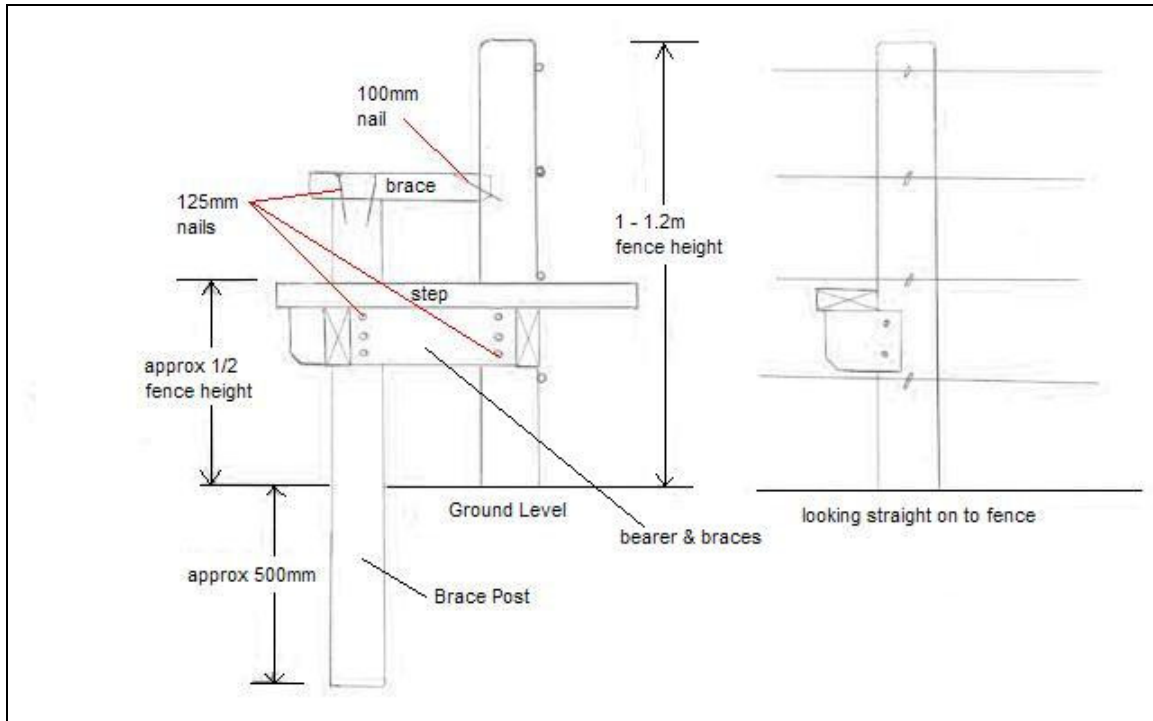


Plans for a simple stile

The beauty of this stile design is that it's easily prefabricated out of H3 treated rough sawn 150 x 50 timber – and you'll usually be able to find offcuts to suit from any post & rail or retaining wall jobs you've done. It attaches easily to an existing fence post. A second (shorter) fence post is set back 200-300mm from the fence line as a brace or anchor for the step. This second post can be hand dug into place – 500mm deep is usually fine for most soil types. The stile is made up of 5 pieces of 150x50 timber and is attached to both posts with a combination of 100x4.0mm and 125x5.3mm flat head galvanised nails.



Construction is simple, see following pages for photos of all the components and a materials list:

- dig in brace post at right angles to fenceline – 200-300mm behind your selected fencepost
- nail sides to bearer, then nail bearer to fencepost & brace post (using 125mm flat head nails). Use spirit level to set dead horizontal – remember to set the bearer 50mm lower to allow for the thickness of step board.
- Nail step onto bearer (hard up against both posts with one end projecting through fence as a step by approx 150-250mm) – use 100mm flat head galv nails to secure well to bearer.
- Fit brace – trim end of brace board that fits to fence line post to a taper – mark fencepost and chisel a notch 20-30mm deep into post to receive the tapered end of the brace. Fit brace into notch, skew nail with a 100mm galv nail and skew nail the brace board to the brace post with 3 or 4 125mm flat head galv nails.
- Use a rasp or plane to take any sharp edges off the finished stile.
- If the stile is going in a damp or shady area, a bit of chook wire tacked onto the step board with 30mm staples will deal with the slippery step problems.

Timber required (all 150x50mm):

Rough sawn timber is best because it isn't so slippery underfoot.

- Step – 800 - 900mm long
- Step bearer – 550mm long
- Brace board – 450mm long – notch into fencepost with chisel
- Bearer sides – 1 @ 95mm long (at the brace post end), 1 @ 210mm long (160mm long + 50mm for the 45 degree bevel) - (at the fence post end)

Tools required:

- Handsaw or circular saw
- Set square & tape measure
- Hammer & 100mm + 125mm flat head galv nails.
- Spirit level
- Spade/hand rammer, hole digging equipment
- Rasp or plane

Trimming the corners of the step & brace to 45 degree angles softens the look of the stile & also makes it more pedestrian friendly (easier on the legs if you bump into it).



