



Kit contents

- 1 - 8' x 12" slotted preassembled decorative fence topper
- 17 - 1x6 pickets
- 1 - Hardware kit
- 1 - 8' slotted moulded bottom rail

**Recommended fasteners are hot-dip galvanized screws or other fasteners manufactured for treated wood as required by building code.*

Tools needed

- Power saw
- Hammer
- Level
- Posthole digger
- Power drill
- Tape measure
- Carpenter's pencil

Preparation

Check local ordinances and regulations before building your fence. Before construction, contact your local utility companies to mark any underground cables and pipelines. In addition, it is a good idea to discuss plans with any neighbors along your proposed fence line.

Materials needed

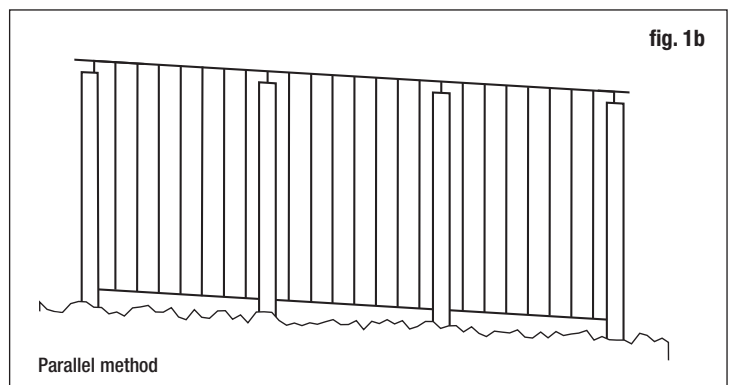
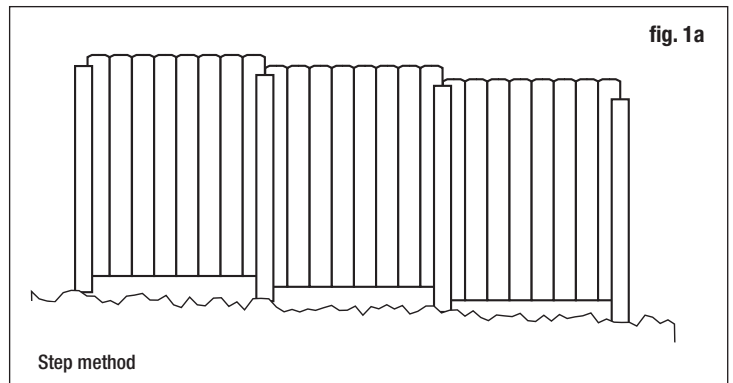
- String
- Grade stakes
- Concrete and gravel
- Fence posts
- 2x4 bracing posts

Design and layout

- Determine the number of posts, panels and gates needed to complete the job based on the total linear footage. Take into consideration post, panel and gate widths when determining the total number of each.
- Adjust layout to accommodate as many full panels as possible. If you must use a partial panel, place it in the farthest rear corner of the property.
- Locate property boundaries and drive stakes into the ground at corners and ends of fence line, 6" inside property boundary.
- Stretch twine or heavy string between stakes and pull tight to mark layout of fence line.
- Be sure to measure your fence panels and gates prior to determining the location of the postholes. Place posts in the following order along string line:
 - End/corner posts
 - Gate posts
 - Line posts

Installing fences on sloped landscapes

Fences are installed on slopes using one of two methods (figs. 1a and 1b). The step method gradually steps up the slope with the rails level, rather than parallel to the slope. With loose components, you have the option to use the parallel method. The top and bottom rails are installed based on the degree of the slope. It is best to use the step method with this kit.



LATTICE TOP FENCE PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS, CONTINUED

Digging postholes

A general rule of thumb is to place 1/3 of the post into the ground. The fence will be stronger if the end, corner and gate posts are set at least 6" deeper than the line posts. Using a posthole digger or power auger, dig the holes 10-12" wide and 6" deeper than needed. Backfill the holes with 6" of gravel to drain water away from the bottom of the posts (fig. 2). Keep the height of your fence panels in mind when digging your postholes.

