

Auditorium Design Riser Tread Width & Back Pitch Overhang

Location of chairs with relation to riser faces can have a profound effect upon the comfort of an auditorium. Good auditorium chair design dictates that after insuring the structure and stability of the chair, the support apparatus should be as minimal as possible for ease of cleaning. Riser mounted chairs fix the spacing of seat and back components relative to the riser face by their design. Floor mounted chairs offer discretion regarding their proximity to the riser face, and good practice dictates that chairs be located to prevent dangerous gaps at the nose of the riser. Locate chairs to place the bottom of the rear of the back component as close to the nose of the riser as possible.

The top illustration demonstrates the illogical thinking regarding all treads being the same width (misleading notion). Also illustrated is the extra space necessary for the rear tread to accommodate the overhang of the back component of the chair. Good chair design requires that the mounting foot be as small as practical; and it is this design that necessitates considerable front and rear overhang of chair components. Thus, chairs in all except the rear row overhang the tread surface behind them, and the rear tread is wider to compensate for the absence of the overhanging space. Please notice that neither the row spacing nor the rear wall or the stage location have changed their location.

