



## Kit contents

- 1 - Euro Cap Kit:
- 3 - Backer rails
- 4 - Double Keystone blocks
- 17 - 1x6 pickets
- 4 - Moulded cap rails
- 1 - Hardware kit
- 2 - Moulded panel rails

*\*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

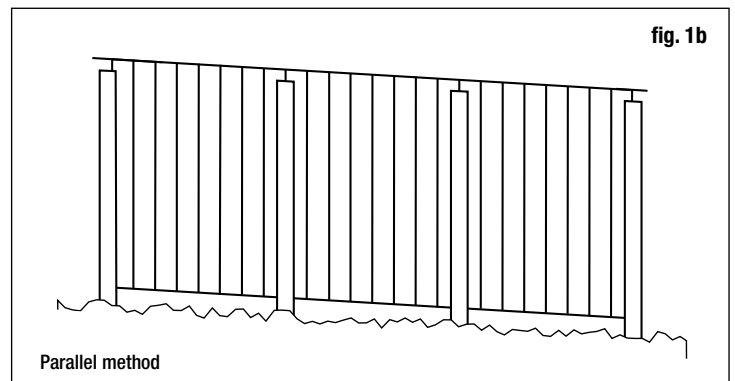
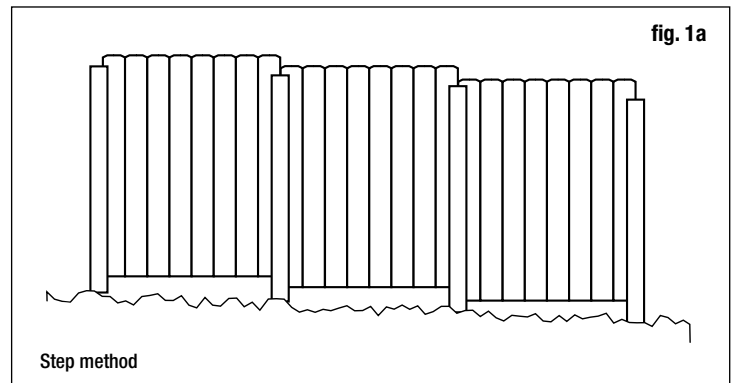
- String
- Grade stakes
- Concrete and gravel
- Fence posts
- 2x4 bracing posts

## 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.



# EURO TOP FENCE PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS, CONTINUED

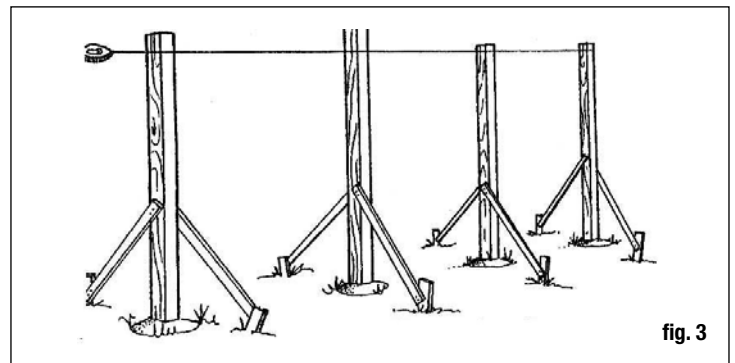
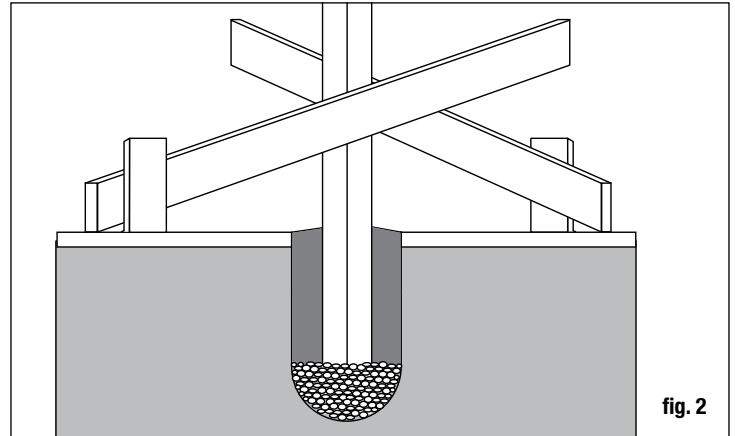
## Digging postholes

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.

