

Force Plate Stairway

For Floor Embedded Force Platforms

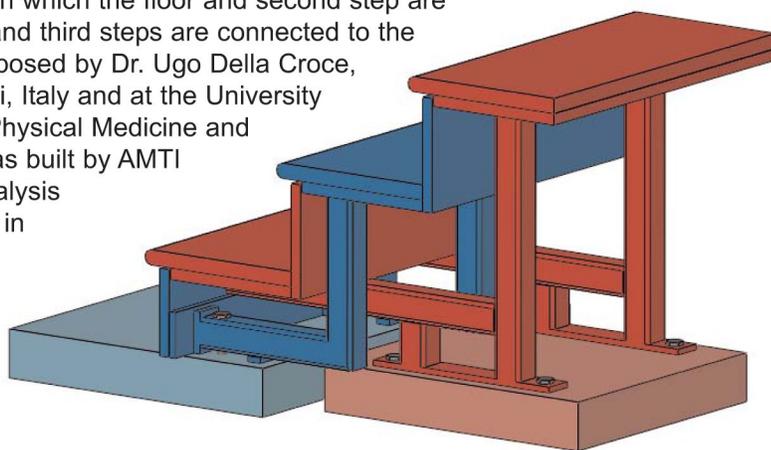
The force plate stairway was designed in response to a growing need for assessing stair ambulation in subjects with mobility limitations. The force platform stairway is based upon the use of a pair of new or pre-existing forceplates to which the special stairway unit is attached. A walkway can be easily converted into a stairway, thus expanding the ability of clinical laboratories to assess mobility in different ambulatory conditions. This is of paramount importance when the evaluation is performed in order to recommend a clinical intervention. The clinical decision process can in fact take into account the impact not only on level walking, but also on stair ambulation, which is an essential component of mobility in individuals.



Different force plate spacings and lateral offsets can be accommodated by the design of the stair mounts. 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. Force plate 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 force plates for a particular installation.

The use of two force plates 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 force plate, and the first and third steps are connected to the second force plate. This arrangement was proposed by Dr. Ugo Della Croce, Associate Professor at the University of Sassari, Italy and at the University of Virginia, and Lecturer in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School. It was built by AMTI for Dr. Paolo Bonato, Director of the Motion Analysis Laboratory at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, MA, and Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School.



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Tel: 617-926-6700 • Fax: 617-926-5045
E-mail: sales@amtmail.com • www.AMTI.biz

AGT Absolute
Gauge
Technologies™

Presented by: Absolute Gauge Technologies
sales@absolutegauge.com; www.absolutegauge.com,
Toronto: 416 754 3168, Montreal: 514 695 5147, Toll Free: 1 888 754 7008