




Getting Started in Beekeeping

Clothing
Equipment
Hive
Bees


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Beesuits



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Gloves



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Clothing

- Beesuit
 - Overalls
 - Jacket
 - Washable
 - Throw back veil!
- Wellies
- Gloves
 - Washable
 - Sensitive




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Essential Tools

- Hive tool
 - J or Spade
- Wedges?
- Smoker
 - Design
 - Fuel & Lighting
- Ancillary equipment
 - Box of matches
 - Marking Pen
 - Queen Cage
 - Tweezers




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Hive Tool

- Should try to work with your hive tool always in your hand – saves putting it down and losing it, always there for moving frames, scraping etc, and actually not difficult to manipulate the frames with tool in your hand.
- Standard has chamfered flat end and curved over at other, I use this to separate frames once the first frame has been lifted out.
- J shaped end of the other type can be used to lift lug of frame off runners,
- Flat end of both used to separate boxes, and to scrape propolis and wax from top bars, excluders and boxes.



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Hive Tool in Use

Two photographs showing a person using a hive tool to work with wooden frames in a beehive. The left photo shows the tool being used to lift a frame, while the right photo shows the frame being pulled away.

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Smokers

A diagram of a smoker with labels for its parts: Mouth, Mouth cap, Mouth to cap joint, Mouth to cap seal, Mouth cap, Mouth cap gasket, Mouth cap seal, Mouth cap, Mouth cap gasket, Mouth cap seal, Mouth cap.

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Smoker Fuel

hessian

cardboard

rotten wood

wood shavings

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Modern beehive designs

- **Modified National**
- **Modified Commercial**
- **Deep National**
- **Langstroth**
- WBC
- Smith
- Beehaus/ Dartington
- +++




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Commonly used Hives




national hive




WBC hive



poly hive



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Modern beehives











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Hive components

- ROOF
- CROWN BOARD
- SUPER 2
- SUPER 1
- QUEEN EXCLUDER
- BROOD CHAMBER 2
- BROOD CHAMBER 1
- FLOOR
- STAND/LIGHTING BOARD

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Hive stands

- Keep hive off ground
- Frames at convenient height
- Sturdy
- Space to hold frame or two

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Floor

- Base of the Hive
- Open Mesh
- Entrance to hive
- Mouse proof /predator proof
- Adjustable width

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Open Mesh Floor




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Brood Chamber

- Hold brood frames
- Many designs and volumes
- Top bee space/bottom bee space
- Multiple boxes?
- Waterproof
- Accurate dimensions
- Bee proof

Hive type	Brood cells
National/Smith	57000
Commercial	74000
Langstroth	72000
Deep National	78000
WBC	52000
Dartington/Beehaus	78000+


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Bee space

6-8 mm

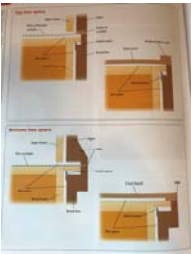
- Is between honeycomb and sides of cavity
- Allows bees to walk through gaps
- Is big enough for bees to work
- Bee space = 12-14 mm in brood area to allow workers to pass back to back
- Smaller gaps – filled with propolis
- Bigger gaps – filled with comb





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Bee Space





From Haynes Bee Manual



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Queen Excluders

- Framed and unframed
- Accurate mesh
 - Workers OK
 - Queen & Drones cannot pass
- Steel, zinc, plastic

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Supers

- Nectar / honey storage
- Extra volume for adult workers
- Holds standard frames
- Same external cross section as brood chamber
- Most common in UK
 - Modified National shallows
- Heavy when full
- Can be stacked




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Crown Board

- Identifies the top of the hive
- Board to seal hive top
 - Sometimes has a ventilation hole
 - Sometimes doubles as a 'clearer' board
- Preserves bee space inside the hive
- Supports feeders
- Can be covered in winter with a 'quilt' to preserve heat from colony



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Roof

- Waterproof
- Keeps hive weatherproof
- Often has metal sheet on top
- Fits over top of hive
- Prevented from blowing off hive

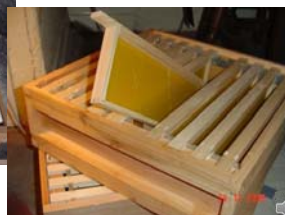


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Frames & Foundation



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Frame with correct position of pins

Punch Position of pins are marked by arrows Small hammer

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Frames

- Correct manufacture
- Source of disease
- Replace brood frames frequently
 - Every 2 - 3 years
- Hold correctly when inspecting colony

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Making Frames

Just hover the cursor over the blank screen and the start arrow should appear at the bottom of the slide

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Don't Forget!

- Record book
- Mobile phone
- Washing soda solution
- Bucket for debris
- Uncapping fork



Queen Bee Marking Color Chart
 Years Ending in 0 or 5: Blue
 Years Ending in 1 or 6: White
 Years Ending in 2 or 7: Yellow
 Years Ending in 3 or 8: Red
 Years Ending in 4 or 9: Green











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Hive records


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Getting Your Bees



nucleus – mail order





package – mail order



swarm


nucleus or full colony from **local** beekeeper or local Association



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Swarms




a swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay
a swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon
a swarm of bees in July isn't worth a fly




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Collecting a Swarm in a Skep





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And Finally

- Hive types, hive parts, frame sizes, smoker fuel, bee space, nucs and colonies – what do I need to remember?



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