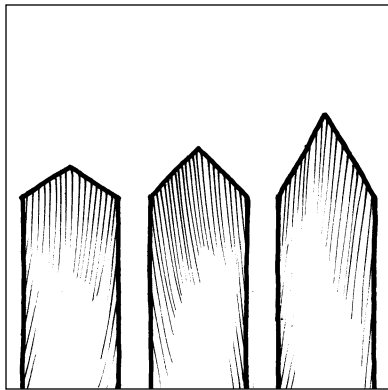


FENCE TOOLKIT



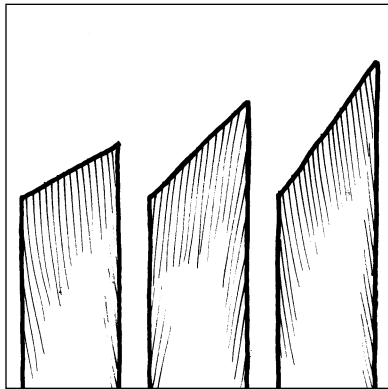
One of the hallmarks of a great place is a great degree of agreement over how things should be built. This results in a great variety of detail, but within a very narrow range. Fences are no exception. Look at the fences of Nantucket, for example. There are very few types of fences, but no two are exactly the same. This toolkit produces thousands of wood picket fence designs without resorting to exotic details or configurations. (See Options at the end.) Specific variables are as follows:

PICKET DESIGN



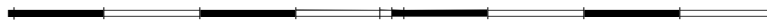
GABLE PICKETS

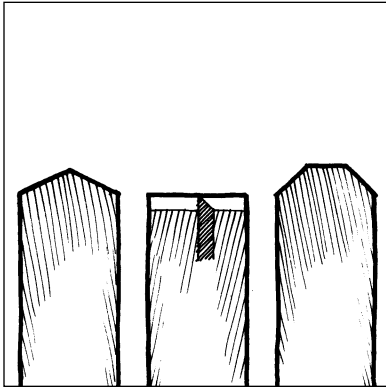
This is the simplest picket type. Slope angles are, from left to right, 30° , 45° , and 60° .



SHED PICKETS

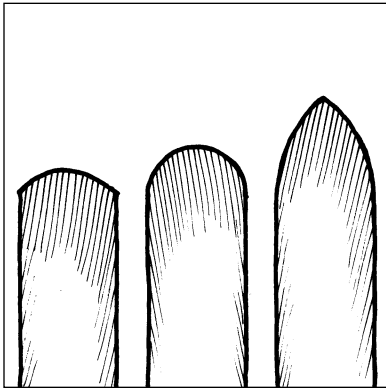
These pickets are single-slope at the same angles as the pickets above. They can either be arranged along the fence all sloping the same direction, or sloping alternately right and left.





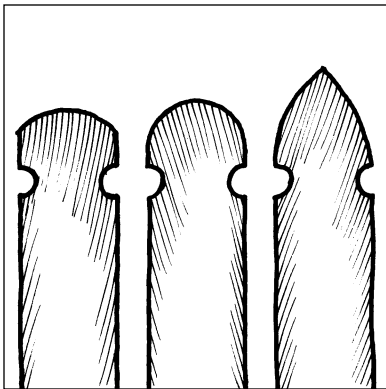
SPECIALTY FLAT-CUT PICKETS

The left picket is a gable picket, but flatter than the ones above, at 22-1/2°. The middle is a mitered flat-top, so that the water either sheds to the yard or to the sidewalk. The dog-eared picket to the right should be used sparingly, as it is so commonly used with cheap stockade fences and is therefore sometimes associated with low-quality construction.



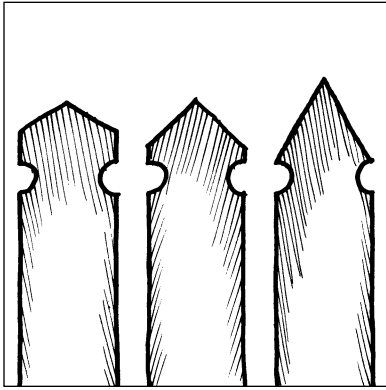
ROUND-TOP PICKETS

The left picket is a bowspring arch with a 90° arc sweep. The middle picket is a true half-round top. The right picket is a Gothic arch where the radii are equal to the width of the picket.



