

Picket Fences

FINISHED SIZE: 45" x 60"

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DESIGNS



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I'm so happy to share with you another free pattern! Picket Fences is a crib quilt that is a perfect welcome home gift for the newest little one in your life. The canvas backing makes for a durable floor play mat, but this also makes a beautiful wall hanging. Either way, this quilt will be well loved by all.

Precut fabric make quick work of piecing this quilt top. The quilt is pieced in vertical columns made up of 5" squares (Charm Packs) and/or 2½" strips (Jelly Rolls). Then each vertical row is sewn together to complete the top.

A small amount of foundation paper piecing is used to create the tips of the picket fence, but don't worry if you don't do paper piecing! You can use the patterns as templates and piece this traditionally.



NOTE: Please read through all the instructions and diagrams before beginning your project.

Materials

- 3 Charm packs (or 126 total 5" squares) of your choice of prints
- 1 Jelly Roll (or 11 strips 2½" x 44") of white fabric
- ½ yard of fabric for the binding
- 2 yards of canvas Fabric 1 for the backing
- 2 yards of canvas Fabric 2 for the backing

Pattern Notes

- All seam allowances are ¼" unless otherwise noted.
- Press seam allowances to your preference unless otherwise noted.
- WOF = Width of Fabric (selvage to selvage)
- LOF = Length of Fabric (along the selvage edge)
- Accurate cutting and pressing produce the best results.
- This pattern assumes a general knowledge of paper piecing. If you need help with this technique, an excellent source is: [Learn how to paper piece.](#)

Cutting

WHITE SOLID: Select (11) strips.

1. Cut 8 strips 22½" in length to make 2½" x 22½" pieces. Use the remaining part of each strip for the 8 paper pieced fence tips.



2. From 3 strips, cut (18) 2½" x 5" pieces. You can get 8 pieces per strip.



PRINT CHARM PACKS

NOTE: You may want to remove any light-colored fabrics from the charm packs to ensure contrast between them and the white "fence".

1. Select 8 charms to be used with the paper pieced tips. Cut each charm in half to create (2) 2½" x 5" pieces. Keep the two halves together for use on the same fence tip.

2. Select between 16 and 32 charms to cut in half to create 2½" x 5" pieces. You need 32 half charms all together, but you may or may not want to repeat the fabrics you have cut to this size. Thus you can either choose 16 pieces or up to 32 pieces to cut in half.



3. Select 8 charms for the "post" rows. Cut each charm in half and then cut (8) 2¾" x 2½" pieces.
4. Select 72 charms to be used throughout the background.

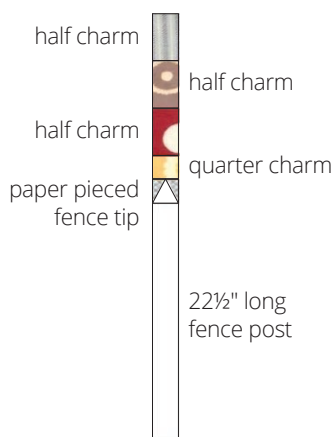
Piecing

1. The first thing you get to do is play with all of the pretty fabrics! Lay out your charm squares, half charm squares, and perhaps even some of your "fence" pieces to spread out the colors and patterns evenly throughout the background. There are nine vertical "rail" rows (which are 5" wide) and eight vertical "post" rows (which are only 2½" wide).

TIP: You can use this picture as a visual reference for where you are headed.



- Each “post” row is only 2½" wide and uses half charms, jelly roll strips, and the paper pieced fence tip.



- Each “rail” row is made up of (from top to bottom): 5 charms followed by a “rail”, then two more charms, another “rail”, and a single charm at the bottom.



As you can see below, I just put my fabric out all over the floor and tried to evenly distribute the colors and fabrics. You will be using both of your full-sized charm packs (for the rail rows) and your half charms (for the post rows).



TIP: Things can get confusing very quickly, so I find it helpful to label each row. Use whatever system works best for you, but I just grab some generic plain labels and stick them on. Don't put the labels where they could get caught in the seam allowance! This way you can keep the labels on while you sew the pieces together and remove them when you need to.)



- Begin piecing by sewing together each “rail” row. Press all the seams in one direction from the bottom to the top of the row.



Sew the Fence Tips

1. Print 2 copies of page 8 that has 4 fence post tip paper piecing templates. This is a very simple paper pieced pattern. If you are not familiar with paper piecing, you can also make your own templates. Simply print out 1 page of the templates, cut out each shape and then add a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance on each side of pieces 1, 2, and 3.



Piece 1 is the fence itself and should be the white solid fabric. Pieces 2 and 3 are two halves of a charm as chosen earlier. Piece 4 is a "quarter" charm (or more accurately $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ ").

