

# PUTTING UP A PICKET FENCE



## GETTING STARTED

These instructions show you how to build a basic 1.0m high picket fence. If you're using pickets of a different length or width, adjust these instructions to suit.

This brochure will show you how to fix the pickets to a completed post and rail structure. To get to this stage follow the instructions for constructing a post and rail section of the fence in our *Installing Posts and Rails*, brochure.

First up, complete the planning section in this brochure. Then you can order the materials required.

## Ideas & Inspiration



## TOOLS

- Handsaw
- Stringline
- Tape Measure
- Hammer
- Drill
- Spirit Level
- Square
- Pencil
- Spade / Post Hole Borer
- Safety Equipment

## MATERIALS

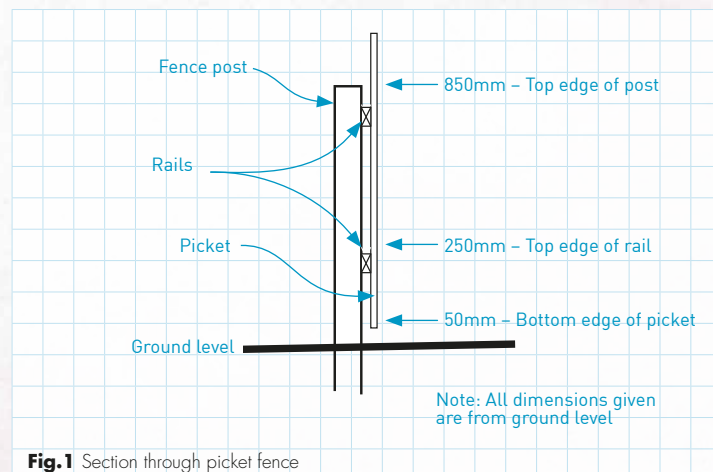
Measure the total length of the proposed fence, and use that measurement in the chart provided.

Take this rounded number and use it in the 'Materials Required' chart below to work out the total amount of materials required to build your fence. Don't forget to allow extra material if you want to make gates to match your fence.

	Example	Your Fence
Length of fence divided by 2.1	16.5M	
Answer =	7.86	
Round to next full number	8	

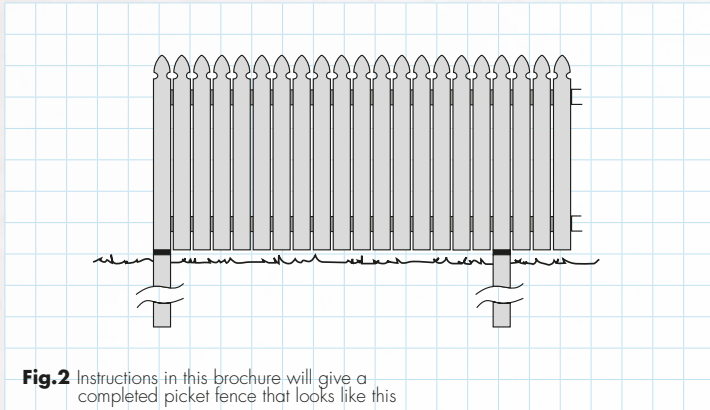
Materials Required	Quantity Required	
90 x 70mm or 90 x 90mm Gauged H4 Treated Posts	Number plus 1	at 1.5M long each
70 x 45mm or 90 x 45mm Gauged H4 Treated Rail	Number x 4.2	metres in multiples of 2.1M lengths
68 x 19mm Radiata H3.2 Treated Pickets	Number x 24	pickets
100mm Hot-dipped Galvanised Jolt Head Nails	Number x 4	posts
60mm Hot-dipped Galvanised Jolt Head Nails	Number x 4	500gm bags
150 x 10mm Dia. Galvanised Bolts and Nut & Washers	Number of posts x 2 (only if bolting instead of nailing)	
Dricon Rapid Set	5.65 bags	25kg bags / post hole

**Fig.1** shows the heights for setting posts and rails when using 1.0M long pickets. Adjust these figures up or down if your pickets are a different length. The height from the bottom edge of the picket to the ground can also be adjusted to suit your requirements, but the pickets should not touch the ground.