Setting posts

Install end and corner posts first. Tie a string between the posts along the fence line. This establishes a reference, ensuring the posts are properly aligned.

Brace the posts using 2x4s nailed to both the posts and stakes in the ground. This will keep them straight while the concrete sets. Check for plumb (90° angle) on two adjacent sides prior to pouring concrete. Fill hole with ready-mix concrete following the package instructions. Tamp the concrete to remove any air pockets. Overfill the holes at the top and slope the concrete away from the post to keep water from pooling around it. Recheck plumb and alignment of all posts and allow concrete to cure for 24 to 48 hours.

Cutting posts to proper heights

An easy method to ensure your post tops are level is to run a string from corner post to corner post at the desired height, keeping the string taut (fig. 3). Mark each post at the string line and cut off the tops of the posts. Finish off your posts with optional decorative finial tops.

Panel construction

This fence kit uses a slotted bottom rail and a slotted preassembled decorative fence topper (fig. 4).

- Set the bottom rail to a recommended height of 2 inches above the ground. Secure to the posts, below the groove and 1/2" from each end, using the included fasteners.
- Measure 58-3/4" above the bottom rail. Pre-drill holes above the groove and 1/2" from each end. Secure the preassembled decorative fence topper to the posts using the included fasteners.
- Once both the bottom rail and the preassembled decorative fence topper have been attached to the posts, slide the pickets into place. No backer rails are needed because this kit uses tongue and groove pickets.