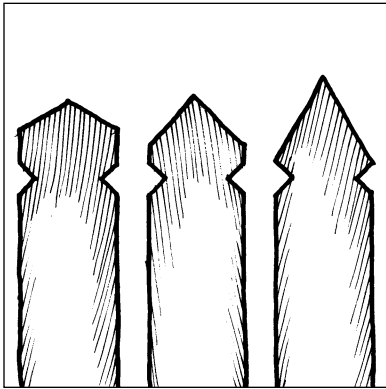
ROUND-TOP KEYHOLE PICKETS

These are identical to the round-cut pickets above, except for the half-circle cutout on each side. The center of the cutout on the left picket is half the width of the picket below the end of the top curve. The other two pickets have cutouts that begin where the curved top ends.



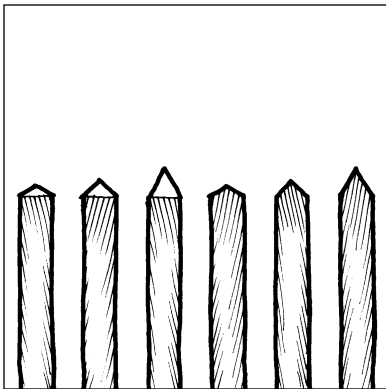
GABLE KEYHOLE PICKETS

These pickets have the same gable tops as the gable pickets above, but also have a half-circle cutout on either side. The center of the cutout on the left picket is half the width of the picket below the end of the gable. The center of the cutout on the center picket is one-third the width of the picket below the end of the gable. The top edge of the cutout on the right picket is at the end of the gable.



GABLE DIAMOND PICKETS

These pickets are the same as the gable pickets, except that instead of a half-circle cutout, they have a diamond-shaped cutout instead.



SQUARE PICKETS

The left three have pyramid-cut tops at 30°, 45°, and 60°. The right three have gable-cut tops at 30°, 45°, and 60°.

PICKET WIDTH

Square pickets are made of either 1-1/2" or 1-1/4" square stock.

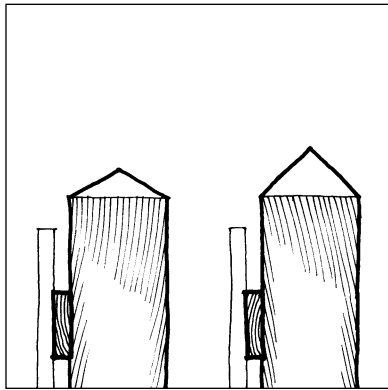
Flat pickets may be either split 1x4 (1-3/4" wide,) split 1x6 (2-3/4" wide,) full 1x4 (3-1/2" wide,) or full 1x6 (5-1/2" wide.) Narrower pickets are encouraged.



PICKET SPACING

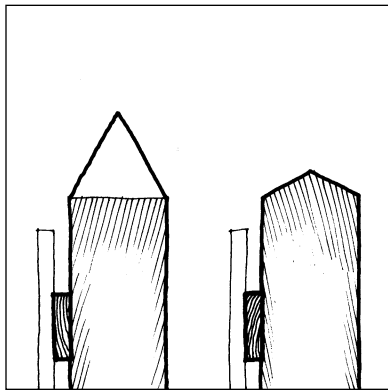
PICKET	WIDTH	PICKET SPACINGS (ON CENTER)		
SPLIT IX4	1-3/4"	2-1/2"	3"	3-1/2"
SPLIT IX6	2-3/4"	3-3/4"	4-1/2"	5-1/2"
FULL IX4	3-1/2"	4-1/2"	5-1/2"	6-1/2"
FULL IX6	5-1/2"	7"	8-1/2"	10"
SQUARE	1-1/4"	2"	2-1/2"	3"
SQUARE	1-1/2"	2-1/2"	3"	3-1/2"