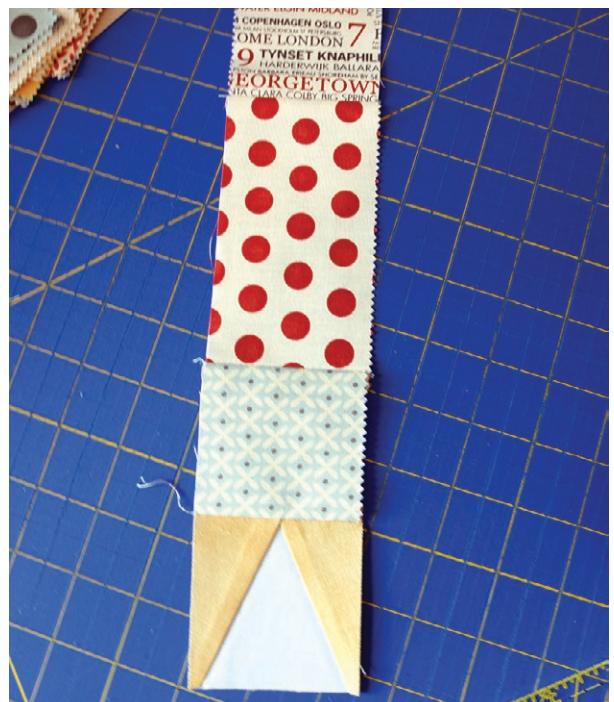
1. Use the pattern to sew the white fabric to the paper and surround it on either side with the two matching half charms.



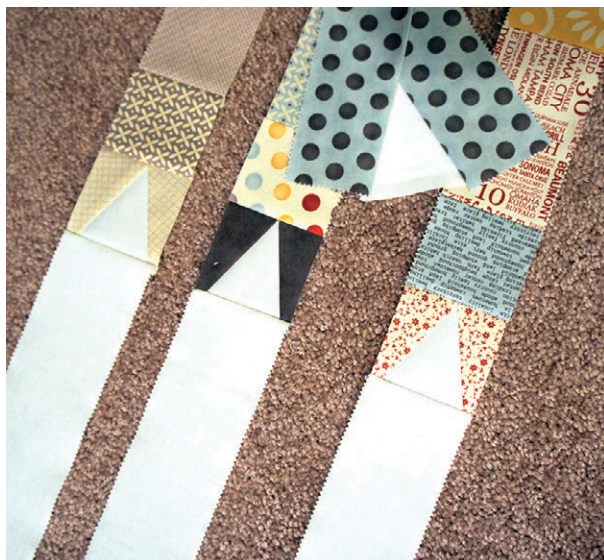
2. Sew the upper half of the post row to the paper pieced fence tip, connecting the fence tip to the background fabric. Remove the paper.



Here is a view of the upper half of the "post" row from the front.



3. Sew each upper "post" row to one of the 22½" long pieces of the white solid fabric. The rows may look a little odd at first because of the extra ¼" fabric on either side of the fence tip. But you want this! That is your seam allowance for when you sew a "post" row to a "rail" row.



Assemble the Quilt Top

1. Begin to sew each of your "post" and "rail" vertical rows together in order to create the quilt top. Pin together at each matching seam and as needed to help keep your fabrics together.



2. Sew Row 1 (a rail row) to Row 2 (a post row) and press the seam allowance toward Row 2. Then sew these two rows to Row 3 and so on.



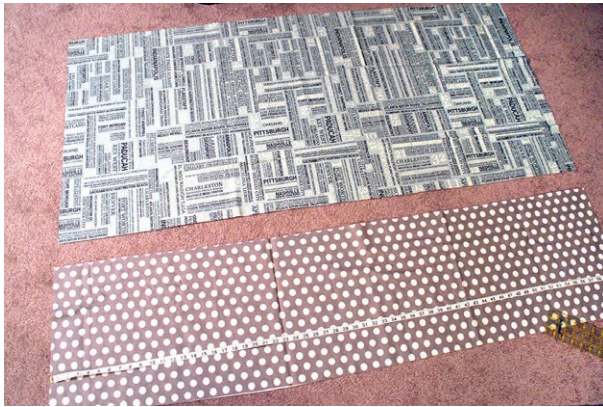
3. Your quilt top will begin to come together. Soon you will be able to see a fence, piece by piece.



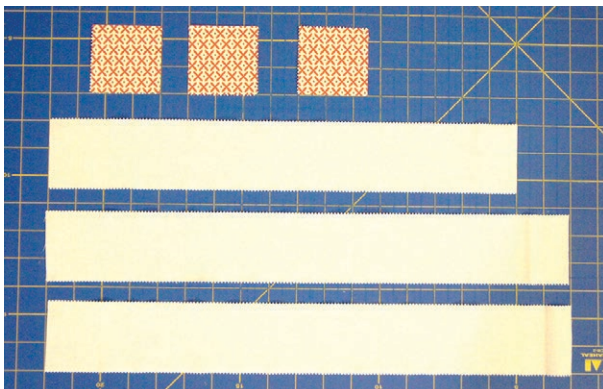
Sew the Backing

The backing of a quilt is always a bit larger than the quilt top to allow for some shifting during the quilting process. This back is no exception.