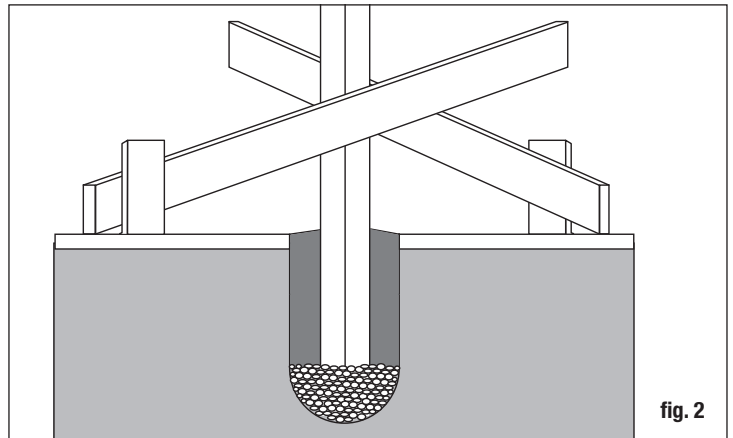


fig. 2

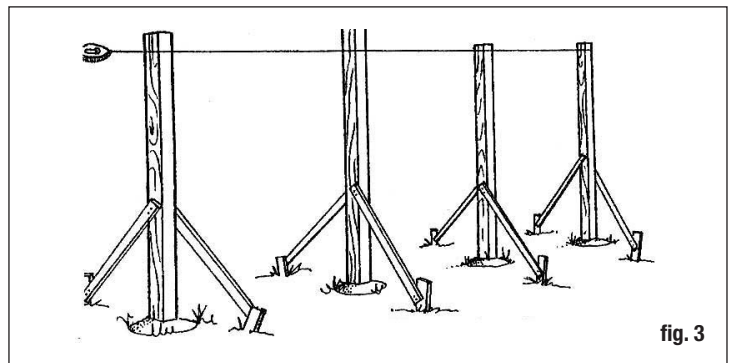


fig. 3

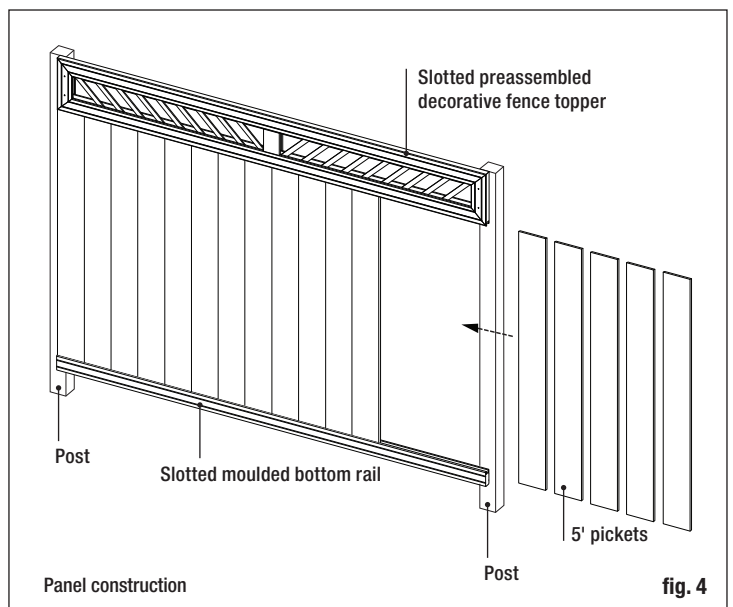


fig. 4

LATTICE TOP FENCE PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS, CONTINUED

Gate installation

- Determine the swing direction of the gate (left- or right-hand open).
- Mount hinge hardware to gate frame at the proper height, predrilling all the screw holes.
- Mount gate to gate posts, predrilling all screw holes.
- Check for full gate swing clearance.
- Mount latch hardware, predrilling all screw holes.

Finishing your fence

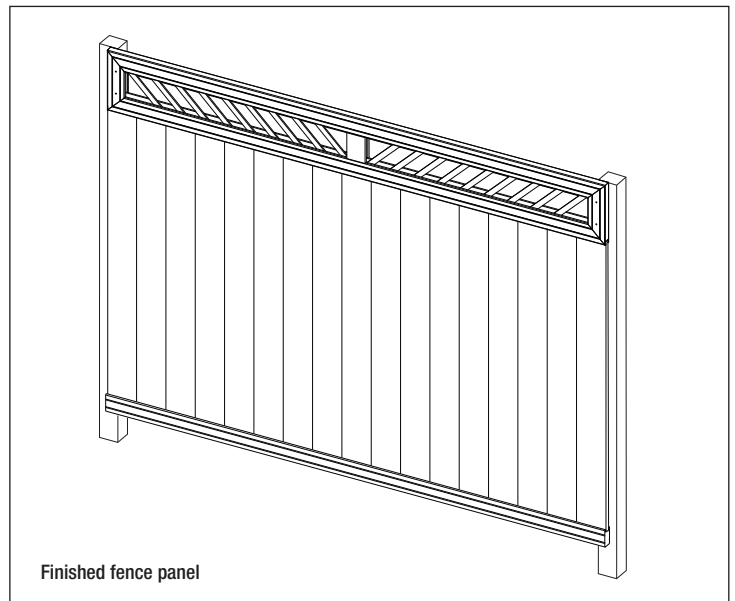
Applying a protective finish is recommended to prolong the life of your fence. The type of finish will be determined by the look desired, as well as the species of wood used.

There are three finished treatment options: stain, paint or waterproofing sealer. Clean your fence with a cleaner/brightener that contains a mildewcide prior to applying your finish.

- **Stain** – provides a durable finish coat while maintaining the natural look of wood. A semitransparent stain is recommended for new fences. It gives an even appearance and a hint of color while allowing the grain to show through.
- **Paint** – adds color as it protects and seals the fence. The color can easily be coordinated with your home. Clean, dry and prime with oil-based primer prior to painting the fence. A durable exterior latex paint is recommended.
- **Waterproofing sealer** – best for woods that are not naturally resistant to decay and exposure to weather. The sealer helps prevent rain and moisture from soaking into the wood. Add a UV stabilizer to slow discoloration.

Care and maintenance

- Continuous changes in weather conditions are hard on your fence. Your maintenance plan should be determined by water absorption and loss, mildew growth and UV discoloration.
- **First-year maintenance** – Reapply cleaner/brightener as described in initial maintenance, as well as your method of finish (paint, stain or waterproofing sealer).
- **Future periodic preventative maintenance** – Depending on the location of your fence with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc., it may be sufficient to clean/brighten and recoat every two years. A power washer may be necessary to properly clean your fence.



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