**Fig.1** Section through picket fence

**Fig.2** shows a completed section of a picket fence. The posts are placed 2.1M apart measured from the centre of one post to the centre of the next. The spacing between posts is then 2.03M (2030mm).  
Post height: 850mm. Post spacing: 2030mm



## BUILDING YOUR FENCE

### Fixing Rails

The fence rails are fixed to the face of the posts using 100mm hot-dipped galvanised jolt head nails or 150 x 10mm Dia. hot-dipped galvanised bolts.

The bottom rail is approximately 250mm from ground level and the top rails fixed about 70mm down from the top of the post (see **Fig.1**). For taller fences and for extra strength, you can add a middle rail.

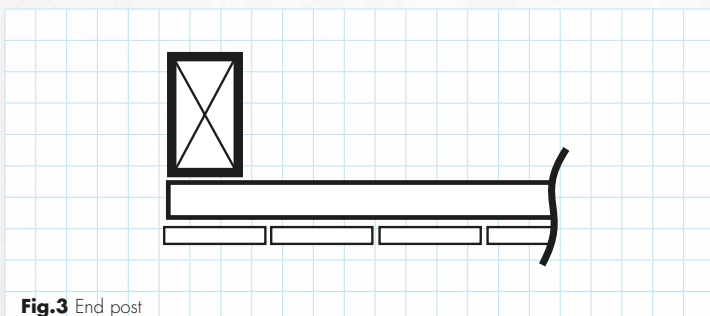
Once you have completed fixing the rails to the posts you can begin fixing the pickets to the fence.

**NOTE:** You may also want to paint the posts, rails and pickets before you start this final stage. You will get much better paint on your fence if you paint it before installing the pickets.

For greater strength and cleaner looks, you could choose to check the rails into the post. Ensure all cut timber is recoated with Metalex.

### Fixing the Pickets to the Rails

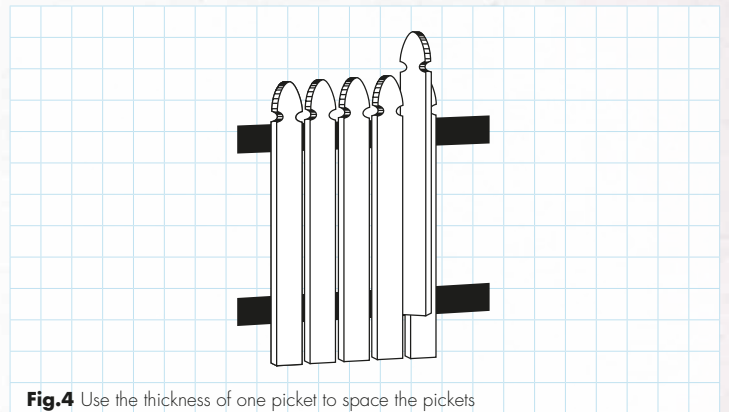
1. Fix a picket at one end of the fence and tack or temporarily fix another picket at the other end, ensuring that both of the pickets are fixed at the correct height.
2. Run a stringline across the top of the two pickets, and pack it with a small 20mm block above the top of the picket. If the fence length is long. It would be necessary to temporarily fix the picket at the intermediate points, to eliminate any sag in the line.



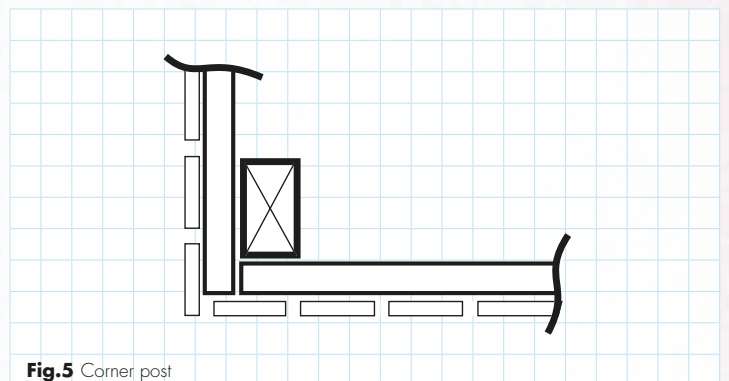
3. Fix the pickets to the rails (but don't drive the nails in completely), use a spare picket as a spacer to evenly separate the pickets by the required distance, fix a 20mm spacer at the top of the picket to maintain the level along the fence (see **Fig.4**).

