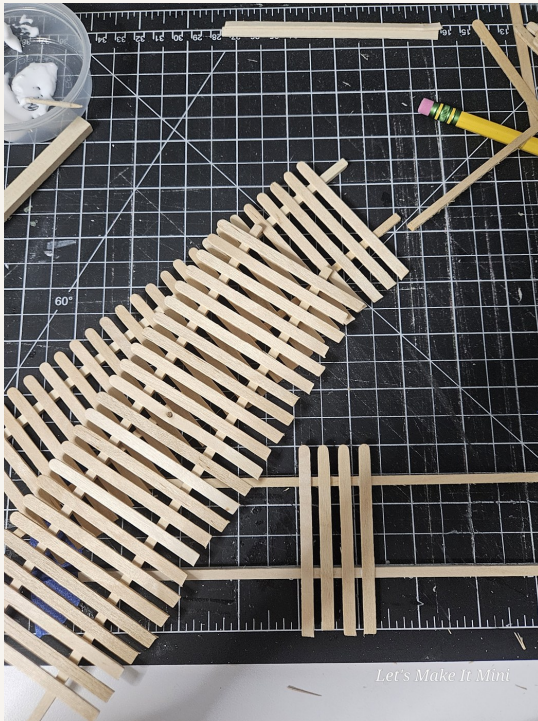




SEE THE BEE? IT'S FREE!

A Miniature Picket Fence

Build a charming 1:12 scale fence for any dollhouse yard or garden.



A PHOTO TUTORIAL BY DEB ROGERS

Let's Make It Mini | letsmakeitmini.com

Gather your supplies

A little wooden fence can give a tiny garden a lovely sense of place. Deb used this fence around her Pumpkin Patch, but the same method works for a cottage yard, vegetable garden, or dollhouse path.

Materials

- Wooden coffee stirrers for the pickets
- 1/8-inch basswood stripwood for two horizontal rails per panel
- 1/2-inch square wood for supporting posts
- Tacky glue and a toothpick or small applicator
- Painter's tape and a nonstick work-surface covering
- Wood stain or your preferred weathering finish

Tools

Ruler, pencil, square or cutting-mat grid, fine sandpaper, and a cutting tool suitable for your wood. Deb's photos show a small miter cutter; a suitable fine-tooth saw with a miter box is another option.

Confirmed size: cut pickets to 3 inches long. At 1:12 scale that represents a 3-foot fence. The 1/2-inch posts represent 6-inch-square full-size posts. Use a spare picket to make each gap equal to its width.

Stirrer widths and thicknesses vary. Measure yours before planning the panel. Deb specified 1/8-inch stripwood for the rails; choose a suitable profile rather than assuming both dimensions are 1/8 inch.

Plan your fence panels



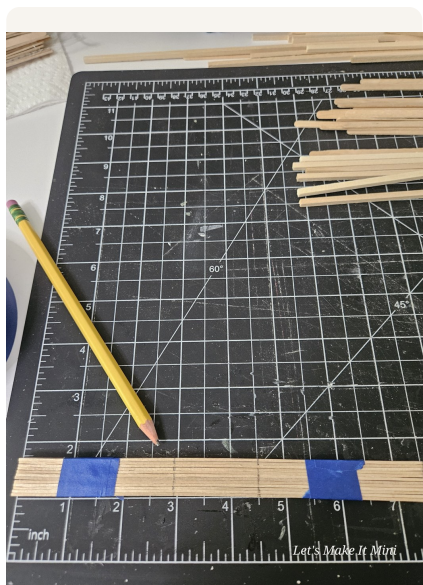
Measure the space your fence will enclose. Mark corners, post positions, and any opening you want to leave. Plan several manageable panels rather than one long piece.

Dry-lay the 3-inch pickets with a spare picket between each pair. Count only the pickets that will be glued. The temporary spacers create the gaps and will be removed.

Decide how each panel will meet its posts before cutting the rails. For a beginner option, butt the rail ends against the sides of the posts. Measure the clear distance between those posts for the rail length.

