

Lesson 7: Percent Slope

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you will understand that

- % slope, pitch per foot and total fall are related quantities

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to

- Given one item (% slope or pitch per foot or total fall) calculate the other two

Definitions:

- Percent Grade (a.k.a. % Slope) : How much slope/incline in the material over the entire length.
Textbook: % grade is slope as a % $\frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}}$ Divide
- Pitch per foot ;
the level of incline, amount of rise or fall in one foot of run
- Total fall
total change in elevation from highest to lowest point

Problem Situation #1 : Investigating Pitch per Foot

You are given a set of plans that have a pitch per foot of $\frac{1}{4}$ " for a section of concrete. Determine the total fall for the following lengths of concrete (aside: the minimum fall for any sidewalk, by code, is $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot):

1. For one foot of sidewalk, what is the total fall? Be sure to show your calculations along with your answer.

$$\frac{1}{4}''$$

2. For ten feet of sidewalk, what is the total fall? Be sure to show your calculations along with your answer.

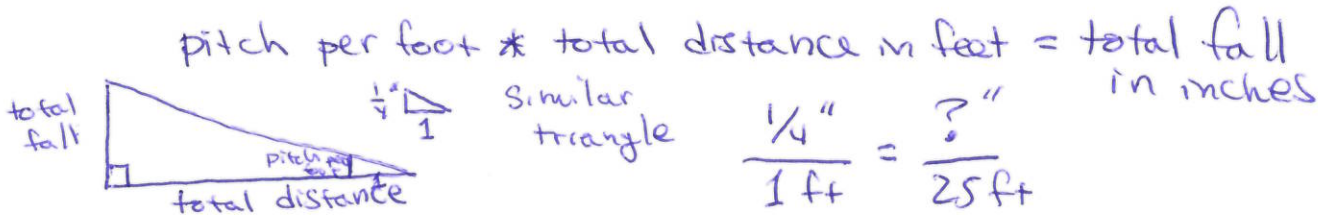
$$10 \text{ feet} \times \frac{1}{4}''/\text{foot} = \underline{2\frac{1}{2} \text{ inches}}$$

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3. For 25 feet of sidewalk, what is the total fall? Be sure to show your calculations along with your answer.

$$\frac{1}{4} \text{ inch} / \text{foot} \times 25 \text{ feet} = 6 \frac{1}{4} \text{ inches}$$

4. Explain or show how 'pitch per foot' connects to 'total fall.'



5. Now, using your definition for % slope (Percent Grade), what is the % slope for the 25' length sidewalk? Be sure to show your calculations along with your answer.

$$\frac{6 \frac{1}{4} \text{ inch}}{25 \text{ feet}} = 0.0208 \times 100 = 2.08 \%$$

6. What is the % slope for the 1' length? Be sure to show your calculations along with your answer.

$$\frac{1/4 \text{ inch}}{1 \text{ foot}} = 0.0208 \times 100 = 2.08 \%$$

7. Explain or show how the % slope connects the pitch per foot?

They are the same thing! % slope is doing the division.
 $\% \text{ slope} = \frac{x \text{ feet}}{1 \text{ foot}} \leftarrow \text{convert to inches}$

Problem Situation #2 : Forming Up a Sidewalk: Given % Grade

You are a carpenter on a flatwork crew that is tasked with placing a sidewalk. Your crew lead has given you the following information: The total length for the section of sidewalk you need to form up is 50 feet with a required 2% grade.

8. What is the total fall of the sidewalk for that 50'? Be sure to show your calculations along with your answer.