4. Use Your level to ensure that the picket is vertical.
5. Check the position of the picket and then hammer the nails in completely.
6. The Picket should be fixed with 60mm hot-dipped galvanised jolt head nails, 2 nails into each rail, skewed, driven at an angle to prevent the picket from pulling away from the rail.
7. Use a spare picket as a spacer (see **Fig.4**) and fix the next picket using steps 2 through 6.

**NOTE:** To stop the pickets or the rails from splitting, ensure that the nails are not too close together, or at the edge of the timber. Predrilling holes will also prevent the timber from splitting.



At a corner, set out the pickets as shown in **Fig.5**.

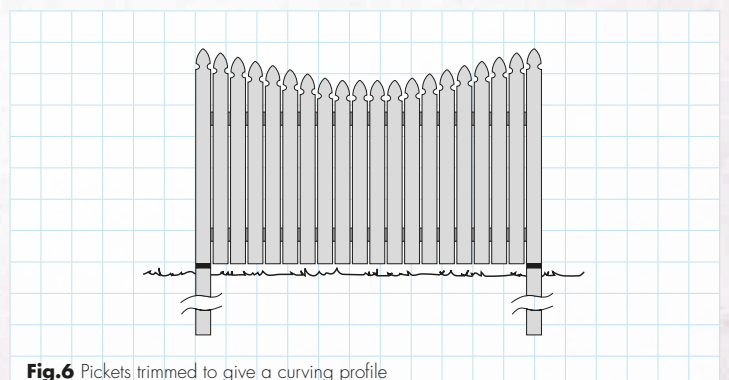


## VARIATIONS

While this brochure provides construction details for a simple picket fence, there are many variations to this design, Here are a couple of suggestions.

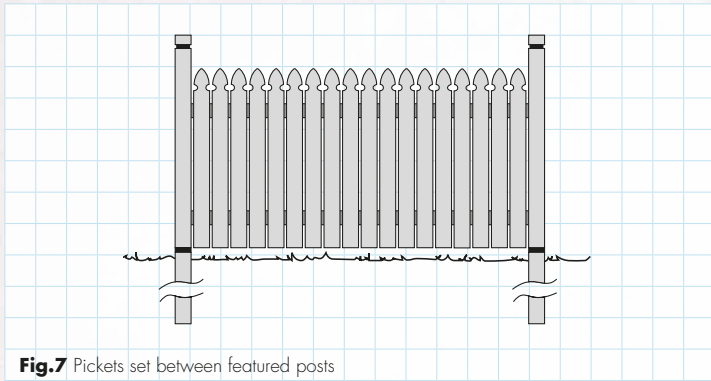
### Change the Profile

Trimming the length of the intermediate pickets can give a graceful curving profile to the fence.

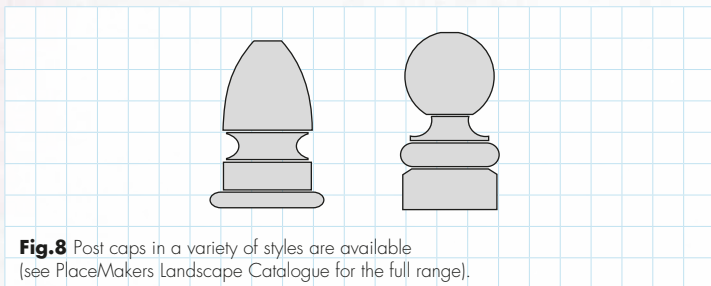


## Emphasise the Posts

Fix the rails between the posts and set them higher than the surrounding pickets. A simple groove cut into the top of the posts as a shadow line can provide decoration. Decorative post caps can also be attached to the top of post to give the fence a classy look.



**Fig.7** Pickets set between featured posts



**Fig.8** Post caps in a variety of styles are available (see PlaceMakers Landscape Catalogue for the full range).

## Different Materials

Kwila decking can easily be cut into flat top hardwood pickets.

Cedar battens can be ordered in and used to achieve the look on the front of this brochure.

## Gates

PlaceMakers can supply a full range of pedestrian and vehicle gates. All the required hardware is also available.

## THE GROUND RULES

Before you start any landscaping or building projects, it's important you make sure the finished job will comply with the building code and council regulations. For full information on the regulations applying to your area, consult with your local council.

### LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY

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UPDATED: JUNE 2018