FENCE POST DESIGN



PYRAMID POSTS 1 & 2

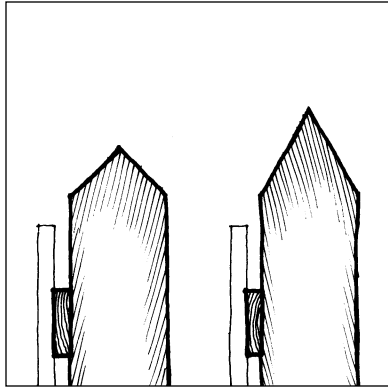
Pyramid Post 1 is pyramid-cut at 30°. Pyramid Post 2 is pyramid-cut at 45°. Posts should usually project a consistent distance above the top of the pickets in order to be visible from the opposite side of the fence, unless the property owner prefers that they not be seen, in which case they may be shorter.



PYRAMID POST 3 & GABLE POST 1

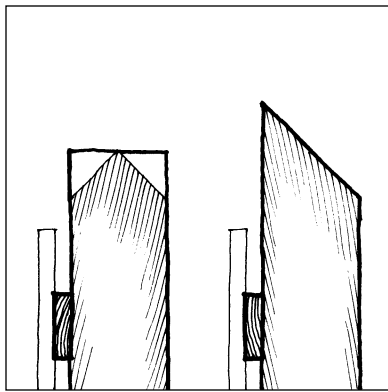
Pyramid Post 3 is pyramid-cut at 60°. Gable Post 1 is gable-cut at 30°. Gable posts may either be cut with the ridge of the gable parallel with the fence (as shown) or perpendicular.





GABLE POSTS 2 & 3

Gable Post 2 is gable-cut at 45°. Gable Post 3 is gable-cut at 60°.



CROSS GABLE & SHED POSTS

The cross gable post is distinctive, although it is more difficult to cut. The cutting is best done with a handsaw. It may be used on every line post, but it also works well as a corner post when used with other gable posts because it aligns with both lines of gable posts. The shed post is the simplest cut, and may be turned either towards the street or away (shown.) It could possibly be turned perpendicular to the street as well. Both of these posts are shown cut at 45°, but other slopes could be used as well.

FENCE POST SIZE

Fence posts are usually either 4x4 or 6x6, although an 8x8 post could be used as a corner post in unusual situations.

DOG BOARD SIZE

The dog board at the bottom of the fence should be either 1x6, 1x8, or 1x10. Fences can be done without dog boards, but they are recommended. They are so named because dogs have hope of digging under the fence if they can see daylight beneath it. Installing a dog board takes away that hope, and most dogs therefore don't attempt it. The dog board also creates an attractive base for the fence.



OPTIONS

The total number of options are therefore:

Flat Pickets:	21
Flat Picket Widths:	4
Total Flat Pickets:	84
Square Pickets:	6
Square Picket Sizes:	2
Total Square Pickets:	12
Total Pickets:	96
Picket Spacings:	3
Fence Posts:	8
Fence Post Sizes:	2
Dog Board Sizes:	3

So 96 pickets x 3 picket spacings x 8 posts x 2 post sizes x 3 dog board sizes = 13,824 possible combinations... all using very simple components. And this is all with picket tops all in a line. Add in the upswing and downswing fences, and also alternating picket fences, and there's no reason for any two fences in a city of a few hundred thousand citizens to be identical. This means that it's actually fairly easy to create (at least with fences) the [great variety in a narrow range](#) that is one of the best indicators of a great place.

If this toolkit is useful, please check out our [house plans](#), our [images of great places](#), our [services](#), our [books](#), and our [blog](#). Please also feel free to subscribe to our [news releases](#) as well. Finally, please feel free to share this tool freely and broadly. It's best shared as a pdf file so the links can be clicked, and also so you don't have to print it.

Thanks!

~Steve & Wanda Mouzon