

CONGRATULATIONS ON BUYING A BEES ON A BUDGET W.B.C. BEEHIVE

Thornes are committed to providing excellent quality beekeeping equipment. We have been making beehives for over 100 years now and are in our third, fourth and fifth generations. Many of our staff are enthusiastic beekeepers with years of knowledge and experience in the industry. All our full size hives are made from Canadian Western Red Cedar and the Budget range usually from British Western Red Cedar. Whilst Cedar does not require preservative, having its own camphor type oils, we recommend the use of an insecticide free Wood Paint, especially designed for beehives. As an alternative, you can use exterior oil. Whether treated or not, your new Thorne beehive should give you many years of trouble-free service.

We also have a dedicated email address if you need help or advice, specifically with beekeeping. Please email beekeeper@thorne.co.uk.

PART LIST FOR THORNE'S BUDGET W.B.C. BEEHIVE

The complete W.B.C. beehive comprises of:

- Solid Floor and Entrance Slides
- Cavity Lath
- Brood Body
- 10 x DN4 frames with standard wired foundation
- Dummy board
- Slotted Steel Queen Excluder
- 2 x Supers
- 22 x SN4 frames with standard wired foundation
- 3 x pairs of runners
- Crownboard with two porter bee escapes
- 3 x Lifts (1 x with porch)
- Plastic cone escapes and brass name plate
- Gabled roof
- All nails, screws, pins and glue

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

We have a YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/thornebeehives

This shows videos on how to assemble your beehive as well as many other useful videos.

Our website is also full of hints tips and PDF documents on how to assemble each part of your beehive. You can find them at: www.thorne.co.uk/assembly-instructions

REMEMBER DO NOT GLUE OR NAIL ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARE SURE THE HIVE PART HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER CORRECTLY.

E.H. THORNE (Beehives) Ltd.

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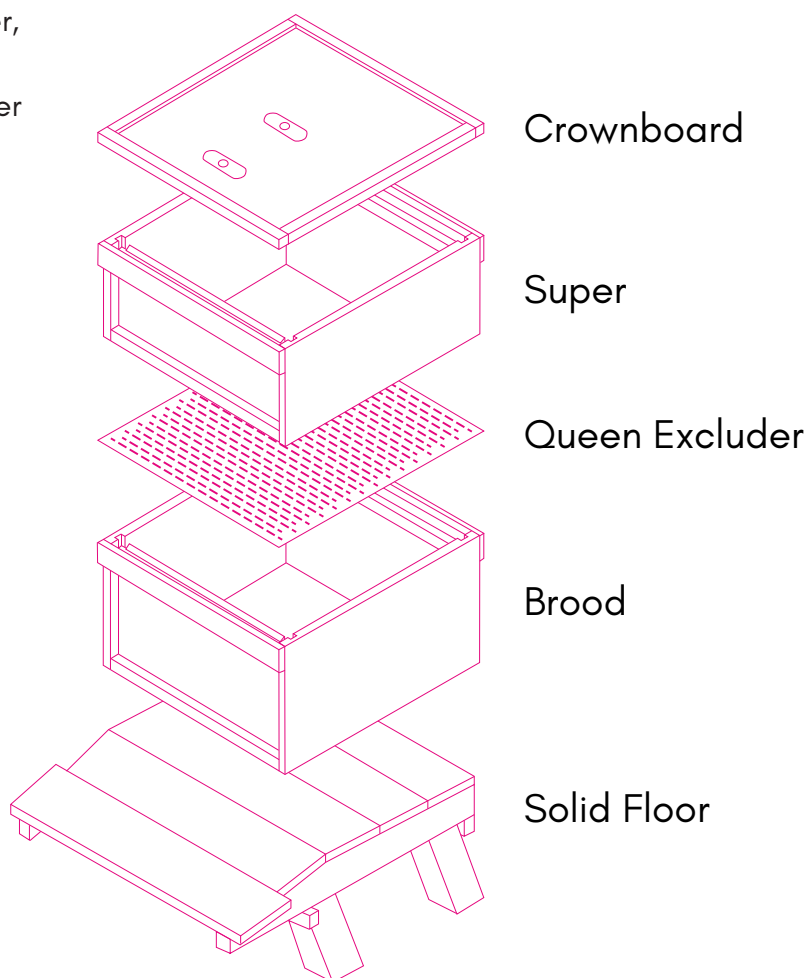
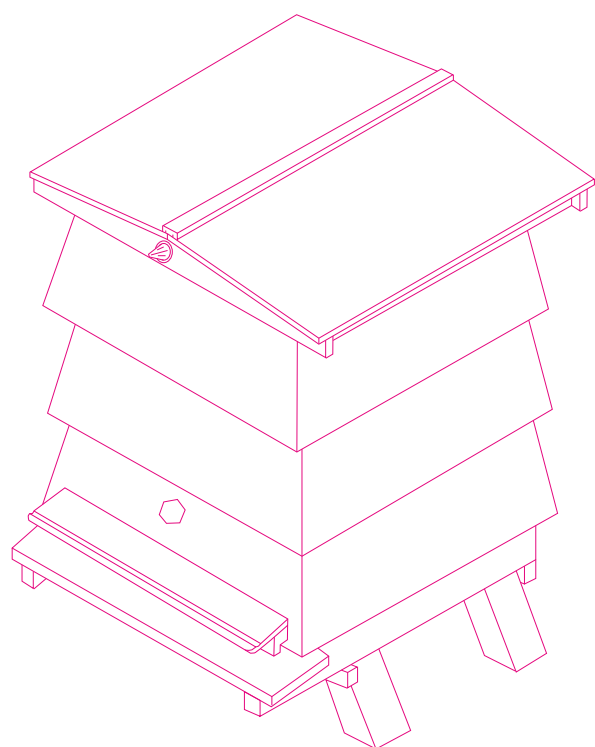