Mini tip: Panel length depends on your stirrer width. Do not copy a fixed picket count from a photo.

Cut matching pickets



Choose straight stirrers of similar width. Align the rounded ends and tape a small group together. Measure 3 inches from the aligned top ends and draw the cut line across the group.

Cut across the marked line with your suitable wood-cutting tool. Work in small bundles so the pieces stay secure. Keep hands clear of the blade and follow the tool's instructions.

Remove the tape, lightly sand the cut bottoms, and check the lengths against a ruler. Set aside one straight picket to use only as the spacer.

Mini tip: Keep the rounded factory ends as the picket tops. The cut ends become the bottoms.

Set up the rails



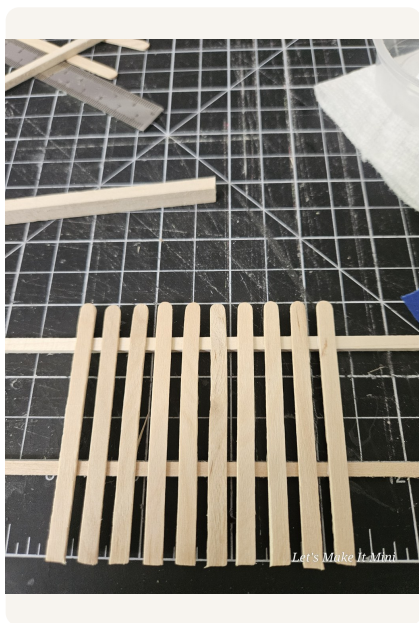
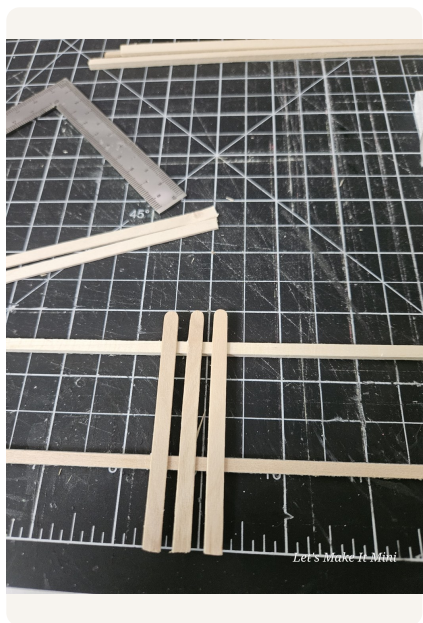
Cut two basswood rails to the same planned panel length. Sand their ends. Protect the work surface with a nonstick covering so stray glue will not bond your fence to it.

Lay the rails parallel and tape their ends in position. Use the cutting-mat grid or a square to check alignment. Leave the glue areas free of tape.

Dry-place one picket across both rails. Choose the rail positions and use them consistently. A suggested starting point is an upper rail about 1/2 inch below the picket top and a lower rail about 1/2 inch above the bottom; adjust to suit your scene.

Mini tip: These rail offsets are a suggested layout, not measured specifications from Deb's fence.

Glue the first picket



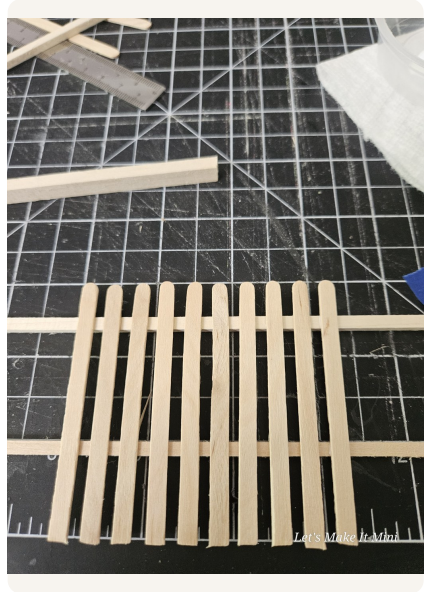
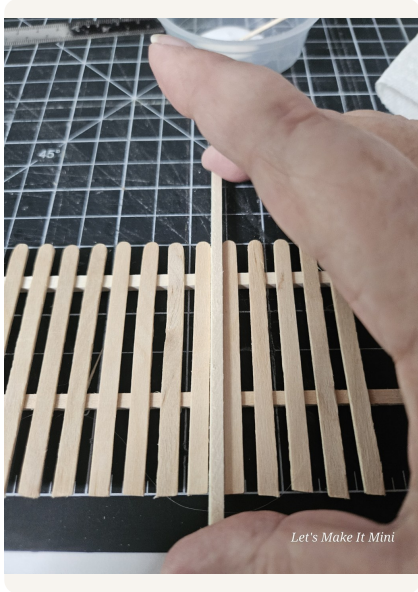
Set the first picket at the planned starting position. Keep it square to the rails and check that its rounded end points upward.

