

The use of two forceplates allows four independent consecutive steps to be analyzed. This is due to a unique nesting feature of the stairs in which the floor and second step are connected to the first forceplate, and the first and third steps are connected to the second forceplate. This arrangement was suggested by researcher Ugo Della Croce at the University of Virginia. It was built by AMTI for Dr. Paulo Bonato at the gait lab at Spaulding Hospital in Boston.



Different forceplate spacings and lateral offsets can be accommodated by the design of the stair mounts themselves. Threaded inserts on each forceplate position and anchor the stair assemblies. A 7" rise and 10.4" run are standard along with a width of 24" or more. Forceplate connected side stair extensions, railings, and an upper landing are usually needed for a complete installation.

AMTI can provide the specific design, appropriate stairs with mounting hardware, and added holes to the forceplates for a particular installation.



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