

Make

Your own spiral staircase

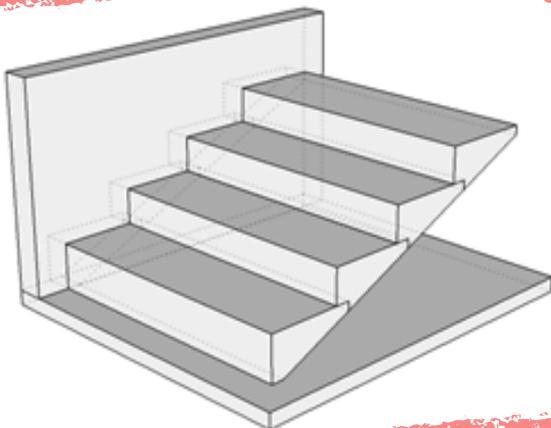
The spiral stairs at Beckford's Tower are very special. Every day William Beckford would climb these stairs up to the top of the Tower and he would sit and read or write, admiring the views of the countryside all around.

William Beckford chose to paint the walls in his Tower pink, we don't exactly know why William Beckford chose pink walls but it might have been because he collected lots of decorative seashells and wanted the stairs to feel like they were twisting inside a seashell.

He also chose a design where you can't see what holds the stairs up! They are not attached to a central pillar and there is nothing underneath the stairs to support them.



Each step extends into the wall which gives it some support.



Each step is cut into the one above which also gives it some support.

This is a very clever design because the steps almost hold each other up because the top of each step is cut into the bottom of the next step. This means that all the steps are locked into each other and into the wall.

It is amazing that the designer and builder of the Tower succeeded in making this design work using stone in a spiral so high.

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You will need:

- The spiral template on the next page or a paper plate
- Scissors
- Glue
- Things to decorate your spiral stairs (you could use photos, sequins, stickers – whatever you have to hand!)
- Some string
- Sellotape



Instructions:

1. Colour the spiral in your favourite colour (Beckford's was pink)
2. Draw black lines all around your staircase to create the stairs
3. Cut along the dotted lines around the edge of the spiral template on the next page (or draw the spiral design on a paper plate)
4. Cut along the center of the thick black lines of the spiral template
5. Decorate your staircase with felt tip pens, and your decorations to create your own beautiful staircase
6. Hold the centre of your spiral and move it up and down to allow the spiral to form below
7. Tape a loop of string to the centre of your spiral staircase so that you can easily hold it or hang it up

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Cut along the dotted lines

**then cut along the centre
of the black lines**

**Cut this
section out**