BEES ON A BUDGET W.B.C. BEEHIVE

WHAT BIT GOES WHERE IN THE HIVE?

Once all the hive parts have been assembled, the hive can be put together as follows:

The solid floor with legs, brood, queen excluder, super/s and crownboard go together on top of each other as shown here. Then the lifts go over these, first the one with the porch, then two more, and your roof on top.



We also have a YouTube video demonstrating this. Follow this link <https://youtu.be/u43U0yInD74> or snap the QR code.



If you do have any queries about assembling your hive or beekeeping in general please call us on 01673 858555 or email beekeeper@thorne.co.uk

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BEES ON A BUDGET W.B.C. BEEHIVE

WHERE TO GET YOUR FIRST COLONY

There are several ways to get your first colony of bees. Local beekeepers can provide bees which will be well adapted to the area and they should make sure they are reasonable to handle and free from disease. Commercial breeders and equipment suppliers select for yield and docility and will also take care to ensure that colonies are free from disease. In either case, it is recommended that you start with a nucleus (a small colony with 6 frames of bees). Because it is small, there are fewer bees and it is easier to manage. As it grows during the season, so should your confidence. You can purchase bees on our website here: www.thorne.co.uk/bees

If you are offered a swarm to start beekeeping, you should treat them with caution. Swarms can carry disease and may have poor temperament.

CHOOSING AN APIARY SITE

Most beekeepers keep a few hives 'at the bottom of the garden'. This may be convenient for the beekeeper but might not be the best place for the bees. Factors worth considering when choosing an apiary site:

- Is there sufficient forage to support the bees and produce a surplus?
- Is the location adjacent to a public thoroughfare?
- Is the site protected from the prevailing wind, frost and flooding?
- Is the site easily accessible at all times?
- Is there an adequate supply of water close by?
- Is there sufficient space for expansion?

INSTALLING BEES IN YOUR NEW HIVE

1. Prepare the site and make sure all hive parts are ready for the bees.
2. Place the travelling box (that the bees came in) onto the floor with the entrance facing in the desired direction and remove the entrance seal. Leave the box for at least 24 hours for the bees to settle to their new location.
3. Choose a fine, warm day to transfer the bees to their new hive. Light your smoker and put on your protective clothing.
4. Move the box with the bees to the side. Place the floor and brood body from your new hive onto the stand. Any flying bees will start to return to the original site and will go into the hive.
5. Remove the lid from the travelling box. Smoke gently. Check the bees on the underside of the lid in case the queen is there (unlikely but possible) and then shake the bees off the lid into the new hive. Place the lid to one side.
6. Remove a frame from one side of the travelling box, taking care to avoid crushing bees. Put the frame into the new hive at one side. Remove each of the remaining frames from the box and transfer them into the hive. Keep the frames in the same order and orientation. It is best to transfer the six frames into the centre of the brood body.
7. Once all the frames have been transferred, give the travelling box a sharp shake over the hive to transfer any bees remaining in the box to the hive. Place frames with foundation either side of the frames with bees, filling the hive with a dummy board at one side and then put the crownboard in place.
8. Feed the bees a sugar water syrup 1kg sugar to 1litre water using a feeder on top of the hive. The colony will have to draw out the foundation into complete honeycombs which can then be used for brood rearing or food storage.

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FIRST YEAR – SEASONAL GUIDE

January – Check mouseguards are still in place and that there is ventilation. Check for woodpecker damage. Check on stored combs for wax moth. Pay subscription to local Beekeepers Association. Look for details on our winter sale.

February – Carry out repairs before season starts. Heft the hives to check for stores and give them fondant (not syrup) if they are short.

March – Remove mouseguards. Continue checking for stores. Watch for early pollen being gathered and feed pollen pattie if scarce. If warm enough, feed 1:1 sugar syrup.

April – First full inspection, check for worker brood, eggs and young larvae. Do a disease inspection. Mark queen. Remove old combs and replace with foundation. Put supers on hives before honey flow.

May – Monitor varroa levels and apply control methods as necessary to reduce mite numbers. Begin swarm control inspections and carry out control. Extract oil seed rape honey.

June – Check colonies do not get hungry during 'June Gap'. Feed if necessary. Continue varroa monitoring.

July – Usually height of honey flow. Put on supers. Harvest the crop.

August – Speak to local association about coordinating varroa treatment.

