

Swarm Trap Instructions

1. When colonies are strong, usually sometime in May, depending on latitude, inspect the brood chamber and remove all queen cells. At the same time bruising or cutting out any drone comb containing eggs or brood. The purpose of this is to reduce the amount of drones that would inevitably be caught in the trap.
2. Clip the trap onto the entrance of the hive using the screws provided, ensuring the alighting board of the trap is flush with the floorboard of the hive AND the outer door is open. This can remain open for the next six days. Worker bees quickly get used to the trap and come and go as per normal. Drones can leave the hive but cannot return.
3. On the seventh and following days the outer door must be closed before 10.00am and if no swarm is captured, opened again at 3.00pm or later the same day.
4. If a swarm has occurred it will be hanging on the front of the trap with the queen secure inside.
5. The colony and trap at this stage is moved onto another stand and floor at least one metre away. Place an empty brood box with combs onto the parent colony floor and stand, unclip the trap and shake off the swarm into the new brood box. Open the trap and shake out any remaining bees, including the queen!
6. The honey supers are then taken from the parent colony and placed on top of the queen excluder on the new brood box.
7. It is prudent at this stage to then inspect the parent colony brood box for excess queen cells, cutting out all but one.
8. No further inspections for queen cells from either colony will be required this season and the trap can be removed.
9. if an increase in colony numbers is not required, the brood box from the parent colony and the new hive may be united at the end of the season.
10. To achieve 9, inspect the new colony, find and remove the queen. Remove supers from the parent colony and place two sheets of newspaper on top of the queen excluder. Putting the brood box from the new colony on top, then a super of honey above this (winter stores). The bees will slowly remove the layers of newspaper and happily unite. In the following spring the top brood box may be removed.



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