

The 'Bailey Change' method of Comb Replacement

A quick guide

This method is useful for healthy colonies where there is little or no concern about disease

Although if a **complete comb change** is being undertaken the 'Shook Swarm' method may be more appropriate

Spring is usually the best time for changing the comb

Requirements needed before starting

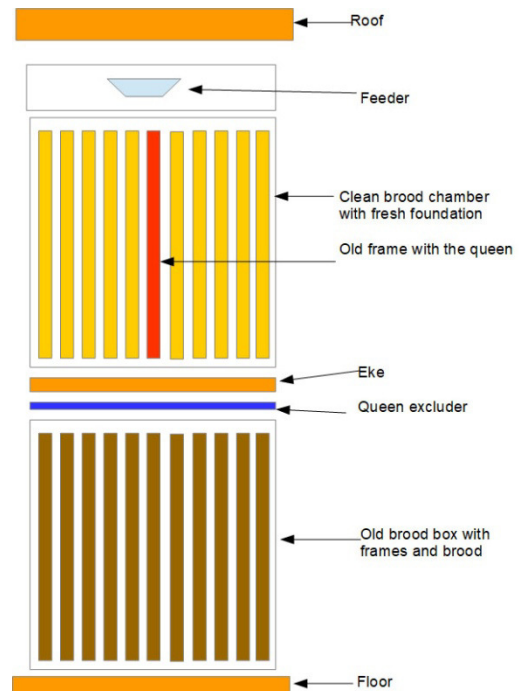
- A clean brood box
- Frames with foundation or clean drawn comb
- An eke with temporary cut out
- A feeder and feed

Optional

- A clean floor usually at the later stage

Method

- Choose a warm day as the bees will draw readily at this time of year
- Remove the centre frame from the clean brood box
- Find the queen and take the frame she is on and place it centre of the clean brood box
- Take out any broodless frames from the old brood box and reduce the size of the box with dummy boards
- Place the queen excluder and eke and top of the old brood box
- Place the clean brood box with the queen on top of the eke
- Place the feeder on top of the crown board and feed about 4-5 litres of light syrup (1/1 recommended)
- Five or six days later the old frame in the new brood box can be put back into the old brood box and clean foundation put in the new brood box
- This action will release any drones in the old brood box
- Once all the brood has emerged from the old brood box it can be removed along with the eke
- Replace the floor (optional)



Notes:

Be careful not to over-feed them as they may start to fill the new comb with it

If there was a super on the old brood box with stores, this can also be used to feed the colony

The queen excluder can be put on top of the eke to stop the queen from leaving. But generally she stays put as the hive is now larger