

What is a Hive Simulator?

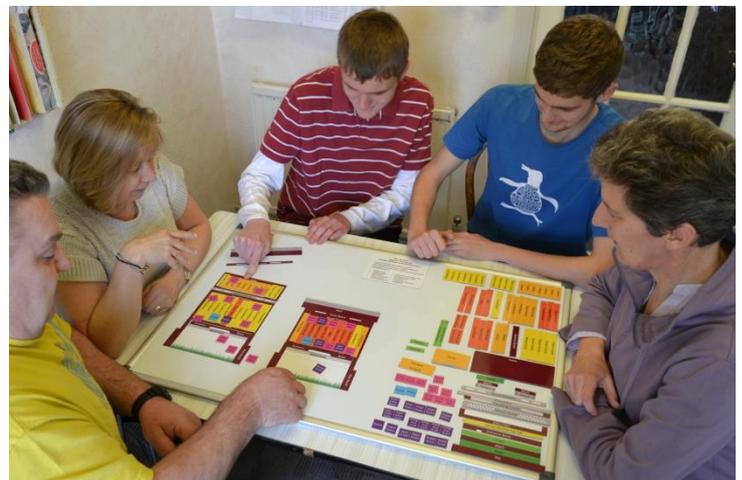
- A “learning-by-doing” teaching aid.
- For demonstrating or practicing beekeeping manipulations.
- The next best thing to real beekeeping.
- Can be used anytime, anywhere; in winter or bad weather, in the classroom or around the kitchen table.

How was the Hive Simulator developed?

- As a hands-on educational tool for people learning beekeeping.
- Initially made for visualising artificial swarming.
- Expanded to include all the hive parts, colour coded frames and bees to teach many other beekeeping techniques.

Who could benefit from a Hive Simulator?

- Beekeeping Associations.
- Beginners’ Classes.
- Training Apiaries.
- Improvers’ Discussion Groups.
- Those studying for BBKA exams.



Preparing and Storing a Hive Simulator:

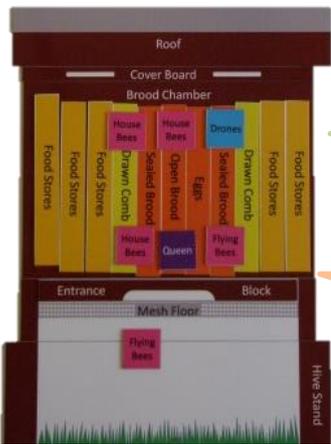
- All the parts come printed on one large magnetic sheet.
- Holding the sheet firmly; cut out the pieces with an office guillotine. First cut into strips of pieces, and then make perpendicular cuts to separate individual pieces.
- Place pieces on a metallic surface such as a 600mm X 900mm magnetic whiteboard.
- Store at room temperature (extreme heat or cold could affect the magnets).
- Wrap the board in a duvet cover or sew a simple bag for transportation.

Using the Hive Simulator:

- Place the pieces in three layers; first the boxes, next the frames, then the bees.
- Move the pieces, just as you would when beekeeping, to demonstrate:
 - Artificial swarm
 - Making a nucleus
 - Shook swarm
 - Bailey comb change
 - Uniting colonies
 - Test for queenlessness
 - Dealing with drone laying queen
 - Dealing with laying workers
 - Managing *Varroa*
 - Moving bees
 - Clearing bees from supers
 - Feeding bees

Using the Hive Simulator:

- Take a scenario and act out and discuss how to deal with the situation.

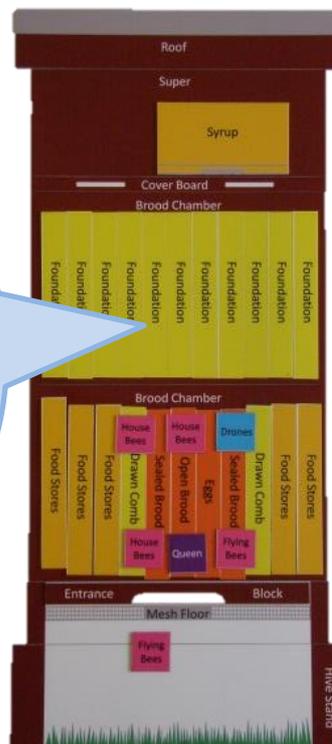


"It's spring, but this colony is not expanding and has been found to have *Nosema*. How can we nurse it back to health?"

"The bees with upset tummies will have defecated on the combs and hive, spreading disease spores. Let's replace the infected brood combs by doing a Bailey comb change."

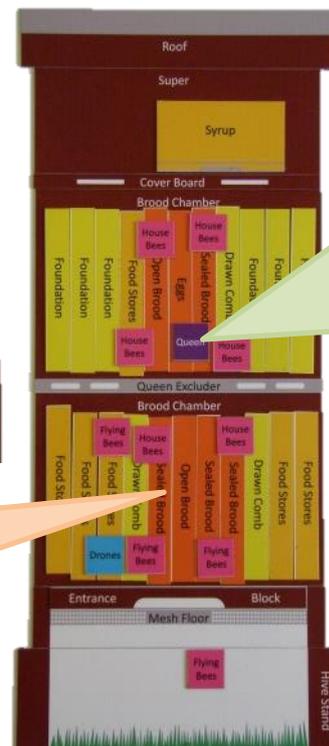


"If we add a second brood chamber of frames and foundation, and feed syrup, the bees will draw clean wax combs and move up into them."



"Once there is brood in the top brood chamber we can find the queen and isolate her up in the top box using a queen excluder."

"After 21 days all the brood in the bottom box will have hatched, so we can remove this box, burn the infected combs, and sterilise the box."



"Finish the spring clean by giving the colony a clean floor, cover board and roof."

"What else?"

"Remember to practice good apiary hygiene throughout to prevent spreading disease!"

