

Making Splits





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Classic Walk-Away Split

- Easiest Split To Make
- What You'll Need
 - 1) **A second bottom board**
 - 2) **A second inner/outer cover**
 - 3) **Hive to split with two or more boxes**
- What to Do
 - 1) **Ensure each box has eggs**
 - a) Move frames if necessary to ensure this
 - 2) **Split one box off onto its own bottom board**
 - 3) **Give that box a lid**
 - 4) **Walk away**



Walk-Away Split

- What's Going On?
- Why Does This Work?



Walk-Away Split

- What's Going On?
- Why Does This Work?

- One of the two boxes has a queen and continues to operate normally
- The other box will raise a new queen.
- Return to the hives in 2 days to find out which is which.



Classic Split



<http://eberthoney.com/honeybeeblog/blog4.php/2009/06/01/supering-and-queen-cells>

A good suggestion is to put the box that is raising a queen in the location of the original hive. Why?



Making a Nuc

- More than one way (when is that not true?)
- The following is well thought out procedure
- You do NOT need to find the queen

- What you'll need
 - 1) **A strong hive with lots of bees**
 - 2) **Queen Excluder**
 - 3) **Extra box the same width and depth as the parent hive**
 - 4) **Bee brush/wing/branch**
 - 5) **Full nuc the same depth as the parent hive with an entrance reducer**
 - 6) **Feeder of 1:1 syrup**
 - 7) **Pencil/Marker**
 - 8) **Two days in the apiary**



Making a Nuc

- The idea is to form your nuc with as many nurse bees as possible, so how do we “capture” nurse bees.
- On Day 1, take the following with you to the apiary
 - 1) **Frames from the nuc**
 - 2) **Excluder**
 - 3) **Hive body**
 - 4) **Bee Brush**
 - 5) **Pencil**



Making a Nuc

- Steps in the Apiary, Day 1
 - 1) Locate and remove the following frames from the parent hive**
 - a) 2 frames of open brood
 - b) 1 frame of capped brood
 - c) 1 frame of pollen
 - d) 1 frame of honey
 - e) 2 “extra” frames of open brood – Mark these “EF” with your pencil
 - 2) Replace these frames in the parent hive with those you brought.**
 - a) “EF” frames do not need to be replaced in the parent.
 - 3) Scan each frame for the queen. If found, return the queen to the parent hive or find another of that type of frame in the parent hive and return the frame with the queen. If the queen is not found, brush all the bees on that frame back into the parent hive. Place the now beeless frame into the hive body you brought with you.**
 - a) Brood in the middle, honey on one side, pollen on the other
 - 4) Place the excluder on top of the parent hive's top box. Place the new hive body with the beeless frames on top of the excluder.**
 - 5) Place the inner/outer cover on top of that new body. Plan to return tomorrow.**



Making a Nuc

- What's Going On?
- How Does This Achieve Our Goal of Trapping Nurse Bees?



Making a Nuc

- What's Going On?
- How Does This Achieve Our Goal of Trapping Nurse Bees?
- The nurse bees will be compelled to go through the excluder to care for the brood.
- Most if not all of the foragers will stay below the excluder.
- The queen will be below the excluder since the frames had no bees when placed on the hive.



Making a Nuc

- Steps in the Apiary, Day 2.
- What to Bring
 - 1) **Full Nuc (frames are missing of course)**
 - 2) **Bee Brush**
 - 3) **Feeder & Syrup**
- Tasks
 - 1) **Move all frames and bees except the “EF” frames into the nuc**
 - a) Brood in the middle surrounded by honey/pollen
 - 2) **Brush the bees from the “EF” frames into the nuc, put those two frames back into the parent hive**
 - 3) **Place the feeder on the nuc and make the entrance very small**
 - 4) **Remove the excluder from the parent hive and close it up**
 - 5) **In the nuc, you can now...**
 - a) Allow them to raise a queen
 - b) Introduce a queen in a cage or a queen cell



Making a Nuc

- Food For Thought
 - 1) **What's up with the “EF frames?**
 - a) They are there to attract more nurse bees above the excluder so you can brush them into the nuc.
 - 2) **The frames do not need to come the same hive**
 - 3) **The extra hive body brought on day 1 can become the nuc**



Juniper Hill Split

- This is the split method described to us at last year's Honey Roundup by Herman Danenhowser
- Is optimized to prepare a hive to make comb honey
- You'll need to find your queen, twice.



Juniper Hill Split

- What To Do
 - 1) **At the beginning of dandelions, place the queen in the bottom box under an excluder with two frames of open brood. The other frames should be as empty as possible.**
 - 2) **17-20 days later, put the queen back into the upper box(es). Remove the excluder, and set the bottom, now queenless box, on its own bottom board facing the opposite direction. Give this box a lid and allow it to raise its own queen or introduce a queen or cell.**
 - 3) **Place the comb honey super on the now queen right box in the original location.**



Juniper Hill Split

- What's Going On?
- Why Does This Work?



Juniper Hill Split

- What's Going On?
- Why Does This Work?
- During the 17-20 days, the queen will lay the bottom box full of eggs. All of the brood above the excluder will emerge so no brood is left.
- After the split, the queenless split is full of brood and nurse bees. The queenright box(es) are full of bees and no brood, perfect conditions for maximum wax building and foraging to make comb honey.



Splits from Swarm Cells

- If you find capped swarm cells, you can make a split using these cells, but remember that the hive may have swarmed already even if it looks full of bees
- The most “natural” way to make a split from a hive with swarm cells is to remove the existing queen if you can find her along with some capped brood and frames of honey & pollen. All bees on these frames go with the queen into the split. The original hive is left with its cells.
- If the queen cannot be found, cells may be removed from the parent hive into a split as long as the original hive is left with a cell or two. It may still swarm at that point.
- Frames to remove should be the same set as is done when forming a nuc. Brood+pollen+honey+bees



Introducing Queens

- The “safest” way to introduce a queen
 - 1) **Do not try to introduce a queen once the split has begun to raise its queen. Introduce the caged queen immediately upon splitting**
 - 2) **Cages with candy provide a timed release. This is useful for two reasons**
 - a) The bees can acclimate to the new queen
 - b) The release of the queen is uneventful and not during a period of stress. The hive is dark and undisturbed when the queen walks out of the cage.