September – Feed each colony with strong syrup (2 parts sugar to 1-part water). Do a disease inspection.

October – Check colony is ready for winter with a good queen, plenty of young workers, good health and plenty of stores. Ensure hives are weathertight. Fit mouseguards.

November – Protect stored combs against wax moth by fumigating with Sulphur strips.

December – Put your feet up and read a beekeeping book. Try candlemaking for Christmas. Heft colonies to check for weight and feed fondant if necessary. Treat with oxalic acid when colonies are broodless.

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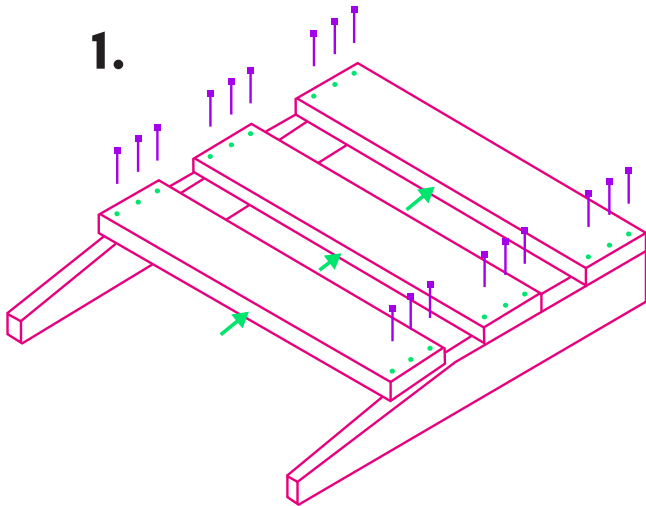
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ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

BUDGET W.B.C. FLOOR

Included: 5 x Floorboards, 2 x Joists, 2 x Wedges, 2 x Stays, 4 x Legs, Glue, 14 x 1" Nails, 38 x 1½" Nails, 2 x 2" Nails, 8 x Screws

Tools needed: Hammer, Punch/Rampin, Set Square, Drill, Electric Screwdriver, Tape Measure, Pencil



1A. For this first step you will need 18 x 1½" nails, the 2 joists and the 3 smaller floorboards.

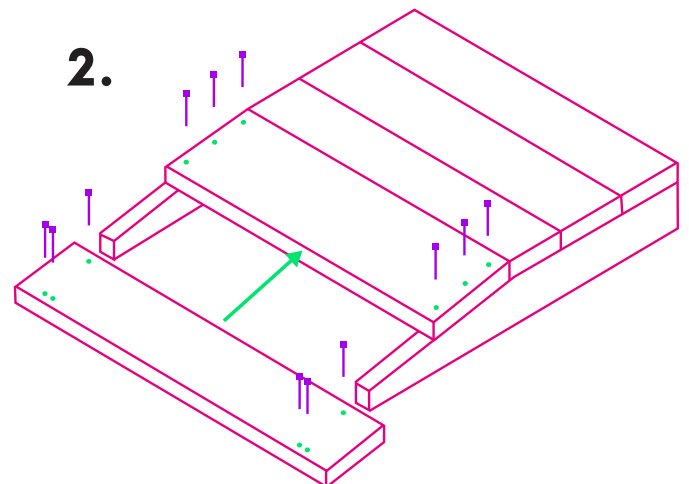
1B. Start by placing the joists on a flat surface, as pictured, and apply glue along the top of the joist. Starting at the higher end, and place on the first floorboard. Nail in your first nail on each side and make sure everything is square before continuing. Once you are sure it is square, carry on nailing so you have a total of 3 nails in each side of your first floorboard.

1C. Move onto the next floorboard, making sure you apply glue to the joist **and** the floorboard you have just attached that this one will butt up to. Nail in 3 nails on each end of the floorboard. Repeat this one more time for the third floorboard.

2A. This next step requires the 2 remaining floorboards. You will also need another 8 x 1½" nails and 4 x 1" nails.

2B. Starting with the narrower floorboard, one edge will be beveled, this beveled edge will butt up to the last board you attached to the joists. Glue and nail in place as with the previous 3 boards.

2C. The last board you are left with will be wider than the others. Make sure you leave equal over hang either side and nail as shown in diagram. 1 x 1½" nail either side at the top, and then 2 x 1" nails to attached the board to the end of the joist underneath.



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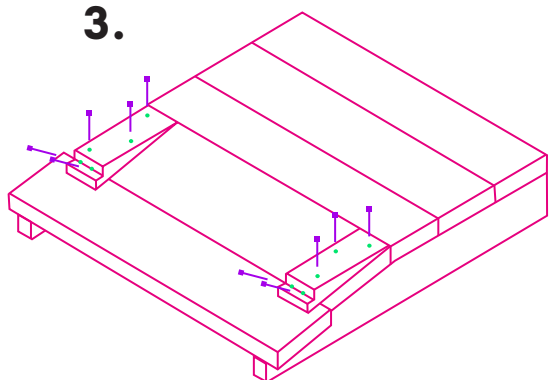
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BUDGET W.B.C. FLOOR *continued...*

3.



3A. You will need the 2 wedges, 10 x 1" nails and a rampin or nail punch also.

