

FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:

Hammer

Screwdriver (Philips)

Stanley knife

Bevel Square

Saw

Measuring Tape

With a Stira you get the following,

- Safe easy access to your attic.
- It's always there when you need it.
- Manufactured under the ISO 9002 Standard.
- Member of Guild of Master Craftsmen.
- As seen on the Late Late Show.
- Satisfaction guaranteed.



ISO 9002 Quality Management System
Cert. No. 5033



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Fitting a Stira should take no more than two hours.

Here are a few things you should bear in mind before you start.

1. Please glance through these fitting instructions before you start, 5 minutes spent now could save you time later on.
2. Check in the attic that there are no constraints to enlarging the opening, such as pipes wires etc.
3. Bear in mind that the Stira will arc about 14" (35 cm) beyond the opening as it folds and unfolds.
4. If the opening is in a bathroom, consider a new opening in the hall or landing.
5. Make sure you have the Stira to suit your ceiling height.
6. Place an old sheet on the floor to protect your carpet or wooden floor.



When first looking at fitting a Stira it may seem daunting, but don't worry fitting is not such a big job. Unlike many "DIY" products you need not worry about assembly, we've taken care of that at the factory. All you need do is cut or enlarge the opening and fit the stairs. The Stira is designed to be a completely integrated unit ready for fitting.

LET'S GET STARTED.

Existing opening is too small.

The first thing to do is to strip away the existing architrave and trim.

When you remove the old trapdoor you will see that there is a small lath around the opening on which the trapdoor sits. This should be removed so

what you are left with is bare rafter.

Now you need to mark out the length of the opening.

You can do this with a pencil. Just mark the length of the opening onto the plasterboard.

Measure the frame of the Stira and cut the opening 1/2" (12 mm) longer.

You can cut the actual plasterboard one of two ways. The old fashioned way is to use a Stanley knife to start the cut on the underside of the ceiling, once you have the cut started you can then

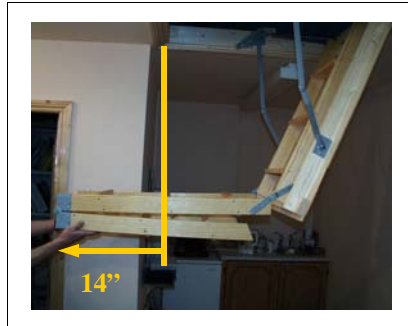
use an ordinary carpenters saw or a multi-purpose saw. If you have a Jig-Saw this makes the matter easier.

Once the plasterboard is cut away to the desired size you can now cut the rafter.

Depending on how the rafters are running you may need to use a bridging piece to create the rectangular opening needed to fit the Stira.

Once the opening is complete we can move to the actual fitting.

If the opening is already made go directly to the next section, "The Opening is Ready"



The Stira will arc about 14" (36 cm) beyond the end of the opening.

THE OPENING IS READY.

The best way to actually fit the Stira is to lower it into the opening from above.

Firstly you need to screw two pieces of timber to the underside of the ceiling at either end of the opening. Any piece of waste timber will do, you could use the old architrave you removed earlier.

Its important that the timber does not extend any more that 1/2" into the opening.

The reason for this is so that when the Stira is positioned into the opening the trapdoor will be free to open.

In other words the frame of the Stira will rest on the laths and the trapdoor will be free.

In **Photo 2** you can see the temporary laths on either end of the opening and the Stira is left in the attic.

Now from underneath you can lower the Stira into the opening. **See Photo 3.**

You can fit the door handle before you raise the Stira into the attic.



SECURING THE FRAME

Now that the Stira is in place you need to secure it.

First you can open and close the trapdoor to make sure the frame is square.

It's important that the trapdoor opens and closes freely and that the door does not catch when closing.

If the trapdoor does catch the frame may not be square. **See Photo 4.**

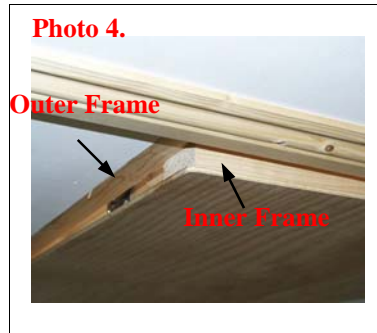
You may need to enlarge the opening slightly to allow the outer frame to move that little bit.

Say the inner frame was hitting the outer frame on the left hand corner.

Then you will need to move the outer frame forward on the left hand side.

See Photo 5.

The simplest way to do this is



Inner Frame catches Outer Frame.

to drive a small wedge between the frame and the joist on the left hand side at the hinge end of the frame.

To secure the frame to the joists use 80 mm screws

Once the frame is secured you can remove the tempo-

rary laths and fit the architrave.

Its best to start at the front end of the opening with the trapdoor closed.

Leave about a 1/4" gap between the architrave and the actual trapdoor all around.



If frame is catching on the left, move frame forward at top left. (Red Arrow)

Nine times out of ten securing the frame is straight forward, leave the opening a little bit larger, this gives you room to manoeuvre the frame.