## Connecting backer rails to posts

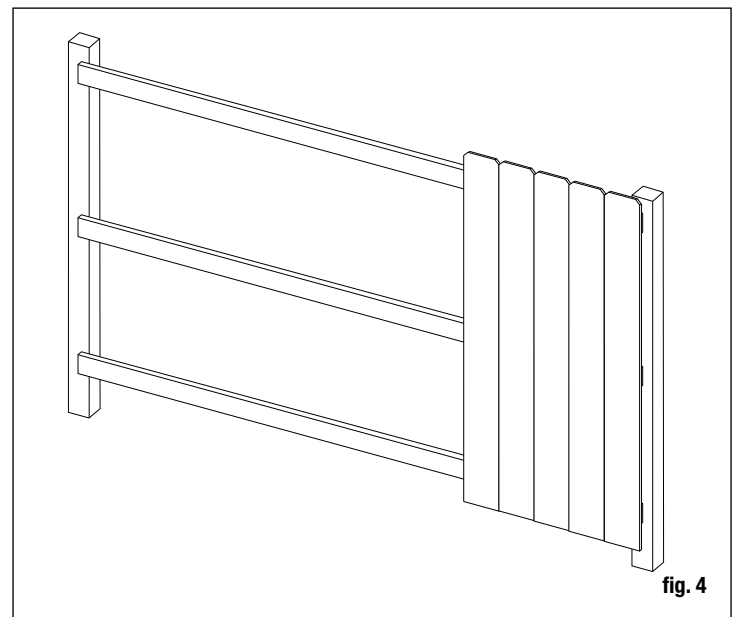
On a 6' tall privacy fence, start from the bottom of the post and mark at the following measurements: 9-1/2", 34" and 59".

Place the bottom of the rails at these marks (fig. 4).

Your finished product will be much more appealing if proper attention is given to this detail.

Start at one end of the rail and check for level and plumb every three or four pickets. If you wish to build a solid privacy fence, abut the pickets without leaving a gap in between.

The Euro Top Kit accents both sides of an 8' fence panel.



# EURO TOP FENCE PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS, CONTINUED

## Design and layout

Determine how many fence panels you would like to accent and purchase the appropriate number of kits.

## Assembly

- Cut two double Keystone blocks in half along the middle groove. Screw the cut pieces together using the predrilled holes to create two single Keystone caps. These will start and finish the fence run (fig. 5).
- Take the remaining two double Keystone blocks and screw them together using the predrilled holes to create a double Keystone cap (fig. 6).
- Take two moulded cap rails and screw together using the predrilled holes. Repeat with the second set of rails to yield two Keystone moulded cap rails (fig. 7).

## Installation

- Working left to right, install a single Keystone cap at the start of the panel using the provided fasteners (fig. 8).
- Place the first Keystone moulded cap rail on top of the fence pickets, flush with the single Keystone cap (fig. 8).
- Use the provided screws to attached the rails to the pickets.
- Place the double Keystone cap flush against the first Keystone moulded cap rail and attach using screws (fig. 8).
- Place the second Keystone moulded cap rail on top of the fence pickets, flush with the double Keystone cap (fig. 8).
- Use the provided screws to attached the rails to the pickets.
- To end the section, place the second single Keystone cap flush against the second Keystone moulded cap rail and attach using screws (fig. 8).
- Place one of the 1x4x8 moulded rails at desired height and attach using screws (fig. 8).
- Place the other 1x4x8 moulded rail at the bottom of the fence panel and attach using screws (fig. 8).