3B. Line up the wedges as shown in the diagram making sure they are the right way round and flush with the joint between the third and fourth board. Glue, then nail 3 nails in the top of each wedge, making sure not to hit nails you have already inserted, and that the nails do not protrude on the underneath.

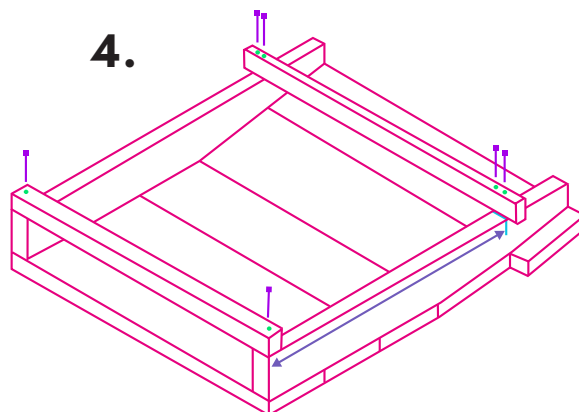
3C. Then nail 2 nails into each the rebates as show in the diagram. This is easily done with a rampin, or part nail in with a hammer and finish with a punch.

4A. For this step you will need the 2 stays, 4 x 1½" nails and 2 x 2" nails.

4B. Measure from the back of the floor along the joist 18" (457mm) and mark on both joists. Line up the longer, rectangular stay with these marks and glue and nail into place with 2 x 1½" on each, positioned so overhang lines up with wider floorboard below.

4C. Glue and nail the shorter, square stay at the back, in line with the end of the joists, 1 x 2" nail in each end.

4.

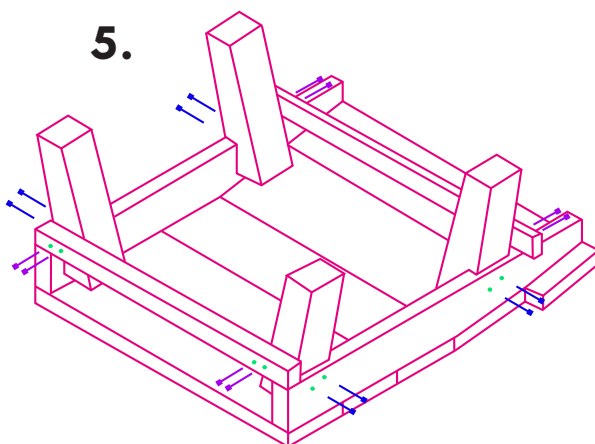


5A. This last step requires 4 x legs, 8 x 1½" nails and 8 x screws.

5B. Now you have your stays in place, each leg should slot into the corners. Use 2 screws to attached each leg, it might be easier to pre-drill the holes in the joist.

5C. Once the legs are screwed in place, nails 2 x 1½" nails through the stays and into the legs as show in the diagram.

5.



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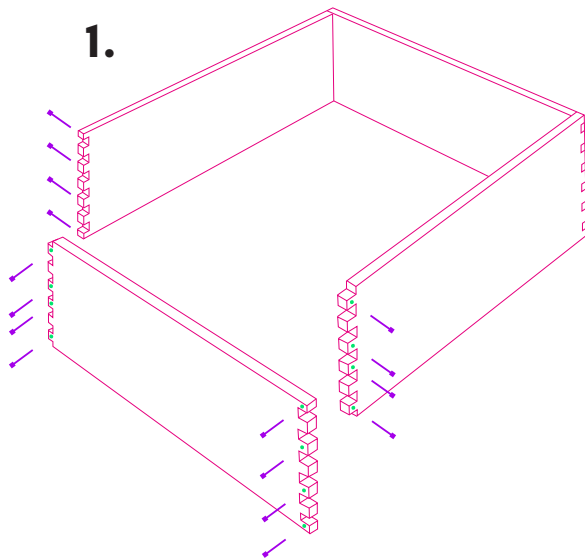
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ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

BUDGET W.B.C. LIFT & PORCH

Included: 4 x Walls, 4 x Laths, 1 x Porch, 1 x Porch Roof, Thorne Name Plate, Glue, 20 x 1" Nails, 35 x 1½" Nails, 3 x Screws, 6 x Brass Pins

Tools needed: Hammer, Set Square, Electric Screwdriver

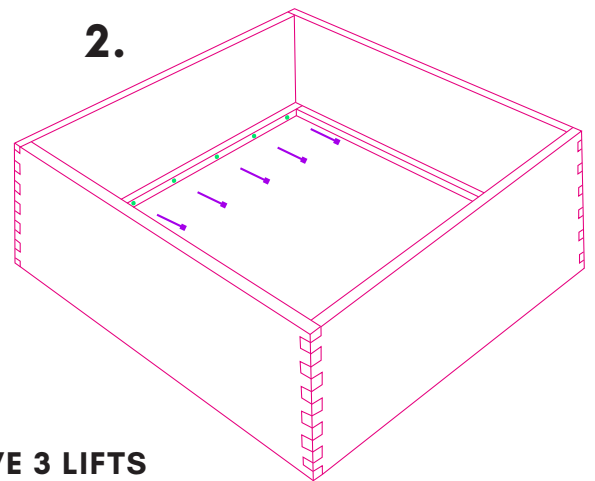


1A. For this first step you will need 32 x 1½" nails and 4 x walls. The walls will all have a slope to them with bevelled top and bottom edges. Make sure you have these the right way round so they are sloping in toward the top of the lift and thus ensuring the tops and bottoms are horizontal.

