A courtyard is a great way to soften the architecture of a house and add visual interest to the front of a home. Customize your fence with an arch to set it apart from the average picket fence. A courtyards is a unique spot creating intrigue and is partially hidden from the street.

**TOOLS & MATERIALS**

- (2) exterior-grade 6x6 posts
- (9) fence pickets (per fence section)
- string
- (2) 2" x 8" sanded plywood
- exterior paint
- paintbrush
- 1x2 board
- (for spacing)
- exterior screws
- water
- (1-2) bags concrete
- 1x1 board
- (for supports)
- miter saw
- measuring tape
- pencil
- speed square
- circular saw
- post hole digger
- shovel
- bucket
- jigsaw
- level
- drill
- nails
- hammer

**STEP 1**

Dig post holes for fence posts 48" apart. The depth should be roughly 1/4 of the fence post height to create a strong base.

**STEP 2**

Set already painted posts in holes and put 1-2 bags of dry quikrete around the base of the poles and pour water around poles to activate quikrete. Ensure posts are straight using a post level. Let concrete set.

**STEP 3**

After the posts have set, tack a nail into both posts at the same height. Use a string loosely hung on either nail to determine your desired arch. To have a more pronounced arch, let the string hang lower between the posts. For a more shallow arch, use a shorter amount of string. Once the arch shape has been decided, trace the line of the string onto the plywood. This will create the arch brace of the fence.

**STEP 4**

Cut the arch out from the exterior plywood using a jigsaw.

**STEP 5**

Arrange the pickets for the fence section on the work surface and working from the outside pickets, drop each picket down 3" to create an arch in the pickets as well. Mark the lines with a speed square and cut with the miter saw.

**STEP 6**

To ensure full paint coverage of the fence to protect it from the elements, paint before you assemble the fence.

**STEP 7**

Attach the pickets to the arch with a drill and exterior screws. An easy way to ensure spacing is correct between the pickets is to use a 1x2 in between.

**STEP 8**

Add a bottom brace of a 1x6 to the pickets for support. The overhang of the board will toe into the 1x1 on the posts.

**STEP 9**

Take the entire fence panel to the posts and use the 1x1 nailers and nail gun to attach the panel to the posts. Make sure the brace and arch are facing toward the street to get the biggest impact for your curb appeal.

**STEP 10**

Finally, an easy way to add a decorative top is to use a 1 x 8 cut into a square (7 1/4" x 7 1/4") it will over hang all four sizes of the post equally for a finished look.

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