

The 'Shook Swarm' method of Comb Replacement

A guide guide

This method replaces all of the brood comb in one go. Some have considered it to be 'quite brutal'. Some have likened it to a newly caught swarm going into a fresh hive with all clean foundation or clean drawn comb. The general consensus is that the 'Shook Swarm' method makes the bees think they have swarmed, but placing the queen excluder at the bottom of the brood chamber stop the queen from leaving and so prevents them from absconding.

Requirements needed before starting

- A clean floor, crown board and roof
- A clean brood box
- Frames with foundation or clean drawn comb
- A feeder and about 4/5 litres of feed
- two queen excluders

Method

1. Move the entire hive to one side
2. Position the clean floor and in the vacated space
3. Put the queen excluder on top this as it stops the queen from leaving
4. Place on the new brood box with its clean frames.
5. Remove three or four frames from the centre of the new brood box
6. Remove the frame with the queen from the old brood box and place it in the new brood box.
7. Remove one more frame with brood from the old brood box into the new.
8. Gently shake the rest of the bees from the old brood frames and into the new brood box.
9. Carefully replace the removed frames back into the new brood box
10. Put on the queen excluder, super and crown board
11. Place the feeder on top of the hive.
12. Cover with lid
13. Do not overfeed - only enough for comb building
14. Remove the old brood box well away for cleaning
15. Once the queen has settled in and laying well – remove the bottom queen excluder