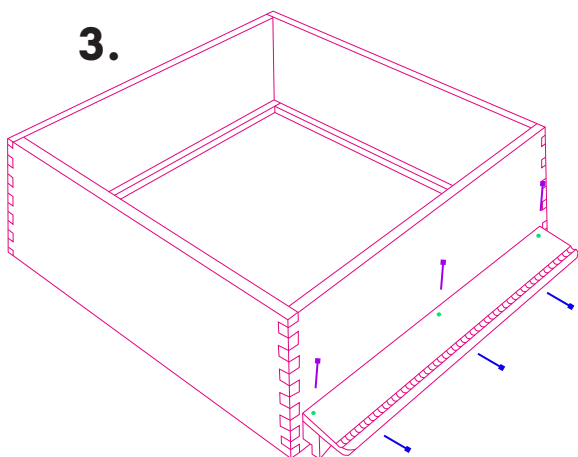
2B. Slot the walls together and nail into place with 8 x 1½" nails on each corner in the configuration shown in the diagram.

CHECK THE BOX IS SQUARE BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT STEP.

2. Next you will need 20 x 1" nails and 4 x laths. These laths should be nailed inside the lift, a lath depth (½") up from bottom of the lift wall. You can use one of the laths as a guide. Tuck the first lath into one of the corners, so that the next lath can tuck into that one, and so on round the inside of the lift. Nail these in place with 5 x 1" nails per lath.



REPEAT STEPS 1 AND 2 UNTIL YOU HAVE 3 LIFTS



3A. Lastly, you will add the porch and porch roof to one of the lifts. You will need both parts of the porch, 3 x screws and 3 x 1½" nails. Start with your lift on a flat surface, line up the porch flat in line with the bottom of the lift, so it is centered, and screw into place.

3B. Next take the porch roof piece, so that the rain channel is facing up, place onto the porch so it is in line with it and butt up to the wall of the lift, and nail into place with 3 x 1½" nails.

3C. Finish off the lift and porch with the Thorne name plates, fixing it with 6 x brass pins.

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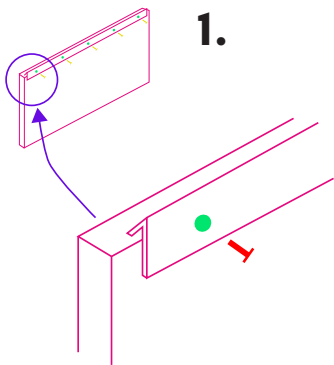
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ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

BUDGET W.B.C. BROOD OR SUPER

Included: 2 x Outer Walls, 2 x Inner Walls, 4 x Square Laths, 2 x Rectangular Laths, 2 x Runners, Glue, 10 x Brass Pins, 26 x 1" Nails, 28 x 1½" Nails

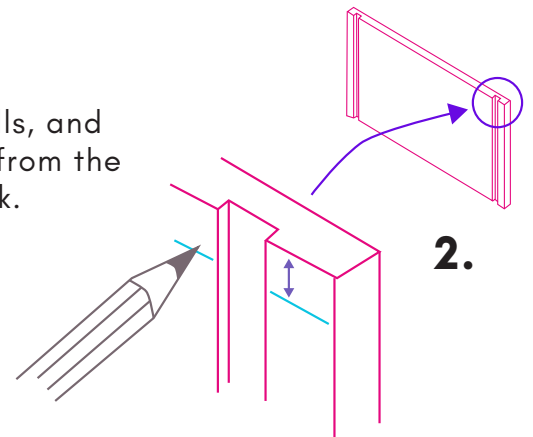
Tools needed: Hammer, Set Square, Tape Measure, Pencil



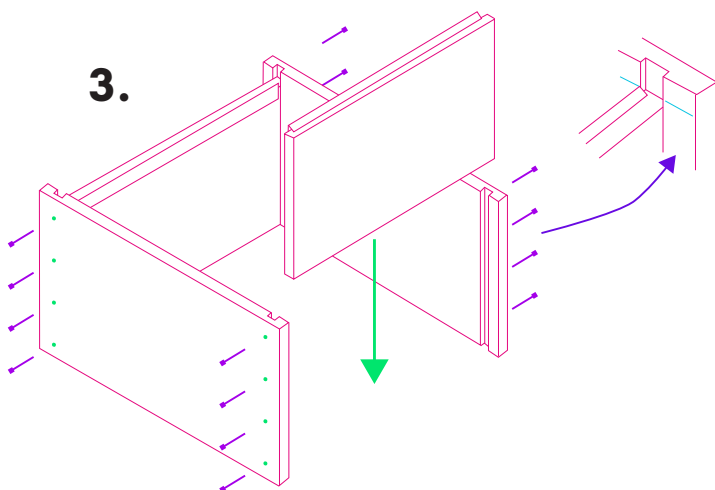
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1. Firstly you need 2 x runners, 10 x pins and 2 x inner walls. The inner walls are the smaller ones without the grooves. Attach one runner to each wall along one of the longer sides, like shown in the diagram, using 5 x pins per runner.