## 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.

Assembling a single Keystone cap

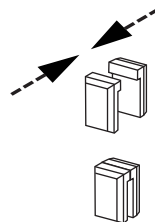


fig. 5

Assembling a double Keystone cap

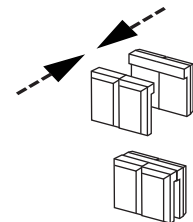
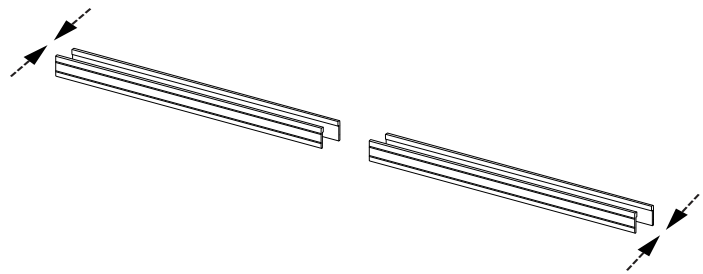
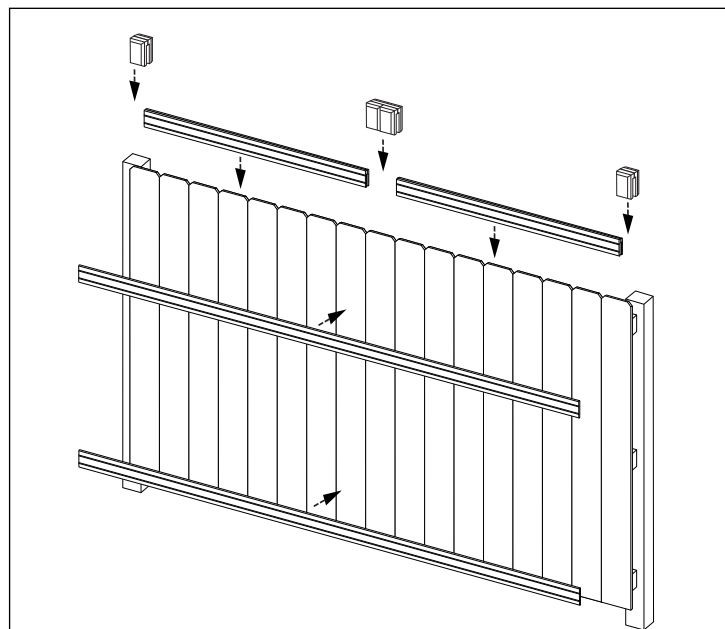


fig. 6



Assembling Keystone moulded cap rails

fig. 7



Installation

fig. 8

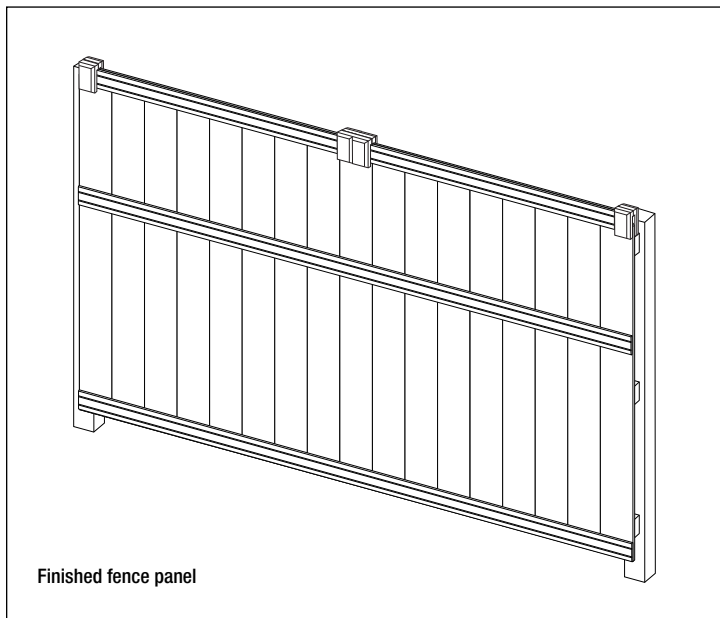
# EURO TOP FENCE PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS, CONTINUED

## 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

### COMMON MAINTENANCE CONCERNS

The continuous changes in weather conditions are extremely harsh on your fence. Your maintenance plan must be geared to combat the problems caused by water absorption and water loss, mildew growth, and discoloration of wood due to the sun's ultraviolet rays. All of the maintenance concerns discussed below are weather-related. The degree to which your fence is affected by them depends on many factors. These factors include general climate conditions (such as normal precipitation, humidity, etc.) and location in your yard (with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc.). If your fence is built using pressure-treated lumber, it is important to note that the pressure treatment does not increase the likelihood that your fence will develop these natural defects to any greater degree than the same material left untreated. These weather-related defects are beyond the control of the pressure treatment process.

### NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WOOD

We cannot control the occurrence of the natural characteristics of the wood, which may include raised grain, splitting, warping, shrinking, swelling or twisting. Continuous water absorption and water loss in the wood used for your fence will cause its natural defects to surface. A well-maintained fence will still experience some of these natural defects. However, the extent can be significantly reduced through a maintenance plan.

To effectively combat these maintenance concerns, it will be up to you to follow a preventative maintenance plan.

Your initial 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, and as called for by the finish of your choice (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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