Step 1: Post/Pillar Installation and Location
If your project includes a gate attached to the AB Courtyard Post/Pillar, use the strengthening techniques described in How-To-Sheet #140. By gluing each course together with masonry adhesive and using a concrete pile, the individual block units will act as a solid structure to resist the weight of the swinging gate. Start your project by knowing the width of your finished gate/railing so that you can build your Post/Pillar the correct distance apart. If you are using a premade gate/railing it will be difficult to modify if you have built your posts too far apart or too close together.

Step 2: Marking Location
To attach the gate/railing to the post/pillar use the typically provided mounting hardware or commonly used masonry/concrete anchor bolts such as wedge or lag - both are found at any big box or local hardware store. Start by carefully positioning your bottom hinge or bracket and mark the location where the holes will be drilled. It is important to place the bottom bracket for a railing at the proper height and that's level, and for a hinge, so it allows a gate to swing unimpeded.

Step 3: Drilling
The hardware being used will determine the drill bit and anchor size. Using a standard drill or a hammer drill for easier drilling with a masonry bit, drill the holes the depth of the bolts. Tap in anchors and mount your lower hinge or brackets.

Step 4: Attaching Hardware
Once the lower hinge/bracket hardware is mounted, carefully hang the gate/railing and brace it in place so that it is in a finished plumb position to determine the exact location for the upper hardware. (Plumb – to be vertical so the finished gate will not swing open or close by itself). With the gate/railing temporarily in place, position the upper hardware in it’s final position and mark the next set of holes to be drilled.

Using the same technique, drill the holes and mount the upper hardware and hang your gate/railing. To finish the gate, then use these same techniques to easily mount the latch hardware on the opposite post.

If installing a railing which is attaching to a cap below for the lower hardware, ensure cap is secured down with masonry adhesive.

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