2. Next, take 2 x outside walls, and measure 7/16" (11mm) down from the top of each groove and mark.



2.



3.

3A. For this step you will need 16 x 1½" nails and all 4 walls. Run a line of glue down the grooves and attach the inner walls to the outer walls, making sure the **top** of the runners line up with the marks you made in step 2.

3B. Fix these together by nailing through the outer wall, into the end of inner wall, with 1½" nails. Use 4 nails per corner on the brood, and 3 nails for a super.

CHECK THE BOX IS SQUARE BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT STEP.

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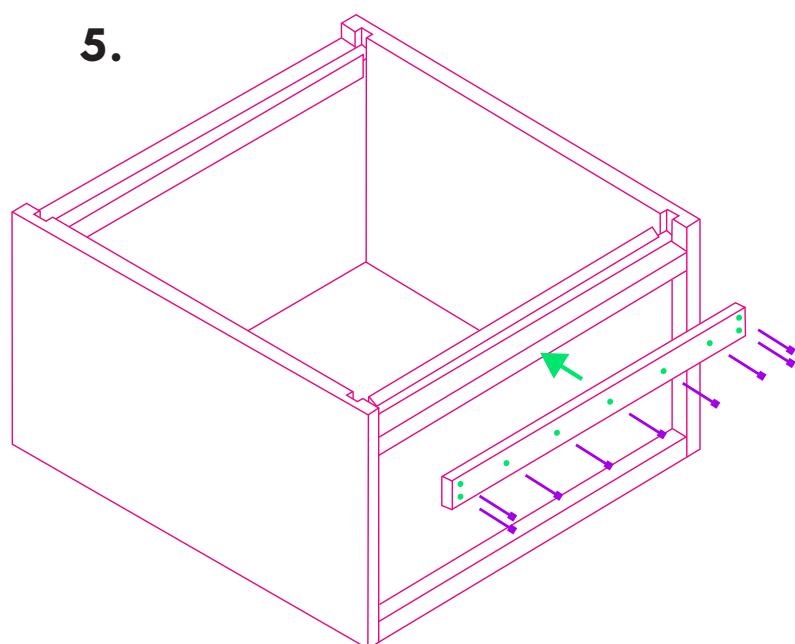
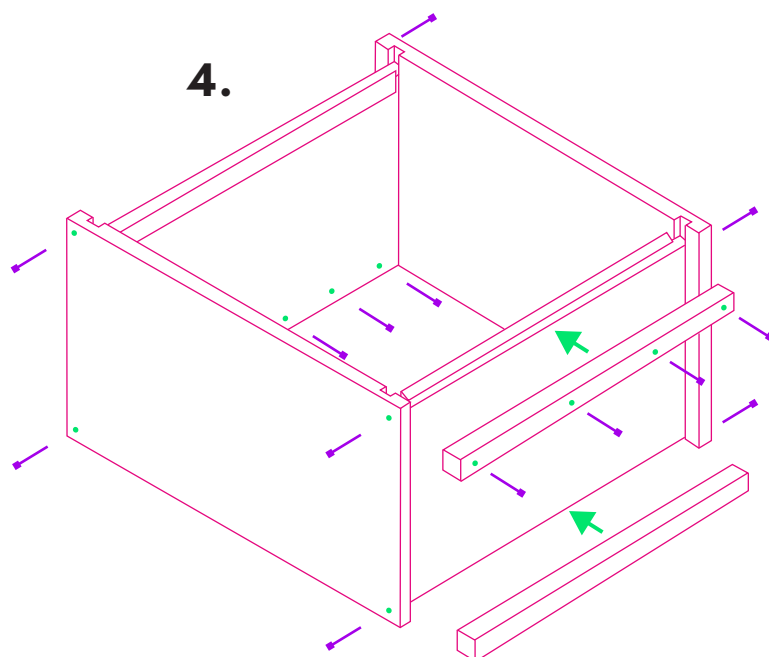
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BUDGET W.B.C. BROOD OR SUPER *continued...*

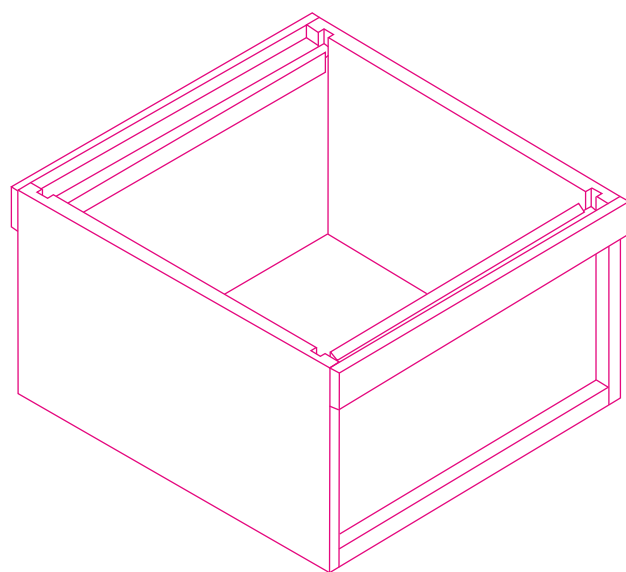
4A. You will now need 4 x square laths, 8 x 1½" nails and 16 x 1" nails. Glue and position the laths in the cavities created by the longer outer wall, the top one in line with the top of the inner wall, and the bottom one in line with the outer wall.