Apply a small amount of tacky glue where the picket crosses each rail. Press the picket gently into place. Use a toothpick for control and wipe away any squeeze-out.

Use a ruler or a temporary straight edge to line up the picket bottoms. Keep the first picket from moving while you begin the next ones.

Mini tip: Use just enough glue to make contact at both joints. Heavy glue beads can spoil the finish.

Use your picket spacer



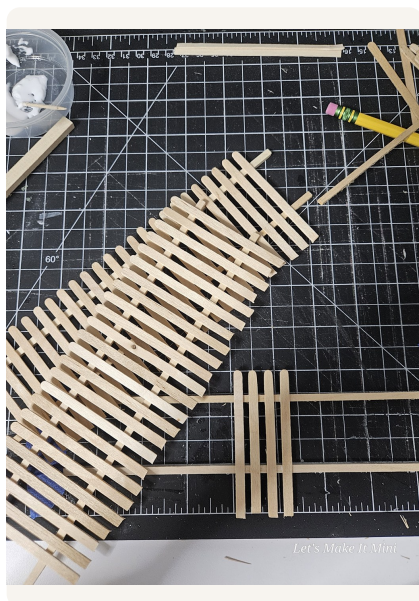
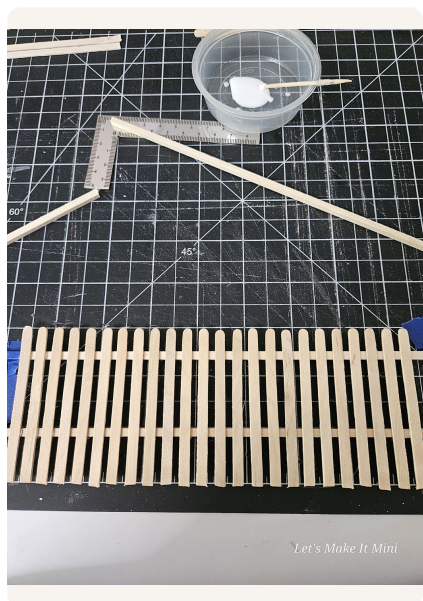
Place your spare picket beside the first attached picket as a temporary spacer. Set the next picket against its other edge, then glue that new picket to both rails.

Remove the spacer carefully before glue can catch it. Move it to the next gap and repeat. Keep checking that the bottoms line up and the pickets remain square to the rails.

Continue until the panel is filled. Check the dry layout near the end so you do not create an unexpectedly tiny last gap or cover the area needed for the post connection.

Mini tip: The spare picket is a measuring tool, not part of the glued fence. Keep it free of tacky glue.

Let the panel dry flat



Leave the panel flat and undisturbed until the tacky glue has dried according to its instructions. Do not lift it by the pickets while the joints are still wet.

Remove the securing tape and gently lift the panel from the nonstick covering. Check that each picket is attached to both rails, and repair a loose joint with a small amount of glue.

Make the remaining panels with the same picket length, rail positions, and spare-picket spacing method. Dry-fit them beside one another to check the overall appearance.

Mini tip: A straight panel is easier to install. Check for twists before you add it to your scene.