1. From the two yard lengths of canvas, cut an 18" wide piece of the grey polka dot and a 33" wide piece of the town print.



2. Using some of the left over fabric from the jelly rolls and a single charm, create a strip to go between the two canvas prints. Cut the charm into fourths and use three of the pieces spread evenly between lengths of white solid. Then sew this pieced strip in between the two canvas prints, creating one backing.



Finish the Quilt

1. Use your favorite basting method to baste together the backing, batting and quilt top. I chose to use a low loft cotton batting.
2. Quilt as desired. I echo quilted the fence posts with straight line quilting. Then I used free motion quilting to create a horizontal "wind" effect on the top half of the quilt and a vertical "grass" effect on the bottom half of the quilt.



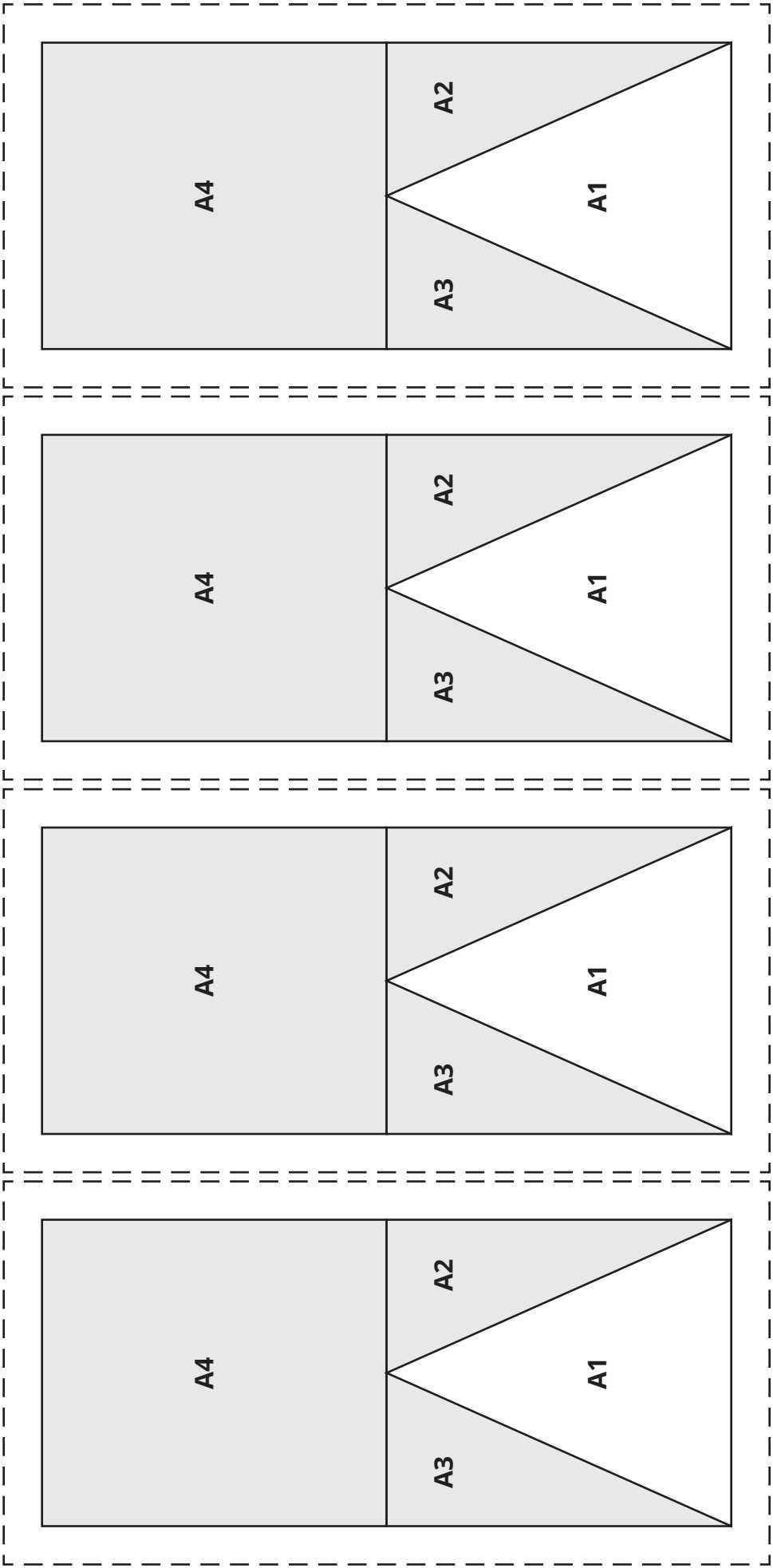
3. Bind your quilt using (5) 2½" wide strips sewn together on the bias end-to-end. Fold the binding in half along the length and stitch the raw edges to the edge of the front of the quilt. Then flip the folded edge to the back of the quilt and hand sew in place.



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Print 2 copies of this page for the fence tips block.



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