4B. Using the 1½" nails, nail through the outer wall and into the end of the lath, repeat on each end of each lath.

4C. Next fix the top laths from the outside using 4 x 1" nails for each top lath. Then nail the bottom laths from the inside, again using 4 x 1" nails for each lath.



5. The final step for your brood/super is to fix the rectangular laths onto the upper outside of the box, so they are flush with the outside walls. Glue and fix into place with 2 x 1½" nails each and then 5 x 1" nails along the middle of each lath as shown in the diagram.



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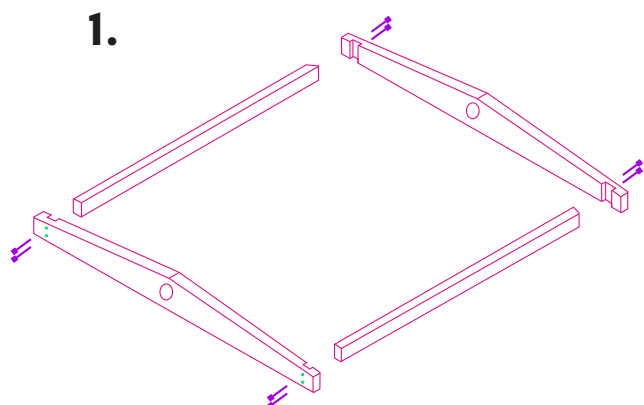
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ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

BUDGET W.B.C. ROOF

Included: 2 x Gable Ends, 2 x Joists, 4 x Laths, 4 or 6 x Roof Boards, 2 x Roof Metals, 1 x Roof Ridge, 2 x Plastic Cone Escapes, Glue, 8 x Escutcheon Pins, 68 x 1" Nails, 20 x 1" Wire Nails, 8 x 1½" Nails, 4 x 2" Nails

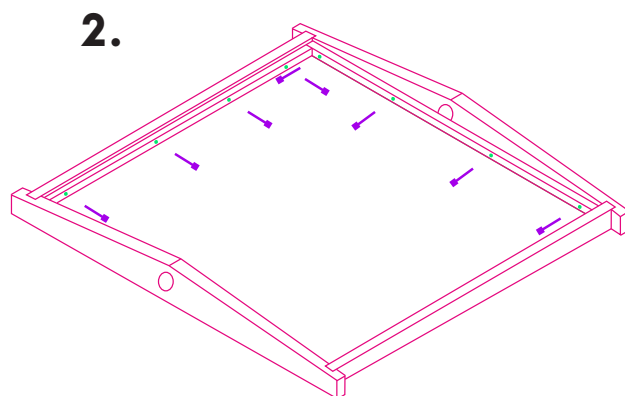
Tools needed: Hammer, Set Square, Punch, Drill, Pencil, Clear Silicone



1. Firstly you will need 2 x gable ends, 2 x joists and 8 x 1½" nails. Make sure you have the joists the right way round so that the bevel edge is at the top and in line with the slope of the gable ends. Glue and nail in place with 2 x 1½" nails per corner. It may be easier to mark and pre-drill these holes.

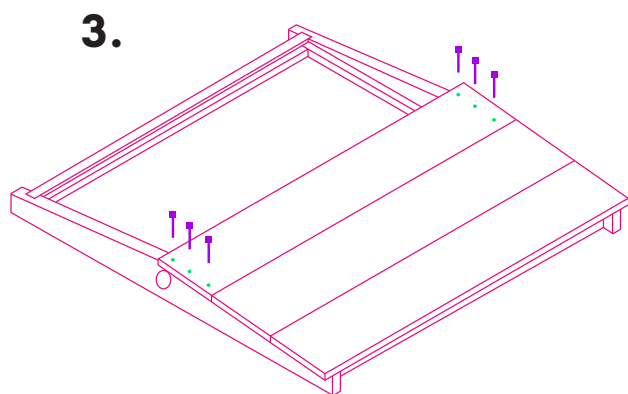
2. Next you will need 4 x laths and 16 x 1" nails. Attach the longer laths to the gable ends a laths depth (½") up from bottom using glue then 4 x 1" nails (make sure these go in at a slight angle). Then repeat with the other 2 laths onto the joist side, again a laths depth (½") up from bottom using glue and 4 x 1" nails (again at a slight angle).

CHECK THE FRAME IS SQUARE BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE NEXT STEP.