Finish the wood & posts



7. Stain or weather the fence. Deb used a stained or weathered finish. Test your chosen product on spare wood, then follow its application and drying instructions. Work gently around the glued joints.

For a more even stained finish: stain the loose parts before assembly, allow them to dry, and keep glue-contact areas suitable for bonding. Glue residue can prevent stain from soaking into the wood.

8. Prepare the posts. Use 1/2-inch square wood. Choose the post height for your scene, mark matching lengths, cut safely, and sand. Finish to coordinate with the panels. A suggested visible height of 3 to 3-1/2 inches suits these pickets; add extra length only if posts will be inserted into a base.

Mini tip: The exact stain and post height were not specified. Choose and test the finish and mounting that suit your scene.

Install in your scene



Dry-fit the posts and panels around the yard or garden. Check corners and leave any planned entrance open. Aim for a small ground clearance rather than pushing every picket into the landscaping.

For the suggested butt-joint arrangement, place the posts upright and glue the rail ends to their sides with tacky glue. Support the panels and posts until the joints dry. Use your chosen base attachment to keep the posts secure and vertical.

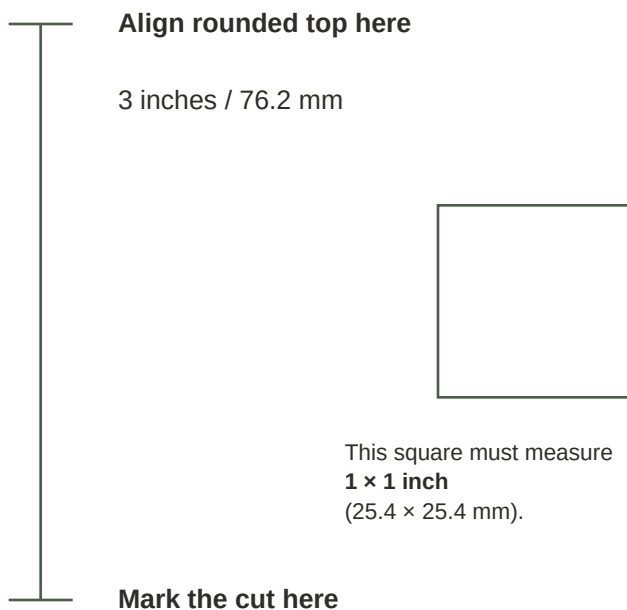
Test your post-to-base bond on a scrap first: tacky glue may not bond securely to every painted or plastic surface. Do not rely on the pickets alone to support the fence.

Mini tip: Add flowers, fallen leaves, or planting beds once the fence is dry and stable.

Your cutting reference

Print this page at **100% / Actual Size**. Measure the square below before using the height line. Turn off “Fit” or “Shrink oversized pages” for this measured page.

Place a rounded picket top at the upper mark. Mark and cut at the lower line for a 3-inch picket. This reference gives height only; use your own stirrer width as the spacer.



Mini tip: This is a cutting reference, not a template for picket width or panel length.

A little fence, lots of uses

Use your fence around a cottage garden, a vegetable patch, a dollhouse yard, or a seasonal display. Deb's Pumpkin Patch shows one way to make the same simple fence part of a busy miniature scene.

Before you finish

- Pickets are 3 inches long and have smooth cut ends.
- Gaps match the width of the spare picket.
- Rails stay parallel and joints are dry.
- Posts are vertical and firmly supported.
- Finish is dry and the entrance remains clear.

Print your booklet

The 12 pages are in reading order. For a folded half-letter booklet, use a PDF reader's **Booklet** setting on US Letter paper, both sides, left binding. Test the duplex flip direction with one sheet. Ordinary "two pages per sheet" does not arrange booklet pages correctly.

Important: booklet printing may scale pages slightly. Print the measured reference on page 11 separately at Actual Size if its test square is not exactly 1 inch. You can also read the booklet on screen and measure the wood directly.

Share your miniature fence with the Let's Make It Mini community. We'd love to see the yard or garden you create!

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