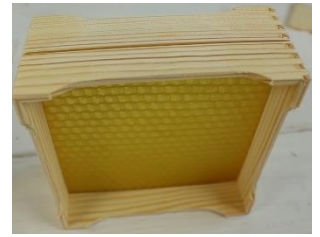


Sections

Understanding sections can be confusing as they are not something we use as standard anymore. They are basically small wooden squares with foundation in that used to be a popular way to take honey off the hive before extraction became the widespread practice. Doing section comb basically means you take out a chunk of honeycomb, including the wax, encased in a little wooden frame (called the section), instead of leaving the wax on a standard frame and extracting the honey out of the comb using an extractor.



Section racks are essentially a special super which will house all your sections. It is a box that can be placed on top of a brood body just like a normal super. The sections, where the wax is built and honey is stored, go inside the section rack.

Sections can be either Irish or English...

Irish sections – When laid out flat before being made up into a square, they have 3 split sides. This allows you to use one length of wax and put the section squares around the wax. This is said to be a stronger way of doing sections.



English sections – When laid out flat before being made up into a square, they have 1 split side. This design uses just the wax squares for individual squares. The one split side is used to hold the wax in the square at the top.

Whichever design you decide to use, the sections once made up, go into a section rack and should fit tightly in there.



If you didn't want square sections, you could always try the round sections. These use the 4 section length wax to provide 4 round sections per 'frame'. Bees seem to like the round sections more as there are no difficult corners to fill. Please note that these can only be used in a section rack, not in a standard super.

Alternatively, you can use hanging sections. These can be placed in standard supers and take up the space of two normal frames. These take three English sections with wax section squares. A hanging divider should be used to separate the frames and make sure that brace comb is not built in between them.



All the section wax, including the squares, 3 section length (for Smith, older WBC racks, Irish CDB hive) and 4 section length (for National, Langstroth, Dadant and WBC) is thin super wax. This means that the wax is extra thin and unwired, made especially for cut comb. Using normal unwired wax will be thick and result in a rather unappetizing chewy cut comb.

It sounds complicated but if you decide on what is compatible with your hive, what shape you would like the sections to be and what kind of budget you are on, you may find this helps to narrow down what pieces of equipment you need to achieve your very own delicious cut comb.