3A. You now need the roof boards, your hive will come with either 4 or 6 of these. The diagram shows the 6 board option, 3 on each side. With the 6 board option, you will have 2 boards with a single beveled edge, 2 boards with two straight sides and 2 boards with the rain channel.

3B. Get the boards with the single beveled edge and line this up with the apex of the gable making sure the over hang is equal on each side, glue and nail into place with 3 x 1" nails each end. It might be easier to mark a line where you nails need to go to make sure you are hitting the gable end underneath. *Continued on next page...*



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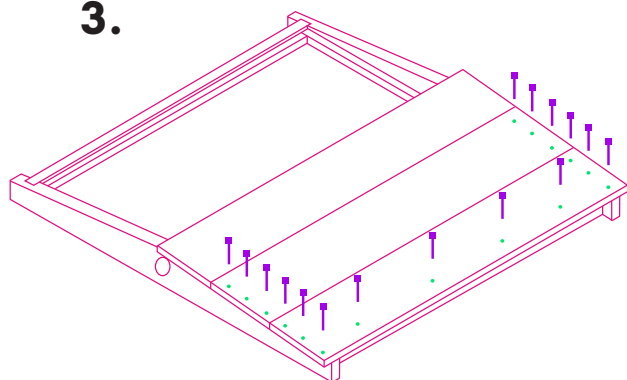
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BUDGET W.B.C. ROOF *continued...*

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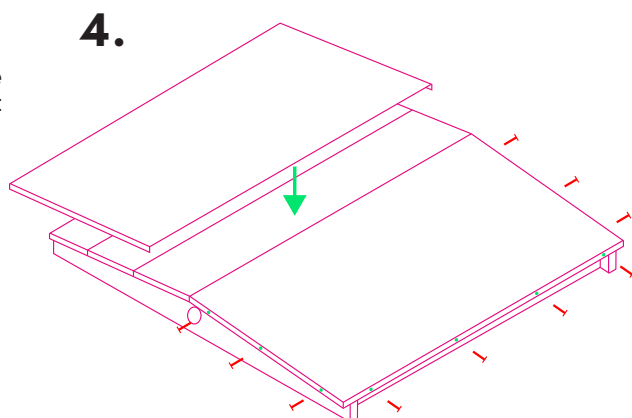


3C. Now attached the board with the two straight edges, again gluing (including along the edge of the board you just fixed down) and nail with 3 x 1" nails at each end.

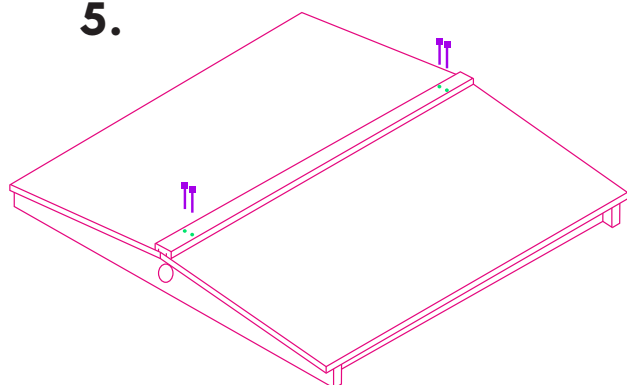
3D. The last board will be the one with the rain channel, the rain channel should be facing down and at the edge of the roof. Glue and nail in place with 3 x 1" nails at each end, plus 4 x 1" nails along the edge, as shown in the diagram. Again it might be easier to measure and draw a pencil line where these nails need to go to hit the joist underneath.

3E. Repeat on the other side. Once you have all roof boards in place, run a bead of clear silicone along the apex on the top and underneath.

4. You now need the 2 x roof metals and 20 x 1" wire nails. Position the metals one at a time onto the roof boards and nail into place. You will find it easier to use a rampin to create dents for your nails. (If you have opted for the copper roof, you may feel the need to drill the holes) Use 3 x nails on the shorter ends, and 4 x nails on the longer ends.



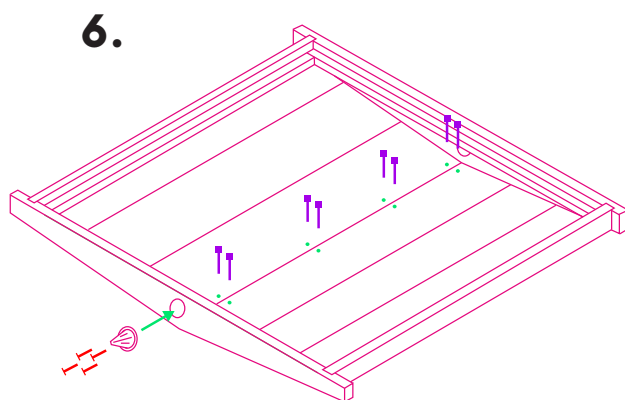
5.



5. Next add the roof ridge along the apex of the roof, nail into place with 2 x 2" nails at each end making sure you miss the circular holes and still hit the gable end underneath, again you might find it easier to measure and mark where the nails should go.

6A. Once you have the roof ridge in place, nail the ridge from the underneath with 8 x 1" nails.

6B. Lastly, attach the cone escapes in place over the circular holes using 4 x escutcheon pins per escape.



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