CUTTING TO LENGTH

Cutting to length is crucial to the proper sitting of the stairs on the floor.

Its important to bear in mind that you should check both sides of the stairs, don't assume that the floor is level.

Open the Stira and unfold it and fold the bottom section back out of the way and rest it on the floor.

Now using a straight piece of timber, place it on the face of one of the side stringers of the stairs and extend it to the floor maintaining the angle of the stairs.

Mark the piece of timber where it intersects the stairs at the wraparound hinge.

See Photo 6.

You should check the other side stringer as the measurement may not be the same.

You can now transfer this measurement onto the bottom section and mark the cut line.

See Photo 7.

Now saw off the excess and sand the ends.

Just double check that you have the angle marked the right way around, in other words the angle of cut will be the same as the angle of the step.

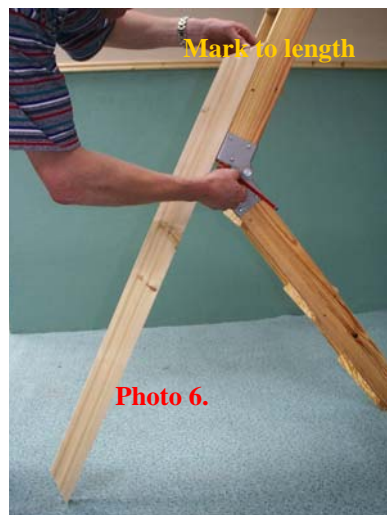


Photo 6.



Photo 7.

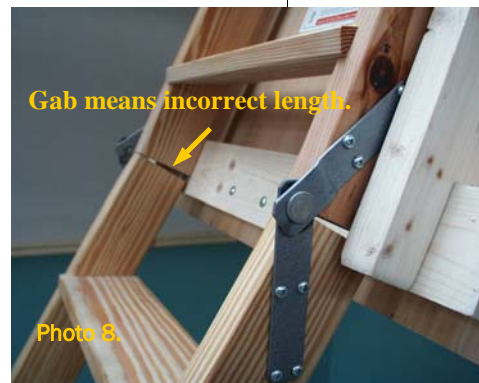


Photo 8.

Provided the Stira is properly fitted there should not be a gap when you climb the stairs. **See Photo 8.**

If there is, you need to recheck your measurement. You may need to take a little more of the bottom section off the stairs. **Refer to instructions and photo 6.**

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Get High on a Stira

Some important do's and don'ts

Never ever close the trapdoor when someone is in the attic for two very important reasons.

1. In the event of an emergency the person in the attic needs to get out fast.
2. Opening the Stira from above is highly dangerous as someone may be passing underneath.

Never let young children open the Stira, open it for them if necessary and then take away the pole.

Don't forget to register your product, that way we can quickly trace your Stira in the event of you ever needing parts.

Important Operating Instructions.

Using your Stira.

When opening the Stira make sure that the pole is used with the hook opening facing towards you. See **Diagram 1.**

If not used as shown you run the risk of breaking the hook.

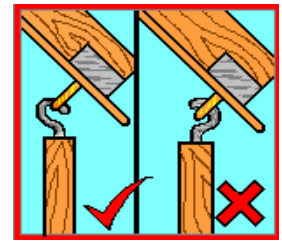


Diagram 1.

You should always support the trapdoor with your free hand when you are opening the door, otherwise you will damage the Stira and perhaps your ceiling.

When the door is opened down you should gently push back the door, the arms will now be practically straight.

Unfold the Stira off the trapdoor using both hands holding the bottom section.

Closure is the reverse, fold up the Stira onto the trapdoor.

With the pole engaged in the handle, pull the trapdoor towards you and push up until the springs take over. Guide the trapdoor closed with the pole. **See Photo 2.**

Never let the trapdoor slam shut as this will damage the Stira and may damage your ceiling.

If the trapdoor ever gets stuck open the most probable cause is that the arms have locked at the elbow.

Just pull the arms towards you as shown in **Photo 3.**

while pulling the trapdoor, this should free out the lock.

A drop of oil, 3 in 1, WD40 or similar on the elbow joint will also help.



Photo 2.

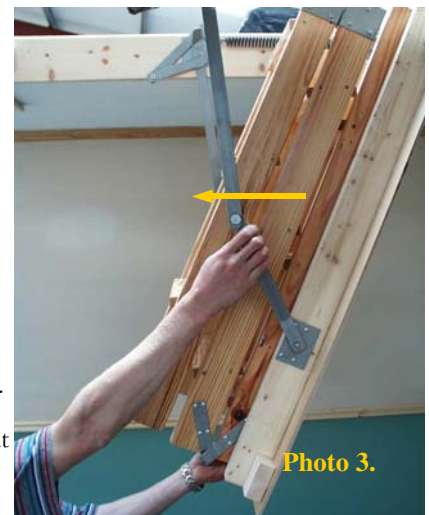


Photo 3.

Product Registration Card

Name _____ Phone Nos. _____

Address _____ Date of Purchase ____/____/____

Agent / Supplier _____

Stira Unit Number. _____ How did you hear about Stira? _____

This will be found on the inside of trapdoor